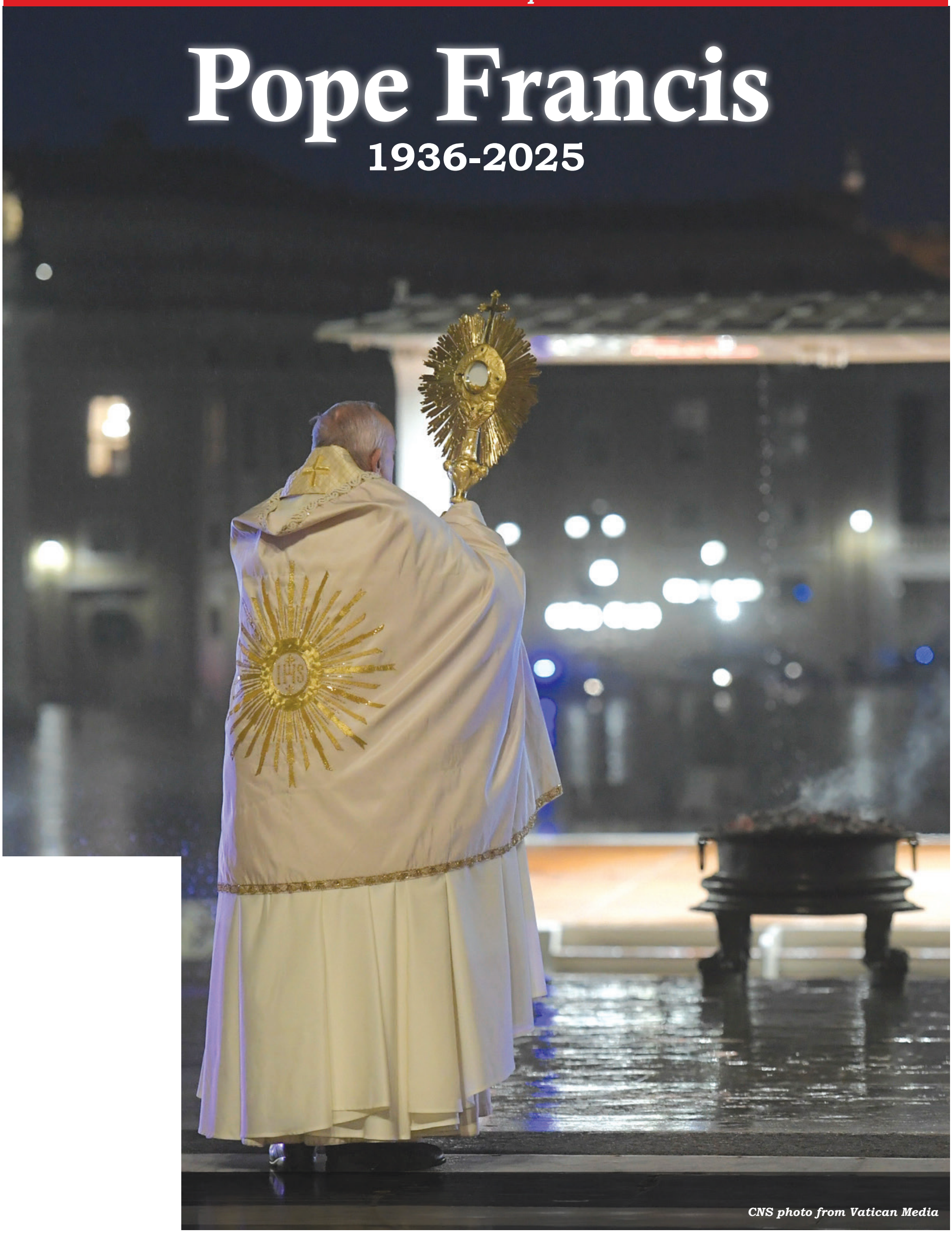
Sooner Catholic

soonercatholic.org May 4, 2025 archokc.org

Go Make Disciples

Pope Francis

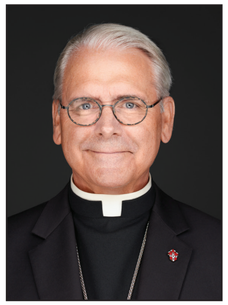
1936-2025



CNS photo from Vatican Media

Put Out Into the Deep Luke 5:4

The life we have received



Archbishop Paul S. Coakley

Springtime and the Easter Season are times when we celebrate new life. How appropriate, then, that we pause during this time of year to celebrate Mother's Day. Though not a religious holiday, it's a fitting time and occasion to celebrate the life we have received.

Babies are born into the world as pure potential; they make their way slowly through the obscurity of exploration until the light of self-consciousness dawns.

We remember little of growing up through those months and years when so much of our lives were being formed. For many of us we were shepherded lovingly through this time by our parents, especially our mothers.

They opened the doors of the world to us so that the person we were meant to become could take shape and be formed. They were the persistent presence making our lives possible. Without them we simply would not be. Even if another womb bore us, our parents are what made us creatures of this world, and the persons we have become. They formed and shaped us.

Our lives are a gift. We were first blessed by what we could not choose for ourselves, and our first graces came through what we cannot recall. This is clearly evident in our Baptism, if we were baptized as infants!

All the most important attributes that make us who we are were first brought to us by our parents. No matter what we have made of ourselves, we have built on the foundations laid by them. Our best response is to be thankful.

As we approach Mother's Day, we have the chance to ponder this great mysterious blank canvas on which our lives have been painted. We can call to mind many precious memories of our mothers and their priceless influences in forming us.

Many of us have a storehouse of vignettes and examples of how a mother's presence mattered in every way. And, it's appropriate to call these to mind and celebrate them on Mother's Day. But, it's also an opportunity to celebrate the silence, to appreciate those who established the foundation of our lives even before we could remember anything.

We can take a lesson from the great artists. When we gaze at the beautiful mosaics or the wonderful frescos in our magnificent cathedrals, we thrill at the skill on display.

The shape and form of these great works of art capture our eyes and allow us to share in the genius of the artists in all their amazing talent. Yet, beneath the tiles and the paint are the hidden cement and plaster that allow this art to exist. Without the acquired knowledge and consummate skill of preparing these foundations, the art would not be possible.

But these elements will never be seen. They're often not noticed in the slightest.

So, it is with all those who have shaped and formed our lives. Unless we pause to think of them, we are likely to forget their generous gift of themselves to us. Without them there would be nothing of what we have become. With them, the more generous their self-giving, the less we tend to notice.

Pausing on Mother's Day is a chance to gratefully acknowledge our dependence on the family that we are given, especially our mothers. We are the mosaics these artists have made.

This also is the time in which we can dive more deeply into the silent stillness of our lives. As we do, we give thanks for the true origin of every part of ourselves, which is the silent presence of God.

We might never notice the Divine as the great canvas on which the artistry of our life is painted, but it is so. The Divine Goodness is the first gift entrusted to us. We are the product of the Divine Generosity poured over us in the silence of our lives before we could know anything of ourselves.

God is content to remain in the silence, but acknowledging his artistry is to acknowledge the truth of our lives. Moving into the silence and acknowledging God's goodness is where we can find the deepest promises yet to be fulfilled in us.

Mother's Day is when we can open our eyes to these promises. As we remember, we can cast back beyond memory to appreciate the Divine Truth of his love of our lives.

Archbishop Coakley's Calendar

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

April 30-May 7 – Order of Malta pilgrimage to Lourdes
May 8 – Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma Board meeting, 3 p.m., Catholic Pastoral Center
May 8 – Confirmation, 6 p.m., St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Norman
May 9 – Confirmation, 6 p.m., Little Flower Catholic Church, Oklahoma City
May 10 – Confirmation, 1:30 p.m., St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church, Guymon
May 11 – Confirmation, 3:15 p.m., Sacred Heart Catholic Church at the Bl Stanley Rother Shrine
May 13 – Presbyteral Council meeting, 10 a.m., CPC
May 13 – All staff meeting, 12:30 p.m., CPC
May 13 – Confirmation, 7 p.m., St. Mary Catholic Church, Guthrie
May 14 – Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School graduation, 7 p.m., auditorium
May 15 – Senior staff meeting, 10 a.m., Downtown Petroleum Club
May 15 – Assembly of Catholic Professionals luncheon, 11 a.m., Downtown Petroleum Club
May 15 – Confirmation, 6 p.m., St. Benedict Catholic Church, Shawnee
May 17 – Confirmation, 10 a.m., St. Joseph Old Cathedral, OKC
May 17 – Confirmation, 5 p.m., Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Mustang
May 18 – Confirmation, 8 a.m., St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church, Norman
May 18 – Mystagogy Mass, 3 p.m., St. Francis de Sales Chapel, CPC

Find more news on the website

By Sooner Catholic Staff

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

✓ **To send photos**, event information or story ideas, e-mail communications@archokc.org.

✓ **That people** now discerning their vocations will be guided by the Holy Spirit to respond to the Lord's call with passion and enthusiasm. We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

✓ **Join Fr. Carl** William Janocha and Fr. Danny Grover on a Jubilee pilgrimage to Italy Nov. 10-20. Visit Venice, Padua, Florence, Assisi and Rome with the Vatican and the Holy Doors. Cost $4,799 from Oklahoma City. Contact frcarlj@gmail.com or dgrover2010@gmail.com. Visit nawas.com.

✓ **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. Visit ducinaltumpilgrimages.com; (888) 424-6266.

@archokc

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City

Prayer for a deceased Pope

God, Who, in Thine ineffable providence, didst will that Thy servant Francis ... should be numbered among the high priests; grant, we beseech Thee, that he, who on earth held the place of Thine only-begotten Son, may be joined forevermore to the fellowship of Thy holy pontiffs. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen.

