

SAINT MARY’S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Ponca City, Oklahoma

A New Age for Confirmation — Cause for Hope

As you may have read last week in the bulletin, or online, Archbishop Coakley and the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis have decided to alter the diocesan standards for confirmation preparation. By 2022, children in the 6th grade will receive this sacrament after a one-year program of preparation.

Is this just an arbitrary change? Does it betray what we believe about confirmation? Why does the Archdiocese think is this better than high-school confirmation?

To be able to answer these questions, it is helpful to understand what Catholics believe about sacraments. The classic definition of a sacrament serves as a starting point: “outward signs of inward grace, instituted by Christ for our sanctification.”

Oftentimes, people consider sacraments as only the first two words of the definition: outward signs. Our lives are marked along the way with many of these outward signs. Graduation, induction ceremonies, etc.

But if we simply compare the sacraments to these human moments, we’ll start to miss the point. Sacraments give grace to the soul!

I remember coming to Oklahoma and being frustrated with the prevailing view of Confirmation promoted here: the teenager CHOOSES the faith to be his own.

When the weight of sacramental grace is placed on the subject—the person receiving the sacraments—we’ve lost the battle. It has ramifications in the way we look at our participation in the divine life offered by God, because ultimately, we will be frustrated that we can’t reach that divine life by our own willpower.

So I (and many other priests) am overjoyed that children in our Archdiocese will be given the grace of the Holy Spirit to make them witnesses to the love of God earlier in their lives.

October 11, 2020

Let’s continue to pray for a fruitful transition in the way we prepare our youth for the difficult circumstances they face. And never forget the power of your own witness!

Fr. Zak



MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2020
12:10pm Spec. Int. For Our Country
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020
12:10pm †Wendell Hacker/Floyd & Teresa Kemmerer
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020
8:20am †Joseph Marie Auschwitz/Jarrett & Kathleen Auschwitz
(School Mass)
School Masses are NOT open to the public due to COVID-19
6:00pm Spec. Int. President Trump
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020
9:30am Spec. Int. For Victims of Cancer (Newkirk)
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2020
7:00am †Jerry Vap/Stan & Maria Villines
12:10pm †Gary Martin/Jimmy & Suzy Paschal
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2020
9:00am Spec. Int. Ed & Zoe Butt/Mike & Theresa Butt & Family
5:00pm †Jeanne Specht/Ramona Lantz
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2020
8:00am †Ronald Cremers/Richard & Elizabeth Myers & Family
9:30am Pro Populo (Newkirk)
11:00am Special Intention/Phil & Ann Maxson
1:00pm Spanish Mass/ Pro Populo
7:00pm People of the Parish

Unless specified- ALL Masses will be in the **CHURCH**

Save The Date: Tax Credit Scholarship Reception **November 5th, 6:00PM**, Ponca City Country Club. Cocktails and hors d’oeuvres provided. All are welcome to come learn about how this tax credit can benefit individuals, businesses, and our school. RSVP to Emily Hodgson (580)382-6017 by October 29th.

Please Pray For those who need prayers: Charlotte Meyer, Charlene Vap, Dora Behar, Cindy Wardlow, Colleen Schiltz, Jeanne Glaser, Patsy Hastings, Eileen Spellman, Linda Courtney, George F. Brown, Martha Begwin, Donna Schlitz, Asher Dailey, Tyson Rutter, Kaye Cunningham, Barbara Spore, Alicia Aguilar, James Hess, Gabriel Dietz, Don Raulston, Joe Badley, Sandy Hudack, Pamela Cline, Sherry Burgell, Helen Bloxsom, Jill Kestler, Dean Tate, Bertha Smith, David Courtney, Joyce Johnson, Dana Stahl, Mike Lessert, Mollien Koenig, Chasity Turner, Antonio Pasquarelli, John & Cecilia Cobble, Denise Duffle, Sr. Vickie Dianne Bass, Albert Espinosa, Joyce Reutter, Linda Wooters, Peggy Wilson, Sr. Mary Clare, Sue Rice, Stan Loughridge, Mike Gray, Patty Hughes, Sallie Williams, Mike Kemmerer, Owen Greer, Kim Maxson, Max Thomas, Shanell Westerheide, Bill Bridges, Ed O’Neill, Kathleen Billington, For everyone infected by the COVID-19 virus, Pat Boyd, Jillian Willem, Susan Kothe, Bambi Koster, Doug Revard

