

SAINT MARY’S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Ponca City, Oklahoma

April 17, 2022

Dear parishioners,

“O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns.”

The words of St. John Chrysostom give voice to the meaning of our Easter celebration today. We don’t celebrate pastel colors and bunnies, colored eggs and glazed hams. We don’t celebrate white dresses and pretty lilies. We celebrate the Good News: that with Jesus our sins have been nailed to the cross, and with Jesus, we rise from our death to sin to new life in the love of the Father. Let us celebrate today and this whole week-long as we daily remember the hope that the resurrection offers us!

It’s been such a joy to see some of our own church members along with church-goers around the world returning to regular attendance after the disruption COVID has caused for the past two-plus years. If you are returning today, and it’s been a while: welcome back! May this Easter season bring you the hope that we all search for. And we hope to see you with us every Sunday as we celebrate this central mystery of our faith: Christ has been raised from the dead and as his brothers and sisters, we have an inheritance in that same resurrection.

St. John Chrysostom also exhorts us on how to celebrate this Easter season: “Wherefore, enter you all into the joy of your Lord; and receive your reward, both the first, and likewise the second. You rich and poor together, hold high festival. You sober and you heedless, honor the day. Rejoice today, both you who have fasted and you who have disregarded the fast. The table is full-laden; feast ye all sumptuously.”

May your Easter day be a grace-filled occasion for family and faith, and may God bless you as he breathes new life into our hearts and into the world this spring.

In Christ,

Fr Zak

Weekly Income Report
April 10, 2022

Weekly Collection:	\$ 10,612.92
Faith Direct:	\$ 8,387.42



MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2022	
12:10pm	NO MASS
TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022	
12:10pm	NO MASS
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022	
8:20am	†Frank Mossauer/OKC Knights of Columbus
THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022	
9:30am	Mass (Newkirk)
FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2022	
7:30am	†Sr. Mary Cecil/Linda Bullard
12:10pm	†Del Kotarski/Dean & Maria Tate
SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2022	
9:00am	NO MASS
5:00pm	†Pug & Alice Thorpe/Tim & Genny Coffman
SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2022 – DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY	
8:00am	†Eleanor Ciskowski/St. Francis Guild
9:30am	MASS (Newkirk)
11:00am	†Jane Blount/Jan Neylon
1:00pm	Spanish Mass/ Pro Populo
7:00pm	†Ted Thomas/His Family



Young Adults, join us on Tuesday, April 19th from 6:30-8:30pm for PUBLIC Theology at Vortex Alley Brewing. This month we have guest speaker Dr. Alex

Schimpf who will be discussing Friendship and Friendship in the Context of Marriage.

Save the Date of May 7th, 2022. We will be celebrating Deacon Dick’s 30th Anniversary to the Deaconate! Keep an eye on the bulletin!

ANNOUNCING VBS 2022

Cool Kingdom Party:
Mary Brings Us Closer to Jesus
June 20-24, 2022
8:30am – Noon
Ages 3yr thru 5th grade
See the bulletin insert to register



A Warm Welcome & Thanks A special welcome to the 2022 Journey of Faith class. Thanks to all who helped each Tuesday as team facilitators and special guests. The weekly preparations, planning and coordination takes a special commitment, generosity and love. Thanks also to the sponsors who walked with the neophytes in their spiritual journey. **The 2021-22 RCIA Class included: Dustin Glenn, Logan Mirkes, Erin Broome and Robert Clements.**

EASTER SUNDAY

Looking ahead... April 18-24, 2022

Monday	PARISH OFFICES CLOSED - NO SCHOOL
	6:30pm LADDER of ASCENT, McGurk Room
Tuesday	6:30pm PUBLIC THEOLOGY, The Vortex Alley
	7:00pm NO RCIA
Wednesday	9:30am ST. FRANCIS GUILD, McGurk Room
	6:30pm K-12 FAITH FORMATION
Thursday	11:30am BROWN BAG LUNCH, McGurk Room
Friday	
Saturday	10:00am CONFIRMATION RETREAT, Camp McFadden
Sunday	



**St. Mary’s Catholic Schools
Annual Golf Tournament is
APRIL 30, 2022 – 1PM
Ponca City Country Club.**

Contact is Jennifer Schmidt at 382-6017.