A mother's influence on faith

Mother's Day is May 11

By Charles Albert
The Sooner Catholic

Mother's Day during the Month of Mary honors and celebrates all moms and those who provide motherly love and devotion.

At *Sooner Catholic*, this year we feature and celebrate two of the countless mothers across the archdiocese making a difference through their service.

Megan Craddock
Saint Mary Catholic Church, Ardmore

Most Catholics agree that the sacrament that causes the most anxiety – especially the first time – is the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Megan Craddock is a stress reducer.

Along with her roles of wife, mother to three young children and elementary school teacher, Craddock volunteers to teach religious education to second graders at Saint Mary Catholic Church in Ardmore, where students are prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in second grade.

The Craddock family

In May 2025, twin brothers Sam and Gabe will be making their first confessions. Asked if they are nervous about it, they replied in unison, "We're not worried, because Mrs. Craddock has taught us how to do it."

Her teaching is widely appreciated.

Craddock is a first grade teacher at Plainview Primary School, chosen as Model School by the group Great Expectations.

"She provides a model of decorum and respect that creates a strong learning environment in her classroom," said Lisa Moore, principal at Plainview Primary. "She loves her students and expects the best from them. She is a wonderful communicator and creates a strong learning community involving parents to foster a family atmosphere of learning.

"She is a very hard worker and a joy to have on staff. Her students love her and reflect the character that she models for them daily. Teaching is a 'calling' for Mrs. Craddock."

Megan, who has been teaching in Oklahoma schools for 12 years, and her husband Kyle are the parents of Blakely, Carter and Hadlee. She grew up with a strong Catholic tradition as her mother, Kelley, was in charge of religious education at Saint Henry Catholic Church in Owasso.

"Her devotion to the Blessed Virgin (Mary) is demonstrated through her faith in God as well as prayer to her," Kyle said. "As soon as our children were old enough, Megan made sure they had the Hail Mary prayer memorized. Nearly every night before bed she reads a Bible story. Her love of God and background in education greatly attributes to our kids understanding of God.

"Megan is the engine that keeps everyone going. Her organizational skills keep everyone on track, and she puts 100 percent into everything she does. Megan is a true blessing to me and my children."

The Williams family

Tammy Williams
Holy Cross Catholic Church, Madill

Tammy Williams found inspiration for motherhood … through the ultimate mother.

The Blessed Mother.

"My Mom died 15 years ago from dementia and Parkinson Disease," Williams said. "Before her death, she gave me an example of unconditional love for family, strong Christian values and how to put family first."

Upon her mother's death, Williams found her devotion to the Blessed Mother increase.

"I see so much similarity to the Blessed Mother, my mom and my life as a mother," said Williams, a convert to Catholicism. "I find a great deal of comfort and help in the Rosary."

Tammy and her husband Chuck, parents to adult children Jared and Destiny, have been married 28 years. They attend Holy Cross Catholic Church in Madill. Jared works for Focus Ministry in Memphis.

Catholicism has been one thing that has remained constant for this military family, through all the "moves" that the Air Force required the family.

"My Mom's steadfast love and perseverance have shown me the strength of faith in hardship and the deep importance of love and family," Jared said. "Her witness to Jesus and the way she's poured herself out for me have been a powerful part of what led me to become a missionary.

"She's the best example of Christ's love for me that I have ever known."

Williams works as a hairdresser in the Madill area. Before moving to Madill, she had many loyal clients. She still works with her loyal client base in Oklahoma City by working one week a month as a hairdresser near their former residence at Tinker Air Force Base.

"I am a lifelong Catholic, but Tammy and her faith deserve all the credit for keeping me active in the Catholic church," Chuck said.

Gloria Torres, a fellow parishioner at Holy Cross, said she admires Tammy's commitment.

"Even though we've only had her and her family around our parish for a couple of years, they have been very caring and cooperative people," Torres said. "She participates in parish activities. She's a member of the Altar Society. She also helps us count the alms' money. Helps on the monthly bake sale. She's in charge of opening the religious goods store (gift Shop) for anyone who needs something to buy. She has also donated haircuts for children who need a haircut to look good in school and whose parents can't afford to provide them.

"Tammy's heart is very big and generous. We hope to continue having someone like her among us. It's a privilege to have her around."

Charles Albert is a freelance writer for the Sooner Catholic.

Lord, we remember the mothers who have gone before us. We remember the mothers of Scripture who are part of your story. We remember those who have not given birth to us, but are mothers to us. We remember expectant mothers. We remember the mothers who have lost children. We remember the women who struggle with fertility. Lord, bless all mothers, grandmothers, Godmothers, adoptive mothers, aunts, sisters, women religious and fathers who take on the role of mother for their children. Amen.

Most Reverend
Paul S. Coakley
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Volume 47, Number 8

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2024 WINNER Catholic Media Awards

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GOLD Prayer Pilgrimage

Join us on a pilgrimage to the Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine in petition for holy vocations to priesthood, consecrated life and marriage.

Sunday, May 25, 2025

Anniversary of the Ordination of Blessed Stanley Rother

1:00 p.m.	Depart from the **Blessed Stanley Rother Barn**
	4113 S. Eastern Avenue · Moore, OK
	4.5 mile walk to St. Andrew's
2:30 p.m.	Pilgrim Pause at St. Andrew's Church
	2.5 mile walk to the Shrine
4:00 p.m.	Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration in the Shrine Chapel
5:15 p.m.	Confessions available
6:00	Spanish Mass

Join for ANY or ALL of this special day of prayer, pilgrimage and fellowship. Shuttles available at both stops.

For more information:
Sr. Maria of the Trinity
405.778.1107
srmaria@gospeloflifedisciples.org
GospelofLifeDisciples.org

Gospel of Life
Disciples + Dwellings
I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. JOHN 14:6

Change Your Station. Change Your Life.
Oklahoma Catholic Radio
OKCR.ORG

In 2021, Archbishop Coakley instituted the first Priest Appreciation Week in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. During this week, which will start on Good Shepherd Sunday each year, parishioners and families are encouraged to do something to thank their priests from writing a thank you note to spending time in adoration.

Lord, guide our priests in their ministry. May they be filled with love and grace as they serve you and your people. Amen.

The Regent of The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Chapter No. 2166 St. Jude, Dory Thomas, provided popcorn for the movie.

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Chapter St. Jude No. 2166 Circle of Love "Family Committee" hosted a Family Movie Day on April 13, Palm Sunday, at Holy Family Catholic Church in Lawton. Parishioners from Bl. Sacrament Catholic Church and Holy Family watched the 1956 movie, "The Ten Commandments," while enjoying free movie snacks, provided by the Catholic Daughters Chapter. They all agreed it was a wonderful way to begin Holy Week. The chapter's Circle of Love Family Committee members are Jolene Schonchin and Talitha Coe. *Photos Jolene Schonchin/Sooner Catholic.*

Parishioners from Holy Family and Bl. Sacrament Catholic Churches enjoyed Family Movie Day on April 13 at Holy Family in Lawton.

CLERGY ASSIGNMENTS 2025

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Effective Date: July 1 (unless otherwise noted)

Retirement

Rev. Edward T. Menasco

Pastor

Rev. John D. Herrera

St. Joseph Church, Hennessey
St. Joseph Church, Bison
Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, Bison

Pastor

Rev. Carson J. Krittenbrink

St. Teresa of Avila Church, Harrah
St. Vincent de Paul Church, McLoud

Pastor

Rev. Alexander L. Kroll

St. Mary Church, Ponca City
St. Francis of Assisi Church, Newkirk

Pastor

Rev. Lourdureddy Ponnapati

St. Patrick Church, Anadarko
Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Binger
St. Richard Church, Carnegie

Parochial Vicar (Associate Pastor)

Jonah E. Beckham

St. Francis of Assisi Church, Oklahoma City
Pending ordination on June 28

Parochial Vicar (Associate Pastor)

Rev. Christuraj Maddhichetty

St. Charles Borromeo Church, Oklahoma City

Parochial Vicar (Associate Pastor)

Rev. Lawrence Damian

St. James the Greater Church, Oklahoma City

Parochial Vicar

Rev. John M. Grim

St. Joseph Church, Norman
Pending ordination on June 28

Parochial Vicar (Associate Pastor)

Rev. Stephen A. Jones

St. John the Baptist Church, Edmond

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Vuong "Vic" Luong

Epiphany of the Lord Church, Oklahoma City

Parochial Vicar (Associate Pastor)

Rev. Rodrigo Velasco Serna

St. Peter Church, Guymon
St. Frances Cabrini Church, Beaver
Church of the Good Shepherd, Boise City
Sacred Heart Church, Hooker

Chaplain

Rev. Jonah E. Beckham

Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School

Chaplain

Rev. Vuong "Vic" Luong

St. Ann Retirement Center, Oklahoma City

Chaplain

Rev. Antony Pittappillil

St. Anthony Hospital, Oklahoma City

Chaplain

Rev. Stephen A. Jones

University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond

Chancery appointment

Rev. Zachary M. Boazman

Director of the Secretariat of Divine Worship

Leaving archdiocese

Rev. Balraj Sagili Jesudas

Departure date: July 2025

Dean appointment

Rev. James A. Wickersham

Northeast Region

Special Assignment

Rev. Devasahayam Undralla

Supply priest with residence at St. John the Baptist Church, Edmond

Parish/Mission realignment

Sacred Heart Church, Konawa, and St. Mary Church, Wanette, will become missions of St. Benedict Church in Shawnee served by the pastor of St. Benedict Church, Shawnee.

