# SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Ponca City, Oklahoma** — **March 7, 2021**

Dear Parishioners:

Amidst the season of Lent, while each of us personally goes through our own journey of conversion, the Church witnesses the spiritual progress of those who are desiring to be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

In the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, Lent corresponds with the "period of purification and enlightenment," beginning with the Rite of Election celebrated on the first Sunday of Lent and continuing throughout the Lenten Season until the paschal festivities. As the RCIA reminds us, "For both the elect and the local community, the Lenten season is a time for spiritual recollection in preparation for the celebration of the paschal mystery." (*RCIA*, 138)

Especially in the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent, this goal of the Lenten Season is highlighted liturgically. We read the 3 gospel readings from John which reveal the power of Jesus Christ, underscore the relationship he desires with us, and point us to the cross from which the salvific meaning of the incarnation is revealed.

On these Sundays in Lent, those who are desiring to enter full communion with the Church—formerly candidates and catechumens, now elect—will engage in particular rites of purification and enlightenment. Primary among these are the scrutinies: prayers of intercession and exorcism for those who placed their names in the Book of the Elect on the First Sunday of Lent. "The scrutinies are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good." (*RCIA*, 141)

At St. Mary's, the scrutinies will be celebrated at various Masses over the next three weeks. While they are intentionally directed to be prayers for the elect, we all can benefit from their spiritual meaning: a realization of our desires which can only be met in Christ and a prayer to reject the temptation of the enemy to seek fulfillment in sinful affections.

As we continue during this Lenten Season to be transformed, may we pray for ourselves and for our candidates and catechumens: for purification and enlightenment through grace of the Holy Spirit.

In Christ,

*Fr. Zak*

**Weekly Income Report**
**February 28, 2021**

Weekly Collection: $ 10,796.00

## ✝✝✝ Masses For The Week

**MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021**
12:10pm †Ed O'Neill/Richard & Deanna Nicholas
**TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021**
12:10pm Spec. Int. Bob Gray/Michel Gray
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021**
8:20am †Bob Bahm/Wayne Hazen
**School Masses are NOT open to the public due to COVID-19**
**THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021**
9:30am People of the Parish (N***ewkirk***)
**FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2021**
7:00am †Steve Dummer/Grace Nalepa
12:10pm †Allan Bechtel/Donna Seidler
**SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2021**
9:00am †Geraldine Horstman/James & Mary Dexter
5:00pm †Stan Wheeler/Bruce & Janet Evans
**SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2021 – Fourth Sunday of Lent**
8:00am †Rex Maloney/His Family
9:30am Pro Populo (***Newkirk***)
11:00am †Pete Dimond/His Family
1:00pm ***Spanish Mass/* Pro Populo**
7:00pm †Keith Behara/Floyd & Theresa Kemmerer
**Unless specified- ALL Masses will be in the CHURCH**

## THE WEEK AHEAD March 8-14, 2021

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| Monday | 6:30pm | **LADDER OF ASCENT**, McGurk Room |
| Tuesday | 7:00pm | **RCIA**, McGurk Room |
| Wednesday | 6:30pm | **YOUTH GROUP**, Gym |
| Thursday | 11:00am | **5th GRADE PIZZA PARTY**, McGurk Room |
| Friday | 10:00am | **CONFESSION**, Church |
| | 5:00pm | **BISHOP/DEMEL REHEARSAL**, Church |
| | 6:30pm | **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**, Church |
| Saturday | 2:00pm | **BISHOP/DEMEL WEDDING**, Church |
| | 3:30pm | **CONFESSION**, Church |
| Sunday | 8:00am | **2nd SCRUTINY (RCIA)**, Church |
| | 6:00pm | **CONFESSION**, Church |

***Rest in Peace:*** Please pray for the souls of Bennie Westerman, Hurley Bohon, brother of Jackie Bohon, and for Steve Dummer, father of Paula Aguilar. May God grant them eternal peace.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

***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, Martha Begwin, Donna Schlitz, Joe Badley, Sandy Hudack, David Courtney, Sr. Mary Clare, Sallie Williams, Mike Kemmerer, Beth Whitney, Susan Kothe, Doug Revard, Mike Hammer, Sue Rice, Sherry Burgell, Pamela Cline, Kim Maxson, Joyce Reutter, Jarrett Auschwitz, George Rahme, Jim Johndrow, Mandi Holba, Tommy Hunt, Nancy Whitney

## Please Make Your Gift to the 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal

**ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL CAMPAIGN** Thanks to all who have pledged toward the 2021 ACA Campaign for the work and ministries offered here from the *Sooner Catholic* to the *College Campus Ministry*. St. Mary's has pledged so far **$38,078.00 from 56 parishioners**. Our goal is $111,000.00. We have met 34.3% of our Goal! Please turn in your ACA pledge if you have not done so. Thank you!

During Lent, we prepare ourselves through prayer and giving back to our parish. But, with busy lives and active families, it's easy to skip a weekly tithe when you are unable to attend Mass or are out of town. Thanks to eGiving, your weekly offertory will be automatically taken care of, which saves you time. Getting started is easy! Visit **faith.direct/OK801**

Once again St. Mary's Catholic School will be selling trash bags. To order online enter the following information: https:\\buybags.trashbagfundraiser.com, GROUP ID: **STMARYOK,** STUDENT: **CHURCH**. The trash bag sale will be from Feb. 28th-March 21st. See the bulletin insert for more details.

**CRS Rice Bowls**
SUSTAINABILITY IN EL SALVADOR
Drought has become a big problem across El Salvador, making it difficult for farmers to produce enough crops to support their families. But new farming techniques—and a new generation of young farmers—are making a difference. What would you do if your livelihood was threatened? How can you support young people in your community and around the world? Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

# Family Faith Formation

**Zoom check-in Wednesday, March 10, 7:00 PM**

**JH/SH Youth Group** is this Wednesday from 6:30-8PM in the gym. See you there!

**Day of Reflection**
"With a Father's Heart – Reflections for the Year of St. Joseph" will be presented by Abbot Lawrence Stasyszen, O.S.B., 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. March 13 at St. Gregory's Abbey,1900 W. MacArthur St., Shawnee. Due to COVID-19, registration will be limited to 32 attendees. Facial coverings and social distancing required. Attendees must pre-register by e-mailing retreats@monksok.org or call (405) 878-5656. Cost is $30 for early bird registration or $35 at the door. Lunch included.

**Office Manager and Executive Assistant – OKC**
The Catholic Pastoral Center of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City seeks a motivated professional to serve as Office Manager and Executive Assistant in the Secretariat for Evangelization and Catechesis. This position will be responsible for organizing, coordinating, and managing office administration procedures to ensure effectiveness and efficiency, including coordinating events and maintaining schedules for the Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director, intra-office communications, inventory control, staff supervision and delegation of tasks. The successful candidate will be able to independently manage a wide range of administrative tasks. To apply for this position, please submit resume to mmills@archokc.org.

**Attention Liturgical Ministers:** **Beginning the weekend of April 10/11 we will once again be using Ushers, Lectors, EMHC, Altar Servers and Greeters. Please call the office if you wish to serve at Mass once again or if you wish not to serve at this time, otherwise you may end up on the schedule if you don't let us know. Call Maria at 580-765-7794 ASAP as the schedule will be mailed out soon.**