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LOOKING ahead... **October 12-18, 2020**

Monday	6:30pm	LADDER OF ASCENT, McGurk Room
Tuesday	11:30am	BIBLE TIMELINE, McGurk Room
	7:00pm	RCIA, McGurk Room
Wednesday	6:00pm	ADORATION-CHAPEL
	6:30pm	7-12 FAITH FORMATION, Playground
Thursday	10:00am	WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY, McGurk Room
Friday		FALL BREAK-NO SCHOOL
	10:30am	CONFESSION, Church
Saturday	3:30pm	CONFESSION, Church
Sunday	6:00pm	CONFESSION, Church

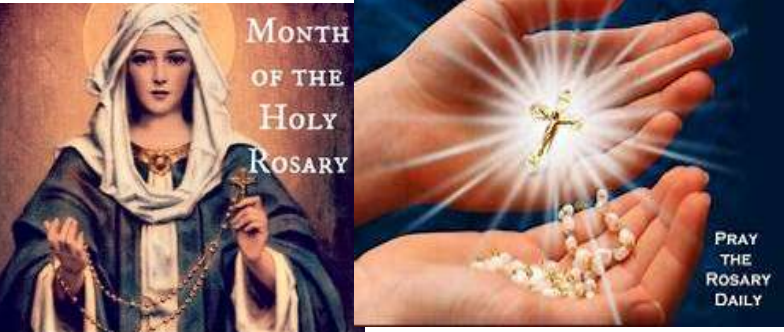
WEDNESDAY EVENING ADORATION
Adoration will be held from 6:00pm to 8:00pm in the Chapel, every Wednesday.

Weekly Income Report
October 4, 2020

Weekly Collection:	\$ 9,118.01
--------------------	-------------

St. Mary’s Catholic School is in need of *Substitute Teachers*. Please contact Mrs. Hunsacker at (580) 765-4387 for more information or to volunteer in other areas at our School!

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION
October 14th is Zoom check-in from 7:00-7:30 PM. We’ll be there to answer any questions, hear concerns, and catch up with your family. Watch for a Flocknote with the Zoom meeting information.
We hope to see you then!



Youth Group News
JH/SH Youth Group is this Wednesday from 6:30-8pm. All 7-12th grade youth are invited!

Outside our Parish:
Mass for Medical Professionals
Archbishop’s Mass for Medical Professionals will be at 6:30 p.m. **Oct. 15** at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City. Reception to follow. Speaker: Sr. Mary Rachel Nerbun, R.S.M., M.D., St. Francis Hospital, Tulsa. Watch live-stream at archokc.org/live, Facebook Live or YouTube Live.

Anniversary Mass
Archbishop Coakley invites married couples who are celebrating milestone anniversaries (25, 40, 50+) in the calendar year 2020 to participate in the annual Anniversary Mass that will be live-streamed at 3 p.m. **Oct.18** in the St. Francis de Sales Chapel at the Catholic Pastoral Center. Register with the Office of Marriage and Family Life at (405) 709-2709 or lcarrasco@archokc.org. Couples are asked to send in a picture of themselves to be shown on the live-stream.

Surviving Divorce
The Surviving Divorce program offers hope, healing and community to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. This 14-week program is for the newly separated and divorced and anyone still struggling with issues many years later. It will help them answer their questions, restore hope and begin authentic healing. **Classes Nov. 16 – Feb. 15. Participants meet 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Mondays** at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Mustang. Contact Brenda Arambula at (405) 822-1803, survivingdivorceok@gmail.com.

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
Thanks to everyone for their stewardship – whether resources or talent. Many have already turned in their packets. If you haven’t done so please do. You may drop them in the mail boxes or leave them in the Church. Thank you!