(Left) Sacred Heart Church, Konawa

Archbishop Coakley celebrated the Chrism Mass on April 15 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City, *Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.*

Archbishop Coakley celebrated the Good Friday and Easter Vigil Masses on April 18 and 19, respectively, at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City. *Photos Antonio Guzman/The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.*

Parishioners in Ponca City, Newkirk produce a **'Great Day of Service'**

By Everett Brazil, III
The Sooner Catholic

A group of parishioners from Saint Mary Catholic Church in Ponca City arrive in the morning at a modest home at the north end of 12th Street in the city.

They are there to work.

They find a few small tree branches have fallen, the result of a windstorm. There are leaves, too, shed from previously dormant trees in a corner of the yard. Within 30 minutes, that team of five spruced up the property as a service to the homeowner.

Across town, another property needs much more work, a job for a second team from the church, with a yard overgrown with thick grass, tree limbs littering the yard, along with more debris in the side yard.

"It was an overwhelming project," said Mary Morrison, a volunteer from Saint Mary's.

Still, those jobs and others were done, with joy.

Volunteers from Saint Mary's and many other Christian churches fanned out into neighborhoods early on April 6 for the "Great Day of Service," helping homeowners who need assistance in their cleanup efforts.

The volunteers from Saint Mary begin planning months prior.

"We have meetings, usually in February, and then we get volunteers and we canvass the neighborhoods for houses to do," said Rick Steichen, one of the coordinators for the parish, who are also joined by volunteers from Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Newkirk.

"If we see a house that needs attention, then we knock on their door and ask, or leave a flyer to call us back," Steichen said. "Somebody who is in need, who is not able to do it themselves, or has something that is overwhelming to them."

Yard work is the focus of the work, and many teams arrive with rakes, hoes, lawnmowers, anything to clean up a yard.

"Things we look for are lawns that have limbs and shrubs that need to be trimmed, grass that needs to be mowed," Steichen said.

The morning begins at the 8 a.m. Mass, where parishioner volunteers wear their work clothes to church and soon meet to span out into the neighborhood. The volunteers gather to see which teams they will work with, all knowing they may help another group of parishioners later that morning.

Each property is different, and each has its own need for help.

"Everything is outside – trimming trees, trimming shrubs, weeding flower beds, raking," Steichen said.

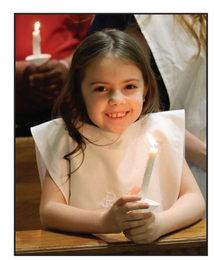
The morning may have dawned chilly and wet, but the work got done, and many properties across Ponca City benefited.

"The weather turned out very nice," Steichen said, "it was a beautiful day to work."

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

Volunteers from St. Mary Catholic Church in Ponca City celebrated the Great Day of Service April 6, helping neighborhood homeowners clean up their yards when they may not be able to do it themselves. St. Mary Catholic Church participates in the program each year. *Photo Everett Brazil, III/Sooner Catholic.*

Fr. Carson Krittenbrink and parishioners at St. Mary Catholic Church in Ponca City celebrated the Easter Vigil with five adults and six children baptized, along with 13 confirmations. This included an entire family: parents Derek and Brandi Burnett and their three children, Cody, Cassidy and Connor. *Photos provided*



Archbishop Coakley celebrated a Memorial Mass for Pope Francis on April 24 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City. The funeral Mass for Pope Francis was on April 26 at the Vatican. *Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.*

NATIONAL
Eucharistic Pilgrimage

ARCHDIOCESE OF
Oklahoma City

Saturday, May 31

Saint Gregory's Abbey - Shawnee

2 - 3:30 p.m. Hand-off Ceremony **(from the Diocese of Tulsa to the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City)** Eucharistic procession on the abbey grounds and Eucharistic adoration in the abbey church

Saint Joseph - Norman

7 - 8 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour

Sunday, June 1

Christ the King to Saint Eugene - OKC

2 - 4 p.m. Eucharistic procession from Christ the King Catholic Church to Saint Eugene Catholic Church

The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help - OKC

7 - 8:30 p.m. SUMMIT - Adoration, Confessions and Music

Tuesday, June 3

Blessed Stanley Rother Shrine - OKC

10 - 11:30 a.m. Eucharistic procession on shrine grounds
12:15 p.m. Daily Mass in the shrine church

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Go Make Disciples

CNS photo Vatican Media via Reuters.

Pope Francis: Dec. 17, 1936 – April 21, 2025

Church leaders around the world reflect on Pope Francis' legacy, witness to Christ

By Ines San Martin
OSV News

NEW YORK -- The news of Pope Francis' passing on April 21, Easter Monday, sent ripples of grief and gratitude throughout the world, particularly within the leadership of the Catholic Church.

From the slums of Buenos Aires, Argentina, to the halls of the Vatican, bishops are remembering a shepherd who redefined the papacy through his simplicity, pastoral zeal and tireless advocacy for the poor.

As tributes pour in from every corner of the globe, leaders are recalling not only the man who led the church for more than a decade, but the pastor who never ceased to remind the faithful of God's mercy, and the missionary who called the church to "go forth" to the peripheries.

The first to react was American Cardinal Kevin Farrell, the Vatican's camerlengo, who announced to the world that Pope Francis had died, saying: "He taught us to live the values of the Gospel with fidelity, courage and universal love, especially in favor of the poorest and most marginalized."

Formerly a priest who ministered in the slums of Buenos Aires and now leads the church once shepherded by the pontiff when he was then-Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, Buenos Aires Archbishop Jorge García Cuerva referred to Pope Francis as "the pope of the slums."

"He insisted on building bridges, he insisted that we live in universal brotherhood," the prelate said. "The pope was our father, the father of the poor, the father of mercy. The best tribute we Argentines can pay to Francis is to unite."

The Argentine bishops also released a joint statement, in which they expressed both deep sorrow and "the certain hope of Easter" over the death of the Holy Father.

"We thank God for the life, ministry and witness of faith," said the statement released by the Argentine bishops' conference, "of the one who knew how to guide the universal Church with humility, evangelical firmness and unconditional love for the poor, the excluded and the suffering."

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Key Terms: What they mean

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Here is an explanation of some of the terms and practices related to the time between the death of Pope Francis April 21 and the election of his successor.

"Sede vacante"

Dioceses are also called sees. The Latin for "when the see is vacant" is "sede vacante." When the vacant see is the pope's Diocese of Rome, all major church decisions, such as new legislation or the appointment of bishops, stop until a new pope is elected. Only ordinary business and matters that cannot be postponed can be conducted by the College of Cardinals.

Interregnum

The period between popes is called an interregnum -- between reigns -- even though St. Paul VI set aside many of the regal trappings of the papacy and references to a papal "reign" gradually fell into disuse. Pope Paul inaugurated his ministry in 1963 with a coronation, then set aside the papal tiara. It was the last time a pope wore the beehive-shaped tiara, a triple crown.

Conclave

A meeting of cardinals to elect a new pope is a conclave. The word – from the Latin "cum clave" (with key) – means under lock and key. In 1268, cardinals couldn't decide on a new pope. After nearly three years the people finally locked them up and cut their rations. The man elected, Pope Gregory X, ordered that in the future cardinals be sequestered from the start, and eventually the practice became normative.

Camerlengo

U.S. Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, as camerlengo, or chamberlain of the Holy Roman Church, assisted by the vice chamberlain and a canonical adviser, is in charge of safeguarding the temporal goods of the church and its temporal rights during the interregnum. The chamberlain heads a three-member commission that oversees physical preparations for the conclave and leads what is called a "particular congregation" – a group of three other cardinals chosen by lot – to conduct the minor day-to-day business of the Vatican until a new pope is elected.

Dean of the College of Cardinals

Italian Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re is the current dean. As dean, he calls the cardinals to Rome and presides over their daily meetings before the conclave. Because Cardinal Re is over 80 and ineligible to enter the conclave, the dean's duties inside the Sistine Chapel will be handled by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the top-ranking cardinal-bishop of those under 80. Inside the chapel, Cardinal Parolin will administer the oath of secrecy and preside over the conclave. When a candidate achieves a two-thirds majority vote, Cardinal Parolin – in the name of the entire college – asks the candidate if he accepts the election and what name he will take.

Find more terms at soonercatholic.org.

continued from page 9

His magisterium, the text continued, "leaves an indelible mark on the journey of the Church."

Similarly, the Latin American bishops' council, known as CELAM, released a statement saying they joined the faithful people of God in mourning.

"He renewed the missionary impulse, reminding us that God is mercy, placing those on the peripheries at the center, urging us to live as brothers and sisters, encouraging us to welcome everyone, to be a synodal Church, and to care for our common home," the bishops said.

Also from the "existential peripheries" Pope Francis so often highlighted, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem held a requiem Mass in his honor April 23, reflecting on his commitment to peace and interfaith dialogue. In their message, they highlighted his role as a shepherd who bridged divides and fostered unity among diverse communities.

In the Gaza Strip, Holy Family Parish in Gaza City held Mass for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis April 21.

The first of Spain's bishops to speak publicly was the secretary-general of the Spanish bishops conference, Auxiliary Bishop Francisco César García Magán, who said in a press conference that "the news has surprised us all."

On the first day of the Easter octave, "in this context of resurrection and life," the pontiff passed away – a coincidence also noted in the case of St. John Paul II, as recalled by the auxiliary bishop of Toledo.

Pope Francis, Bishop García Magán said, was "a pope who gave himself to the very end, in service to the people of God and the whole world."