Please Pray For those who need prayers: Charlotte Meyer, Charlene Vap, Dora Behar, Cindy Wardlow, Jeanne Glaser, Patsy Hastings, Linda Courtney, Donna Schlitz, Sr. Mary Clare, Mike Kemmerer, Mike Hammer, Sue Rice, Pamela Cline, Joyce Reutter, George Rahme, Jim Johndrow, Mandi Holba, Gabe Dietz, Phyllis Moriarty, Julian (JuJu) Aguilar, Ben Delapaz, John Meyers, Harold Leven, Natalie Goldman Stewart, Sid Kothe, Addy Wright, Denise Bemo, Kathleen Billington, John Hanger, Joey Bray, Ken Born, Kelsey Schiltz, Kathy Pedigrew, Cheyenne Harbeson, Linda Cremers, Clara Stewart, Mike Luis, Frances Sebor, Jamie Villines, Lacy Gower, Fr. Beckman, Linda Wooters, Jim Becker



This week we take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection to reveal Christ’s love to our brothers and sisters in need. This collection helps six Catholic agencies to provide relief and support for struggling communities and to work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Join us for an Easter Bible Study: *Life after the Resurrection* on Wednesday's in the McGurk Room from 11:30am - 12:30pm. We will begin **April 27th** and conclude June 1st. Any questions, contact Chris Beck at 580-382-6022.

Brown Bag Lunches

Join us for a series on **Sacred Art** for the Easter Season! Bring your lunch and meet in the McGurk Room from 11:30-12:30 on Thursdays.

St. Francis Guild will have the April meeting on **April 20, 2022** at 10AM in the McGurk room. The meeting will begin with a light breakfast, followed by prayer and guild business. Thanks to all who helped with and/or attended our St. Patrick’s day fundraiser!



A Christian Group from Bethlehem in the Holy Land is visiting our Church **THIS WEEKEND!** They come to our Church to sell the olive wood carvings and crafts that are hand made by the Christians in the Holy Land. This is their main source of income. Meet them in our Parish Hall after all the Masses this weekend. www.shepherds-field.com

First, let me again thank each one of you for your commitment to this program, bringing it back to life (Easter connection!) and your enthusiasm and encouragement.

Our event this year brought humor, fellowship, unity and some life changing experiences to our community. As a group, we improved 146 households with a team of 625 volunteers! The City of Ponca City received 66.4 TONS of material from the curbside at our homes this year. Isn't that amazing! Great work everyone, you did a wonderful job. The totals, city-wide, for Spring Clean-up was 584.8 Tons of debris from the community. As you drive around town this spring, be sure to notice how nice the yards look and be proud that you had a part in this!

We decided not to suggest a Fall Leaf Roundup this year. The City gave me several ways that "I", or "We" can improve next year and I will pass these on at our next meeting in early 2023 as we begin to build support for next year's program. I am always looking to involve more churches in the Great Day of Service, (it was great to involve First Christian and Central Baptist this year for their first experience) so pass it on when you can this year, it truly is one of the strongest ways we as a religious community can unite to impact our community, making a christian difference by showing God's love to others in Ponca City.

A BIG THANKS goes out to Phillips 66 for donating work gloves this year to all volunteers and also to Farha Distribution for all the Bottled Water to keep us safe and hydrated. WOW what a difference they made! Again, thank you for your support for Great Day of Service 2022, looking forward to your participation next year also. Blessings, Bill Wentroth - Church Coordinator/Great Day of Service

Rick Steichen coordinated the groups from St. Mary’s. Rick had **38 volunteers from St. Mary’s who cleaned 7 properties.** To end the day, lunch was prepared for us by 2 parishioners.

Thank you ALL for your help and support of this yearly project!



Join us for **Youth group** this Wednesday from **6:30-8PM**. This will be our last time to meet for this school year. Be on the lookout for summer activity announcements!

Faith Formation K-6

Join us for our last class of the school year on Wednesday, April 20. Meet in the church at 6:30!