His Easter "urbi et orbi" blessing ("to the city of Rome and the world") – was "his final gift to us," along with his "prophetic, witness-bearing" visit to Regina Coeli prison on Holy Thursday, the Spanish prelate emphasized.

Cardinal Matteo Zuppi, archbishop of Bologna and president of the Italian bishops conference, expressed the condolences of the Italian episcopate, saying: "It is a moment of pain and great suffering for the entire Church."

"We entrust our beloved Pope Francis to the Lord's embrace," he continued, "with the certainty – as he himself taught us – that 'everything is revealed in mercy; everything is resolved in the merciful love of the Father.'"

In his message, Cardinal Zuppi invited all the churches in Italy to "ring the church bells as a sign of mourning" and to promote "moments of personal and communal prayer, in communion with one another and with the universal Church."

The recently restored Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris rang its bells 88 times – once for each year of the Argentine pope's life.

Archbishop Éric de Moulins-Beaufort of Reims, president of the French bishops' conference, wrote that since the beginning, Pope Francis had asked the world to pray for him: "On this day, we say to him with all our hearts: 'Holy Father, we pray for you – we Catholics, but also many men and women throughout the world who have heard in your voice a voice of the conscience of humanity.'"

"Pope Francis tirelessly worked to make the Church more synodal, free of all clericalism, moving toward the peripheries – the peripheries of the Church and those of our societies – bringing the joy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ," Archbishop de Moulins-Beaufort wrote. "He gave Catholics a taste for being missionary disciples."

From Ireland, a country Pope Francis visited in 2018, Archbishop Eamon Martin of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, president of the Irish bishops' conference, said: "Undoubtedly, in the coming days and weeks, many more memories of Pope Francis will emerge. But for me, it was his closeness and friendship with Christ that stood out above all else – in his compassion for the suffering and in the way he placed the vulnerable at the center of his ministry: the poor, refugees, victims of war, human trafficking, and all those who are exploited, neglected or excluded by the Church or society. He wanted to save them from the cold."

Archbishop Coakley celebrated a Memorial Mass for Pope Francis on April 24 at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City. *Photo Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.*

The prelate also invited the faithful to share their memories in the "book of condolences" available on the homepage of CatholicBishops.ie and the bishops' social media platforms, as reported by Italian news agency SIR.

In the early reactions to Pope Francis' passing, few prelates mentioned synodality – central to the final years of the 12-year pontificate. Among those who did was Sweden's Cardinal Anders Arborelius of Stockholm, who wrote in a tribute: "Each pope has his own accent and charisma, his unique contribution to the fullness of Catholicism."

The distinctive trait of Pope Francis, he wrote, was "poverty of spirit, which shines brightly and dazzles us. The fact that he was the first of all popes to take the name Francis is significant. In fact, it is surprising that no one had thought of it before. The choice of name is both symptomatic and prophetic of our times, in which the rich seem to grow ever richer and the poor increasingly vulnerable and neglected."

He highlighted Pope Francis' filial love for Jesus' mother Mary, his awareness of the great challenges facing the Catholic Church, his relationship with Islam, his commitment to interreligious and ecumenical dialogue, and his vision for a synodal church.

"Some have misunderstood this synodality," he wrote, "and feared that it meant a change in doctrine or in the hierarchical structure of the Church. Here, Francis had to dig in his heels and emphasize that it was instead about becoming more attentive and responsive to the voice of the Gospel – and not yielding to ideologies or the pressures of the outside world."

Archbishop Coakley and Pope Francis shared a laugh when they first met in 2013. *Photo Vatican Media.*

Put Out Into the Deep Luke 5:4

Appreciating Pope Francis

Our dear Holy Father, Pope Francis, was called home to the Father's house on Easter Monday, April 21, in the 12th year of his pontificate.

The death of a pope is always an extraordinary moment in the life of the Church. All Catholics spontaneously cherish a special appreciation and filial devotion to the Holy Father as the Vicar of Christ and the Successor of Saint Peter, and so it is no wonder that so many Catholics poignantly mourn the passing of this pope.

This ecclesial moment offers us the opportunity to consider the work of God in and through those he has called to serve him and his people. Over the past few weeks, I have been reflecting upon the life and ministry of the late Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Pope Francis, from the first moments of his papacy, chose to utilize prophetic gestures as a means of expressing his universal pastoral ministry. While both of his immediate predecessors were intellectually inclined, having been scholars and professors, Pope Francis used the witness of his actions even more than his written teaching to proclaim and bear witness to the Gospel.

I don't mean to discount what he did write, which reveals a depth of faith and wisdom, but I believe each of us can think of striking images through which Pope Francis bore witness to the mercy, the closeness and the tenderness of God. I recall, for example, the poignancy of his solitary prayer inside a cavernous and empty Saint Peter's Basilica during the throes of the COVID pandemic when gatherings were not permitted.

Pope Francis was a shepherd for whom the Church's witness to the world was at the forefront of his mind. His special pastoral concern for the marginalized, the disenfranchised and the excluded in society always was first and foremost when proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world.

The late Holy Father believed that if we are to announce the Gospel to the world, we must do so by beginning with those whom society would rather ignore. His attentiveness to social realities and global challenges such as care for creation and migrants was entirely for the sake of the credibility of the Church's proclamation of Christ to the world.

He charted the course of his papacy with the publication of his 2013 post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation called "The Joy of the Gospel" (Evangelii Gaudium). Here, he introduced many of the themes that he would develop in the subsequent years of his pontificate.

He writes about the need for a renewed proclamation of the Good News of Christ's incarnation, passion, death and resurrection. He calls for this kerygma to be always at the center of the life and the witness of the Church. He describes how this looks within the Church and for the Church as a vital force within society.

The entirety of Pope Francis's ministry, writing and teaching can be read through the lens of this document as he called the Church to an ongoing pastoral conversion.

There is a poetic beauty and fittingness that God called Pope Francis home to the Father's house on Easter Monday during the Jubilee Year of Hope, which he inaugurated. In a certain sense, Pope Francis began and ended his service of the Petrine Ministry with the theme of hope.

In his inaugural Mass as pope, Francis invited the entire Church into a bold witness of hope: "Today too, amid so much darkness, we need to see the light of hope and to be men and women who bring hope to others. To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope; it is to let a shaft of light break through the heavy clouds; it is to bring the warmth of hope!"

Pope Francis was a shaft of light announcing Christ to the world and calling the Church toward a more integral and Christlike witness in society. He leaves us as a parting gift the Jubilee of Hope so that we might be fortified and encouraged in our proclamation of Jesus Christ to a world sorely in need of his Good News.

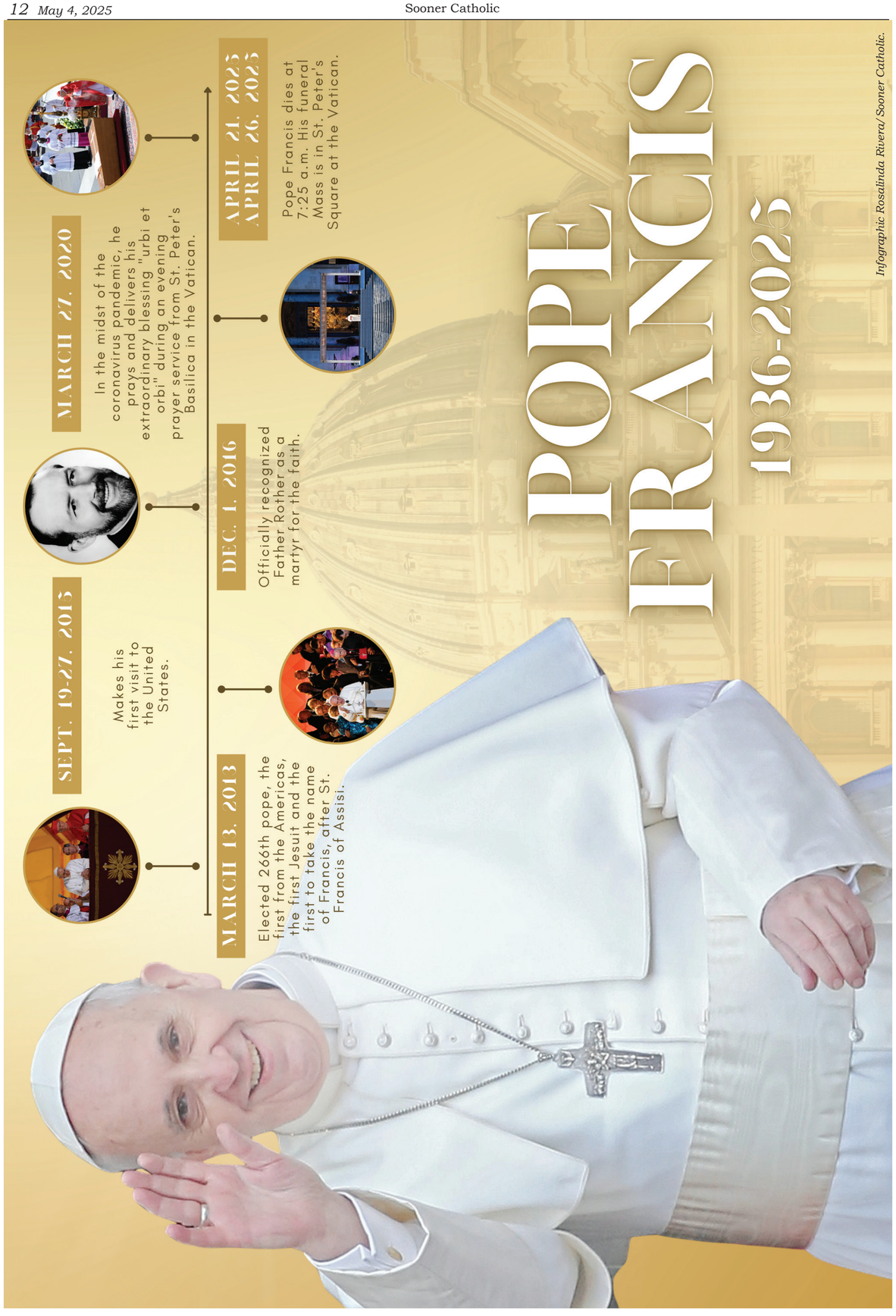
We give thanks to God for the gift of Pope Francis. We pray for the repose of his soul, and we pray for the universal Church in this time of transition.

Assured always that it is Christ who is himself the Good Shepherd who faithfully guides His flock through the pastures of history, we entrust ourselves anew to the Lord and seek to receive and be guided by the shepherds He provides for us.

With gratitude for his ministry, we bid our prayerful farewell to Pope Francis and commend him to the Lord. We also turn with great confidence to the Father of mercy and pray for the one whom he will choose to shepherd the Church as our next pope, the Vicar of Christ and Bishop of Rome.

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.

Most Rev. Paul S. Coakley, Archbishop of Oklahoma City



Infographic Rosalinda Rivera/ Sooner Catholic.

Jobs Box

Student support coordinator - Yukon

St. John Nepomuk Catholic School is seeking a student support coordinator for the 2025-2026 school year. Applicants must have a teaching certification. Contact Principal George Meiwes to learn more at gmeiwes@sjnok.org or apply online at archokc.schoolspring.com?jobid=5109092.

Director of religious education, formation - OKC

St. Eugene Catholic Church is seeking a full-time director of religious education and formation to oversee and coordinate all religious education programs, develop and support catechetical staff and volunteers, plan sacramental preparation, collaborate closely with parish clergy and staff to support parish-wide initiatives and maintain accurate records and ensure compliance with diocesan guidelines. Bilingual (English/Spanish) required; higher education in theology, religious education or related field preferred; experience in Catholic religious education or pastoral ministry preferred; strong computer and organizational skills; must be a team player with excellent communication and leadership skills; practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. Send cover letter and resume to manager@steugenes.org.

Social services case manager - OKC

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a social services case manager to provide case management services through various social services programs and work across multiple departments, primarily Family Support Services, and as assigned. High School Diploma or GED; bachelor's degree in social work or a related field is preferred; three years of experience in case management or community action; fluency in Spanish and English preferred; a combination of education and relevant experience may also be considered. Send cover letter and resume to Nicole Curran at ncurran@ccaokc.org.

Disaster case manager - Sulphur

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a disaster case manager to, under general supervision, counsel and aid disaster survivors, individuals and/or families requiring one or more forms of services to aid in disaster recovery; interview clients experiencing disaster impact to finances, employment, food, housing, physical and mental impairments, and/or similar areas; secure and evaluate applicable related information; vet and refer clients to community resources and other organizations as appropriate outside of disaster recovery needs. High school diploma; bachelor's degree in a related social service field is preferred; at least three years of experience that is directly related to the duties and responsibilities specified. Send cover letter and resume to Nicole Curran at ncurran@ccaokc.org.

Grant program coordinator - OKC

The Catholic Foundation of Oklahoma is seeking a grant program coordinator to manage board committees in their efforts to distribute grants from endowment and charitable funds to parishes, schools and the general Catholic community in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Works with parishes, schools and other organizations and assists in the grant application and reporting process. The coordinator is the foundation's primary point of contact and support for grantees and donor advisers, and provides information to the executive director, board of directors and grants committees. Helps publicize available grants and scholarships, sets deadlines for when applications are to be received, and vets all applications with corresponding selection committees. Should be active, practicing Catholic, in good standing with the Church, have excellent written and oral communication skills, an ability to learn new software, and enjoy interacting with others by phone and in person. To submit a cover letter and resume, visit archokc.org/jobs-box.

Director - OKC

The Archdiocese of Oklahoma City is seeking a director for the Office of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry to provide overall direction and vision for program efforts, resources, training and formation in all phases of evangelization and discipleship of young people in the archdiocese. This position will provide direct leadership of all efforts for junior high and high school teens, supervisory leadership for young adult and campus ministry, summer youth camp and other camp programs, serve as a resource for parish leaders assisting them in the active ministry of building up and fostering vibrant ministry to young people, provide leadership and resources to parish youth ministers, and collaborate with priests, parish leaders and community organizations. Must have a good understanding of discipleship and evangelization and be able to assist parishes in deepening their understanding through consultation, formation and training. A minimum of a bachelor's degree in theology, religious education, pastoral ministry or some related field is required and at least five years of experience in youth ministry, and specifically in discipleship/mentorship; diocesan-level experience preferred. To submit a cover letter and resume, visit archokc.org/jobs-box.

Organist - Kingfisher

Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Kingfisher is seeking an organist for Saturday nights and Sunday mornings. Contact Dennis Mueggenborg at (405) 368-0214.

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

Dcn. Richard T. Fahy

Deacon Richard Thomas Fahy was born Nov. 15, 1938, and died on April 13, 2025, at the age of 86. He was born to John Lawrence Fahy and Janyce Menefee Fahy in St. Louis, Missouri.

A longtime parishioner of Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church in Oklahoma City, he served as an active deacon there for 23 years.

The wake service was April 24 at Epiphany, with the funeral Mass there April 25.

Fahy spent most of his young life in St. Louis, except for a short period of time in Baltimore, Maryland. He was the first-born child to John and Janyce and had one sister, Carol Ann, who was born in 1943. He loved St. Louis and continued to return there for visits throughout his lifetime. His lifelong friend, Al, still lives there.

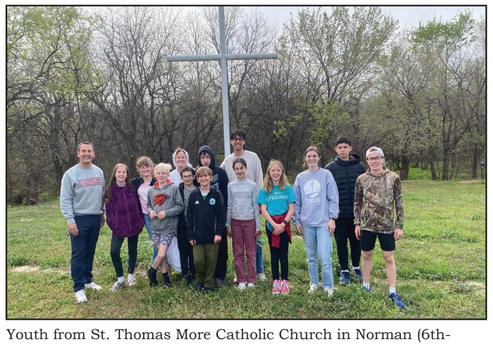
In December 1955, Fahy joined the U.S. Navy and completed his tour of duty in October 1959. He joined the Navy to see the world and had many memories and stories from that time in his life. He joined the U.S. Coast Guard in December 1959 and remained with the unit until his retirement as Master chief in 1982.

Dcn. Richard T. Fahy

On Sept. 20, 1980, he married Mary Betzen and assumed the responsibility of helping her raise two sons, Steve and Bryan. In October 1981 they had a third son, Jon. His family grew to include four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Holidays were wonderful in the Fahy household.

On Nov. 15, 2002, Rich was ordained into the permanent diaconate, a ministry he performed with great joy for the rest of his life. His ordination took place on his 64th birthday. One of his greatest joys was to be on the Altar, serving Mass and participating in many events.

Deacon Richard is survived by his wife, Mary, his sons Steve (Kaley), Bryan (Keri), and Jon (Mary), his grandchildren Tyler, Evelyn, Ashlee, and Colette, and his great-grandchildren Elijah, Luna, Anakin and Rose.


Youth from St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Norman (6th-12th graders) had its first Lenten service day at the Gospel of Life Disciples house where they helped Sr. Maria of the Trinity prepare for a garage sale fundraiser. The kids got to learn about GOLD's mission-to protect the dignity of life at its end-and show Christ's love to the residents there. *Photo provided.*

St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Norman held its first Lenten Family Project. More than 70 parents and kids gathered on a rainy Saturday morning to make care packages for Norman Food and Shelter. *Photos provided.*

Royals Report

Cristo Rey revels in spring events

Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School Senior Prom King and Queen Mariana Ramos and Emmanuel Rivera posed in front of the prom sign at Skyline Events on the Bricktown Canal. *Photo provided.*

Diana Garcia

Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School

Blood drive

National Honor Society hosted its semi-annual spring blood drive in mid-April. Our Royals understand the importance of being charitable, as it is not only virtuous to offer our aid to those in need, but also our responsibility as members of the human race to care about each other.

God made us all in his image, which is why we need to work to ensure that everybody's inherent human dignity is upheld and respected, which can be achieved by offering only a few moments of our day donating blood for anybody who needs it to be in good health.

Although there is the bonus of a shirt being provided by participating, all Royals do it in good faith that they are serving their community by giving someone the resources to help them recover to their full health.

It's always nice to see so many eager to help. It's a favorite event at Cristo Rey OKC and I hope that it continues, because any positive difference, no matter how small, always leads to another ... and sometimes a free shirt.

Prom, at last

Beyond the pages of any book, past any 90s movie cliche, lifted off of the thousands of pins on private Pinterest mood boards; finally, the moment every high schooler endured four years of pop-quiz after five-page single-spaced essays for:

Prom.

Despite our relatively smaller school size, Royals really know how to cement a reputation, as our celebrations have been as Royale as our name.

This year we had the opportunity to celebrate our junior/senior prom at Skyline Events on the Bricktown Canal. The location itself amplified by the rhythmic music, gorgeous decorations, extravagant outfits and truly cinematic view, making this prom memorable.

Beyond all academic responsibilities, dancing blissfully amongst peers reminded all of the truly magical moments in our life, helping to understand why God wanted to share his gift of life on Earth with us. Not to work so we can dance, but to dance because we have worked.

SAT testing

Finals are lurking around the corner, so students are tiptoeing behind the heap of impending deadlines and missing assignments as the clock ticks closer to graduation.

Regardless, there is still one more beast left for the underclassmen to tackle before they'll have to sharpen their pencils for the big leagues – the SATs.

It's hard to forget the excitement of attending SAT prep to learn about the wonders of taking integrals, taking a crash course on understanding Shakespearean English, and figuring out how to actually use a semicolon.

At Cristo Rey, we head into these exams not solely prepared just to face the outcome of the endeavors, but confident that we have given them the correct skills to achieve the ultimate potential and come out of the testing rooms proudly knowing that, regardless of the outcome, students gave it their all.

Holy Week

Despite many scheduling conflicts like tests, exams and other minor events taking up a chunk of our attention, the Royals approached Holy Week with reverence as we prepared our spirits and minds for Good Friday. Holding through with our Lenten promises, commemorating the 40 days and 40 nights Jesus spent in the desert as we walk with him towards his crucifixion, we were reminded of God's ultimate sacrifice for us in the name of love.

It's not easy to be reminded of the suffering and pain that our Savior endured for us for the forgiveness of sins, which is why Easter is such an important time for us with our families. Even in the darkness light can shine.

Jesus died, but he also rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. We must celebrate this miracle for it was truly done out of pure love for humanity because God loves all of his children, and we are all siblings in Christ.

Diana Garcia is a senior at Cristo Rey OKC Catholic High School.

Moments at the Mount

Making memories at The Mount

Andrew Cleary rehearsed his role as Prince Christopher in "Cinderella." *Photo MSM Performing Arts.*

Emma Bowman

Mount St. Mary Catholic High School

A Night to Remember ... Prom 2025

On the night of March 5, a dazzling sea of traffic lights and the Oklahoma City skyline could be seen through the large window wall of the Oklahoma History Center. With young women in glittering dresses and young men in pristine suits, the dance floor saw no rest for close to three hours. Hosted by the class of 2026, prom was memorable.

Adam Elliott, a senior student of Epic Charter Schools who was a guest at the event, noted his enjoyment of the provided music, the enlargement of this year's venue from last year when he was a junior, and the energy the students and staff in attendance brought to the scene.

"I really enjoyed how involved the students were," Elliott said. "No one was afraid to dance in a wacky way and I also loved the slow dance music.

"The DJ did a fantastic job creating a lively environment. In general, the students had a great time. Not a single person left early. It was a beautiful evening."

Easter and Pope Francis

In the final days of Lent, Kathleen Bertels, campus minister, orchestrated many events for students and staff to grow closer to Christ. In addition to leading Morning and Evening Prayer (from the Liturgy of the Hours) before and after school every day, she has sent periodic e-mails to students and staff about the Catholic beliefs associated with Lent, Holy Week and Easter that non-Catholics may not be familiar with or have questions about.

For instance, during Passiontide, the final two weeks of Lent, she explained why the chapel was suddenly decorated with purple veils.

"The veiling of sacred images is nothing short of startling for us who are used to seeing them in our churches and chapels almost year-round," she said. "The veils suggest a discomfort that comes with being separated from Christ following Holy Thursday Mass through the Easter Vigil."

Early in April, Father Jerome Krug spent about five hours during the school day hearing confessions. Immediately after, he celebrated Mass during academic

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Irish Insights

Remembering, rejoicing for pope and priest

Students of Campus Minister Kelly Allen's spiritual leadership class posed for shadow stations on Good Friday morning. *Photo Heston Kostiuk.*

Katherine Menz

Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School

With summer rapidly approaching, the Irish community has been busy with end of year festivities along with the celebration of Easter and remembrances of Pope Francis.

Remembering the pope

Since Pope Francis' passing Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School has worked to honor his life and legacy through prayer.

"He really was trying to be as accepting as possible and not try to be some really high and mighty figure," said junior Andrew Benites. "He was really down to earth."

Benites said his family is honoring Pope Francis through nightly prayer for his soul and through a Mass after his death.

Junior Gia-luc Nguyen said he remembers Pope Francis's promotion of youth involvement in the church, especially for his support of the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement. As a member, Nguyen said his group planned to pray a novena for the pope and attend a Mass at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in his honor.

"Kind of like Saint John Paul II, he was really open about the youth and bringing them into the fold," Nguyen said.

Around the school building, the theology department has created different places for students to pray and remember the Pope's influence.

"I think that's a way of sort of remembering him and for all that he did for us," Nguyen said.

Appreciating Father Rick

This year, Father Rick Stansberry took on the role of school president, following the retirement of David Morton.

In his role, has also served the Irish community as school chaplain, allowing McGuinness students an opportunity to know Father Rick on a more personal level.

In recognition of Priest Appreciation Week, junior Britney Gamez said Father Rick has helped her feel more connected through his work at the school.

"He's very strategic with what he does in the school and with Mass it makes it feel closer to God," Gamez said.

Gamez added that she appreciated the Catholic traditions that Father Rick celebrated through the year.

Angela Basse, a junior theology teacher, said Father Stansberry has had a positive impact within the school.

"I think he's a great presence, and he understands what presence means and how effective presence is, especially in a community this size," Basse said. "I also think that Father Rick really does well at bringing people together."

BMCHS Olympics

The week of April 22, the school celebrated class Olympics with a throughout the decades theme, beginning with the black light assembly and concluding with an all-school field day.

The classes competed to claim the yearlong competition, with competition and dress-up days.

"Olympics week is just fun and outgoing," said junior Jack Coyle, who opened the week dressed for the Y2K theme.

Student Council President Amy Le explained the importance of getting involved in Olympics week.

"In the moment it is so rewarding to see friendly competition from all grades unite to cheer for people you may not know, but still have the common goal of winning and having fun," Le said.

Running for Christ

The track team hosted the Running for Christ track meet in celebration of Holy Week. The meet welcomed eight Christian schools from across Oklahoma and aimed to recognize the common mission of each.

"It's just a great example of schools coming together," Principal Andrew Worthington said. "We share some common missions in faith-based education that is around the path that Christ gave us and working in a world for others."

Freshman Franny Santos said she was inspired by a bible verse while competing.

Junior Luke Worthington also competed and said the team was feeling positive heading into regional and state and competitions.

"So today's just kind of a day of remembrance," Luke Worthington said. "Out here running for Christ, and it's gonna be good."

Shadow stations

Campus Minister Kelly Allen's Spiritual Leadership class celebrated the end of Lent with shadow stations the morning of Good Friday. The class began preparing for the celebration three weeks in advance by examining "the meaning of Jesus' passion and the importance of each role."

Allen said that the shadow station meditations resonated deeply with her and helped her to reflect on what actually happened during Jesus' passion, death and resurrection.

"It's easy to feel like we know the story, and it's important to take time and really remember it all," Allen said.

Baseball

The baseball team seems primed for the postseason amid a successful season.

"We're winning a lot of district games," senior Harrison Glover said. "Those are the games that are the most important, because that decides who will host the regionals."

Sophomore Waite Swanson said the team aims to stay prepared.

"So the main preparation is the day of the games," Swanson said. "We will get into the indoor facility about 30 minutes before we have to be on the field so we can get extra hits in, and then we work on fielding and all that stuff just before the game."

With a busy schedule, sophomore Carson Byrnes notes the importance of team chemistry.

"We do have a lot of guys in our locker room that like to play a bunch of music," Glover said. "We bring a lot of big speakers, and that's kind of what we do before every game, to try to just get loose and have fun."

Katherine Menz is a junior at Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School.

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period, the school's daily study hall opportunity for students. Many were grateful for the opportunity to grow closer to Christ in the final days before the Holy Triduum.

Since the passing of Pope Francis on Easter Monday, the Mount's way of honoring his life and legacy has been to end the day in prayer for the repose of his soul. A beautiful, touching moment of prayer graces the final moments of classes, as done at 8 a.m. every morning.

Cinderella!

The MSM Performing Arts department recently performed Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" for students, drawing major applause for senior Andrew Cleary as the prince and Ava Berhmann as Cinderella.

Consisting of glittering costumes and dazzling sets, constructed by Linda Brown's stagecraft class, the production enchanted audiences and sent many into frenzies of laughter. (The show is quite comedic at times.)

Overall, the department did a splendid job of bringing the classic story of Cinderella to life for the Mount community.

Emma Bowman is a senior at Mount St. Mary Catholic High School.

A way to ease your tax burden

csofok.org 405-709-2700

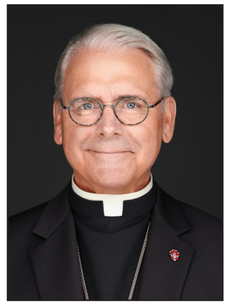
Does April 15 get you down? Reduce your tax burden next year by giving to the Catholic Schools Opportunity Fund this year.

Gifts to the program defray tuition costs for children attending Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City.

A two-year pledge gets donors a 75% state income tax credit each year. The max credit is $2,000 for couples and $1,000 for individuals. Qualified businesses can receive a much larger tax credit.

Lánzate a lo más Profundo
Luke 5:4

La vida que hemos recibido



Arzobispo Pablo S. Coakley

El tiempo de Pascua y la primavera son periodos en los que celebramos la nueva vida, así que resulta muy apropiado que hagamos una pausa en esta época del año para celebrar el Día de las Madres; que aunque no es una fiesta religiosa, es una buena ocasión y el tiempo adecuado para celebrar la vida que hemos recibido.

Los bebés nacen en el mundo como un potencial puro; se abren camino lentamente a través de la oscuridad de la exploración hasta que emerge la luz de la autoconciencia.

Recordamos muy poco de aquellos meses y años en los que se formó gran parte de nuestras vidas. Para muchos de nosotros, nuestros padres, especialmente nuestras madres, nos guiaron amorosamente a lo largo de este período.

Nos abrieron las puertas del mundo para que la persona en la que estábamos destinados a convertirnos pudiera tomar forma y forjarse. Fueron la presencia persistente que hizo posible nuestras vidas. Sin ellos simplemente no estaríamos. Aunque otro vientre nos haya dado a luz, nuestros padres son los que nos han hecho criaturas de este mundo, y las personas en las que nos hemos convertido. Nos formaron y nos moldearon.

Nuestras vidas son un don. Primero fuimos bendecidos por algo que no pudimos elegir por nosotros mismos, y nuestras primeras gracias llegaron a través de algo que no podemos recordar. Esto es claramente evidente en nuestro Bautismo, si fuimos bautizados cuando éramos niños.

Todos los atributos más importantes que nos convierten en lo que somos nos fueron transmitidos por nuestros padres. No importa lo que hayamos hecho de nosotros mismos, lo hemos construido sobre los cimientos que ellos pusieron, así que nuestra mejor respuesta es estar agradecidos.

A medida que nos acercamos al Día de las Madres, tenemos la oportunidad de reflexionar sobre este gran y misterioso lienzo en blanco en el que se han pintado nuestras vidas. Podemos recordar muchos momentos entrañables de nuestras madres y su valiosa influencia en nuestra formación.

Muchos de nosotros tenemos un cúmulo de anécdotas y ejemplos de cómo la presencia de una madre ha sido importante en todos los sentidos, así que es justo recordarlo y festejarlas en el Día de las Madres. Pero también es una oportunidad para celebrar el silencio, para apreciar a aquellos que establecieron los cimientos de nuestras vidas incluso antes de que pudiéramos recordar nada.

Podemos aprender de los grandes artistas. Cuando contemplamos los mosaicos hermosos o los frescos maravillosos de nuestras catedrales majestuosas, nos estremecemos ante la destreza con que se exhiben.

La forma y el diseño de estas grandes obras de arte cautivan nuestra mirada y nos hacen partícipes del ingenio de los artistas en todo su asombroso talento. Sin embargo, bajo los mosaicos y la pintura se esconden el cemento y el yeso que permiten la existencia de este arte. Sin los conocimientos necesarios y la habilidad requerida para preparar estas bases, el arte no sería posible.

Sin embargo, estos elementos nunca se verán, porque no suelen notarse en lo más mínimo.

Lo mismo ocurre con todos aquellos que han moldeado y formado nuestras vidas. A no ser que nos detengamos a pensar en ellos, es probable que olvidemos el generoso regalo que nos han dado. Sin ellos no habría nada de lo que hemos llegado a ser. Con ellos, cuanto más generosa es su entrega, menos tendemos a notar.

Hacer una pausa en el Día de las Madres es una oportunidad para reconocer con gratitud nuestra dependencia de la familia que nos ha sido dada, especialmente de nuestras madres. Somos los mosaicos que han creado estos artistas.

Este es también el momento en el que podemos sumergirnos más profundamente en la quietud silenciosa de nuestras vidas. Al hacerlo, damos gracias por el verdadero origen de cada parte de nosotros mismos, que es la presencia en silencio de Dios.

Puede que nunca nos fijemos en lo Divino como el gran lienzo sobre el que se pinta el arte de nuestra vida, pero así es. La Bondad Divina es el primer don que se nos concede. Somos el producto de la Generosidad Divina derramada sobre nosotros en el silencio de nuestras vidas antes de que pudiéramos saber nada de nosotros mismos.

Dios se conforma con permanecer en el silencio, pero reconocer su arte es reconocer la verdad de nuestras vidas. Adentrándonos en el silencio y reconociendo la bondad de Dios es donde podemos encontrar las promesas más profundas que aún no se han cumplido en nosotros.

El Día de las Madres es cuando podemos abrir los ojos a estas promesas. Al hacer memoria, podemos remontarnos más allá del recuerdo para apreciar la Verdad Divina de su amor por nuestras vidas.

NATIONAL Eucharistic Pilgrimage

ARCHDIOCESE OF Oklahoma City

Sabado, el 31 de Mayo

Abadía de San Gregorio- Shawnee

2 - 3:30 p.m. Ceremonia de traspaso **(de la Diócesis de Tulsa a la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City)** Procesión Eucarística en el recinto de la abadía y adoración Eucarística en la iglesia de la abadía

San José - Norman

7 - 8 p.m. Hora Santa Eucarística

Domingo, el 1 de Junio

Cristo Rey hasta San Eugenio - OKC

2 - 4 p.m. Procesión Eucarística desde la Iglesia Católica de Cristo Rey hasta la Iglesia Católica de San Eugenio

Catedral de Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro - OKC

7 - 8:30 p.m. SUMMIT - Adoración, Confesiones y Música

Martes, el 3 de Junio

Santuario del Beato Stanley Rother - OKC

10 - 11:30 a.m. Procesión Eucarística en el recinto del santuario

12:15 p.m. Misa diaria en la iglesia del santuario

El arzobispo Coakley y el Papa Francisco compartieron una carcajada cuando se conocieron en 2013. *Foto Vatican Media.*

Lánzate a lo más Profundo
Luke 5:4

Apreciando al Papa Francisco

Nuestro querido Santo Padre, el papa Francisco, fue llamado a la casa del Padre el Lunes 21 de Abril en el doceavo año de su pontificado.

La muerte de un Papa es siempre un momento extraordinario en la vida de la Iglesia.

Todos los católicos abrigan espontáneamente un aprecio especial y una devoción filial al Santo Padre como Vicario de Cristo y Sucesor de San Pedro, por lo que no es de extrañar que tantos católicos lloren conmovidos el fallecimiento de este Papa.

Este momento eclesial nos ofrece la oportunidad de considerar la obra de Dios en y a través de aquellos que Él ha llamado para servirle a Él y a su pueblo. En las últimas semanas, he estado reflexionando sobre la vida y el ministerio del difunto Santo Padre, el Papa Francisco.

El Papa Francisco, desde los primeros momentos de su papado, optó por utilizar gestos proféticos como medio para expresar su ministerio pastoral universal. Mientras que sus dos predecesores inmediatos tenían inclinaciones intelectuales, ya que habían sido profesores, el papa Francisco utilizó el testimonio de sus acciones incluso más que su enseñanza escrita para proclamar y dar testimonio del Evangelio.

No intento descartar lo que escribió, lo cual revela una profunda fe y sabiduría, pero creo que cada uno de nosotros puede pensar en imágenes impactantes a través de las cuales el Papa Francisco dio testimonio de la misericordia, la cercanía y la ternura de Dios. Recuerdo, por ejemplo, lo conmovedor de su oración solitaria en el interior de una Basílica de San Pedro cavernosa y vacía durante la agonía de la pandemia del COVID, cuando no se permitían las reuniones.

El Papa Francisco fue un pastor para quien el testimonio de la Iglesia al mundo estaba ante todo en su mente. Su especial preocupación pastoral por los marginados, los desamparados y los excluidos de la sociedad fue siempre lo primero y lo más importante a la hora de proclamar la Buena Nueva de Jesucristo al mundo.

El difunto Santo Padre creía que, si hemos de anunciar el Evangelio al mundo, debemos hacerlo empezando por aquellos a quienes la sociedad preferiría ignorar. Su atención a las realidades sociales y a los desafíos globales, como el cuidado de la creación y los emigrantes, estaba totalmente al servicio de la credibilidad del anuncio de Cristo por parte de la Iglesia al mundo.

Trazó el rumbo de su pontificado con la publicación de su exhortación apostólica postsinodal del 2013 llamada "La Alegría del Evangelio" (*Evangelii Gaudium*). Aquí presentó muchos de los temas en los que se desarrollaría en los años siguientes de su pontificado.

Escribe sobre la necesidad de una proclamación renovada de la Buena Nueva de la Encarnación, Pasión, Muerte y Resurrección de Jesús. Pide que este kerigma esté en el centro de la vida y del testimonio de la Iglesia. Describe cómo debería funcionar esto dentro de la Iglesia y para que la Iglesia sea una fuerza vital dentro de la sociedad.

La totalidad del ministerio, los escritos y las enseñanzas del papa Francisco pueden leerse a través de la lente de este documento, en el que llama a la Iglesia a una conversión pastoral permanente.

Hay una belleza poética y una conveniencia de que Dios llamara al Papa Francisco a la casa del Padre el Lunes de Pascua durante el Año Jubilar de la Esperanza, que él inauguró. En cierto sentido, el Papa Francisco comenzó y terminó su servicio del Ministerio Petrino con el tema de la esperanza.

En su Misa inaugural como papa, Francisco invitó a toda la Iglesia a dar un firme testimonio de esperanza: "También hoy, ante tantos cúmulos de cielo gris, hemos de ver la luz de la esperanza y dar nosotros mismos esperanza. Custodiar la creación, cada hombre y cada mujer, con una mirada de ternura y de amor; es dejar que un rayo de luz se abra paso entre las nubes; es llevar el calor de la esperanza".

El papa Francisco fue un rayo de luz anunciando a Cristo al mundo y llamando a la Iglesia hacia un testimonio más íntegro y cristocéntrico en la sociedad. Nos deja como regalo de despedida el Jubileo de la Esperanza, para que seamos fortalecidos y animados en nuestro anuncio de Jesucristo a un mundo muy necesitado de su Buena Nueva.

Damos gracias a Dios todopoderoso por el don del papa Francisco. Rezamos por el descanso de su alma, y rezamos por la Iglesia universal en este tiempo de transición.

Siempre con la certeza de que es Jesucristo, el Buen Pastor, quien guía fielmente a su rebaño por los pastos de la historia, nos encomendamos de nuevo al Señor y buscamos recibir y ser guiados por los pastores que el Señor nos proporcione.

Con gratitud por su ministerio, nos despedimos en oración del papa Francisco y lo encomendamos al Señor. También nos dirigimos con gran confianza al Padre de la misericordia y rezamos por aquel a quien Él elegira para pastorear la Iglesia como nuestro próximo Papa, Vicario de Cristo y Obispo de Roma.

María, Madre de la Iglesia, ruega por nosotros.

Reverendísimo Paul S. Coakley, Arzobispo de Oklahoma City

Briefs

Lay Missionaries of Charity
The Lay Missionaries of Charity is a response of the laity to the universal call to holiness. As the Third Order of the Missionaries of Charity of St. Teresa of Calcutta, they are dedicated to a life growing in holiness through the Sacraments and the Magisterium of the Church. Their primary emphasis is free service to the members of their own families and to the poorest of the poor. They meet twice a month for Holy Mass, prayer, study and discussion. For meeting schedule and locations contact Jonathan Tarman, LMC (405) 278-8199 or Toni Harrelson, LMC Link (405) 341-2199.

Camp registration open
Registration is open for the 2025 Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Camp season. campguadalupe.org/summercamp.

Craft fair vendors
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. Vendor applications are now being accepted. Visit holyspiritmustang.org/craft-fair-form.

Craft fair - Yukon
St. John Nepomuk Catholic Church in Yukon is having its annual arts and crafts show from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Sept. 13. There will be Indian tacos and drinks to purchase. People interested in booth registration can contact Rachelle Goldsboro at rachelle_goldsboro@sbcglobal.net, (405) 350-7559.

Radiothon
Oklahoma Catholic Radio will host a radiothon May 13-14. Visit okcr.org to find local stations, listen online or make a pledge.

Catholic in Recovery
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Camp is hosting a Catholic in Recovery retreat May 8-10 for people seeking to find freedom from addictions, compulsions and unhealthy attachments, and for family members impacted by their loved one's addiction. Cost: $295, meals included. Register by April 27 at catholicinrecovery.com/events. Contact retreats@ catholicinrecovery.com.

ACP luncheon
The next Assembly of Catholic Professionals luncheon is 11 a.m. May 15 at the Petroleum Club, 100 N. Broadway Ave. in Oklahoma City. The guest speaker is Fr. Leo Patalinghug. Visit cfook.org/acp.

Father-son retreat
The archdiocesan marriage and family life office presents a father and son retreat on May 22-24 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Camp. Cost $100 per father. Scholarships are available. Fathers and sons must attend together. Sons should be ages 10-20. Register at archokc.org/fathers.

Memorial Day celebration
The St. Patrick Catholic Cemetery Association annual potluck celebration will be held at 10 a.m. May 26 at N.W. 234 St. (Sorghum Mill Rd) between Council Road and S. County Line Road in rural Edmond. A Tridentine Latin Mass will be celebrated (weather permitting) at the cemetery pavilion. Take a chair and a food dish to share. Contact Therese Klopfenstein at (405) 208-0330.

Monastic Encounter Weekends
St. Gregory's Abbey vocation director Fr. Simeon Spitz, O.S.B. invites single Catholic men ages 18-45 to a Monastic Encounter Weekend June 6-8, Aug. 1-3 or Oct. 17-19. Participants will share in the liturgical prayer, lectio divina, common work, and communal life of the abbey and live as a monk. While these encounters are primarily intended for those discerning a religious vocation, they are of spiritual benefit to anyone yearning to know God's still, small voice amidst life's chaos. To register or for more information about discerning a vocation at St. Gregory's Abbey, e-mail vocations@monksok.org, visit monksok.org, or call Fr. Simeon at (405) 878-5456.

Diamond anniversary
St. Patrick Catholic Church in Oklahoma City will be celebrating its 75th anniversary on June 10. All former parishioners, seminarians and anyone connected to the parish is invited to help make the celebration special. Time, talent and ideas are welcome. For more information, contact Florence Daugomah at (405) 626-8638.

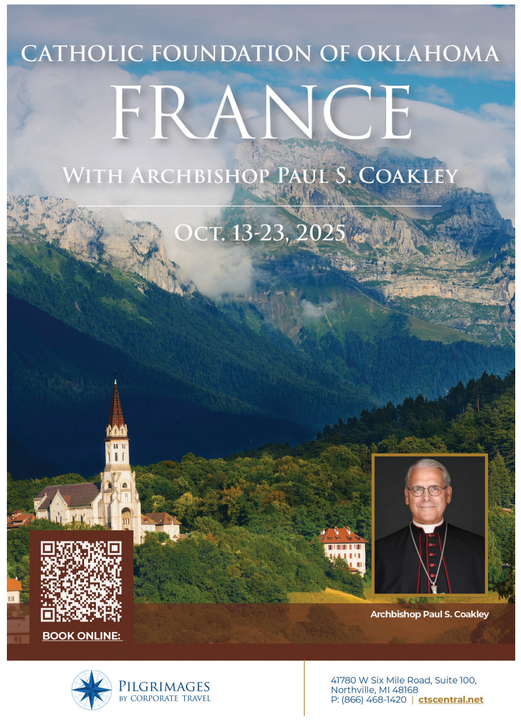
MSM 50-year reunion
The Mount St. Mary Catholic High School Class of 1975 will celebrate its 50-year reunion at 6:30 p.m. June 14 in the school commons. Cost: $50 per person or $90 per couple. E-mail msmclassof1975@gmail.com.

Camp Subiaco
The 2025 summer camp dates for Camp Subiaco are June 15-21 and June 22-28. A limited number of campers will be accepted to this adventure-based camp for boys ages 9-13. Visit campsubiaco.org.

A Night of Prayer
A Night of Prayer for the country will be held 7-8 p.m. June 24 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 900 S. Littler Ave. in Edmond. Everyone is welcome.

Taste 2025
The Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine presents Taste 2025 at 6 p.m. Sept. 18 at 700 S.E. 89 in Oklahoma City. Enjoy Norahua Mexican Folkloric Dancers, Mexican fare, Mezcal tasting and live music. Call (405) 438-0310 for sponsorship information. This event is for guests 21 and over.

To see more briefs, visit archokc.org/briefs.



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 soonercatholic.org.

May

4 Third Sunday of Easter.

4 The Secular Franciscan Order St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity of Central Oklahoma meeting, 2 p.m., St. Eugene Catholic Church, meeting room No. 3. Contact Bill Full, OFS minister, at billfull1@att.net.

4 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.

6 Catholic in Recovery meeting, 7 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1901 N.W. 18 St., Oklahoma City.

10 Feast of St. John of Avila.

10 Feast of St. Damien de Veuster.

10 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.

11 Fourth Sunday of Easter.

11 Mother's Day.

11 Good Shepherd Sunday.

11 Priest Appreciation Week, May 11-17

12 Feast of St. Pancras.

12 Feast of Sts. Nereus and Achilleus.

13 Feast of Our Lady of Fatima.

13 Catholic in Recovery meeting, 7 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1901 N.W. 18 St., Oklahoma City.

14 Feast of St. Matthias.

14 Catholic War Veterans USA Post No. 168 meeting, 5 p.m., Sunnylane Family Reception Center, 3900 S.E. 29, Del City. Mass at 6:15 p.m. Contact Ronald Sandhop, CWV Post 168 Adjutant, (405) 640-0450, resandhop@gmail.com.

15 Feast of St. Isidore.

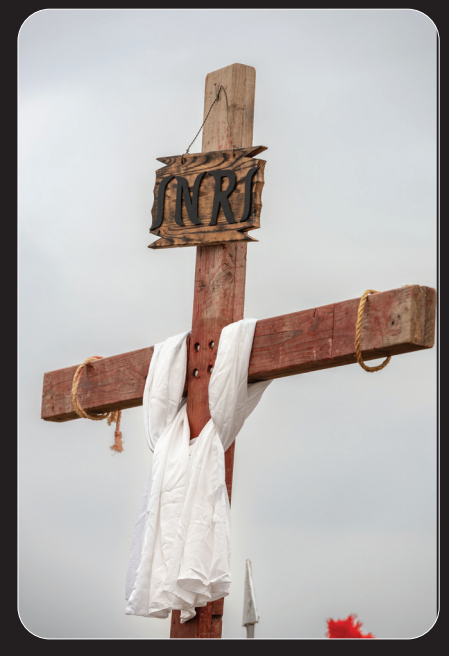
15 Assembly of Catholic Professionals luncheon, 11 a.m., Petroleum Club, 100 N. Broadway Ave., Oklahoma City. The guest speaker is Fr. Leo Patalinghug. Visit cfook.org/acp.

15 Summit, 7 p.m., The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 3214 N. Lake Ave., Oklahoma City. An evening of adoration, confessions, praise and worship every third Thursday of the month.

17 Monthly Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague begins.

17 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.

17 The Lay Missionaries of Charity meeting. Contact Jonathan Tarman, (405) 278-8199, Toni Harrelson, (405) 341-2199.

17 The Oklahoma City Community of Secular Carmelites meeting, Little Flower Catholic Church, 1125 S. Walker Ave., Oklahoma City. Anyone interested in deepening prayer life with community support, call William Ginn, (405) 737-2024.

Parishioners from Sacred Heart Catholic Church at the Bl. Stanley Rother Shrine held a live Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 18, at the shrine. ***Photos Chris Porter/Sooner Catholic.***