

Prior to the celebration of the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, which means "Rejoice" Pope Francis encouraged people to strive for joy telling his world flock "We've never heard of a sad Saint." Pope Francis went on to say "man's heart desires joy, every family, every people, aspires to happiness."

On the Third Sunday of Advent we wear Rose, colored to symbolize the joy we experience waiting for Christmas. Pope Francis said "being missionaries of joy should be part of our lifestyles to help people face difficult situations in life."

So, as we celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas, let joy be born in our hearts, not just this Christmas day, but the whole year; not just the whole year, but our whole lives. Let us inspire this world, that can seem so lost in darkness, with the light of Christ in the light of our joy. Let us welcome family and friends. Let us welcome strangers and travelers in our midst who may join with us to celebrate the Eucharist. Make room in the pews; greet them with a welcoming smile and gracious hospitality like Mary and Joseph, who are seeking room in the inn. Let us not send them away to be born in a manger like the baby Jesus.

If you are returning to Church today from a long absence, or even a short one, let the joy of this celebration fill you. Let the light of Christ into your lives and into your hearts that your hearts may grow "three sizes" this day and return to the joy of celebrating the Eucharist today and every week of the year.

My thanks to all of you who have been faithful parishioners, for all you do even through the tough times. It is with humble joy that I give thanks for the honor of serving as your pastor. Thank you for all your support and prayers. "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the City of David a Savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Lk2:10-14)

May God bless you this Christmas, may all darkness in your lives be removed by the light of Christ. May your hearts be filled with the Joy of Christ's birth, and may you be missionaries of that joy!

Fr. Carson

Our contribution books will be closed as of December 31, 2022. If you need to finish up your pledge for the year, we would appreciate your payment by that date. Thank you to everyone who have been generous stewards throughout the year. These contributions will be reported to you at the end January.

Please Pray for: Charlotte Meyer, Charlene Vap, Dora Behar, Cindy Wardlow, Jeanne Glaser, Patsy Hastings, Linda Courtney, Donna Schlitz, Sr. Mary Clare, Mike Kemmerer, Mike Hammer, Pamela Cline, Joyce Reutter, George Rahme, Jim Johndrow, Gabe Dietz, Phyllis Moriarty, Julian (JuJu) Aguilar, Ben Delapaz, John Meyers, Harold Leven, Natalie Goldman Stewart, Sid Kothe, Addy Wright, Kathleen Billington, John Hanger, Joey Bray, Ken Born, Kelsey Schiltz, Kathy Pedigrew, Linda Cremers, Clara Stewart, Frances Sebor, Linda Wooters, Tim Powell, Avery Kahle, Luke Buchanan, Jesse Tabares, Tom Baconrind, Vicky Hensley, Devin Hermes, Stella Harris, Kim Maxson Machaj, Jerry Hermes, Travis Jones, Donetta



MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2022
 NO MASS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2022
 12:10pm †Fred & Eileen Spellman / their family
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2022
 12:10am †Charles & Joan Slovacek / John & Neta Hercyk
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2022
 9:30am MASS at St Francis (Newkirk)
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2022
 7:00am †Father Flusche
 12:10pm †Del Kotarski / Joe & Alma Reinert
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2022
 5:00pm Special Intention for Michel Gray / Theresa Gray
SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023
 8:00am †Father Dave Codon
 10:00am MASS at St. Francis (Newkirk)
 12:00pm †All Souls in Purgatory

Weekly Income Report December 18th, 2022	
Weekly Collection:	\$12,084.00
Lump Sum Donations:	\$7,700.00

December 26 2022-January 1, 2023	
Monday	Parish offices closed
Tuesday	6:30 PM NO WWP Bible Study, McGurk Room Parish offices closed
Wednesday	1:30 PM NO WWP Bible Study, McGurk Room 7:00 PM NO RCIA
Thursday	6:30 PM NO Youth Group, McGurk Room
Friday	6:30 PM NO Elementary Faith Formation, School
Saturday	7:30 AM Adoration
Sunday	10:30 AM CONFESSION, Chapel Waiting Room 3:30 PM CONFESSION, Church 7:15 AM Adult Choir warm up 9:15 AM Adult Choir Practice

The Oklahoma Fellowship of Catholic Men would like to invite all men....husbands, dads, step-dads, sons and grandfathers to attend our 27th Annual "In the Father's Footsteps" Catholic Men's Conference on Saturday, February 25, 2023 in Norman, Oklahoma.

For years, men have been coming to this day of learning, reflecting and fellowship. They walk away with the knowledge that we are able to be men of faith in our families, with our friends, and in our work locations.

This year, the theme of the conference is "Blessed are the Peacemakers." You will hear nationally renowned speakers' presentations from Father Dave Pivonka, Sister Mary Michael Fox, Jon Leonetti and Robert Rogers.

More information about the conference is available on the website www.catholicmen.net. The cost for all the day's activities (including lunch, snacks, beverages and admission to all presentations) is \$59 if mailed or registered online by February 6. Starting February 7th, the cost of registration for the day will be \$69. High School, Junior High students can register anytime for \$29 and College Students can register anytime at \$39. There will be a special young men's luncheon for Junior High and High School students. There will also be a special luncheon for men that are interested in learning more about the movement, "The Domestic Church."

We invite you to join us on Saturday, February 25th to learn more about being a man who answers Christ's call to follow Him.

Ministry Training - mark your calendars!

Father Carson will have **training for all ministries** (except altar servers) on **Saturday January 7th at 11 AM**. This includes Communion Ministers, Gift Bearers, Greeters, Lectors, Sacristans, and Ushers.

Altar Server Training for non St Mary students will be Wednesday **January 18th at 7 PM**.

Bible Study on The Letter of Paul to the Romans

Starting January 10, 2023 Tuesdays 11:30-12:30. This study will run for 8 weeks. Meet in the McGurk Room. Call or email Bridgit to reserve a book. Please call by 12/28 to have your book ready by 1/10/23. drestmarys@gmail.com 580.382-6010

**ST. MARY'S
CHILD CARE CENTER
is NOW HIRING!**

**PART- TIME DAYCARE TEACHERS
(Primarily after school hours)**

This would be a great job for a reliable teenager or someone looking to work with children a few hours per day.

Applicants must be very dependable, self-motivated, compassionate, and energetic.
Experience is preferred, but not required.

St. Mary's Daycare offers competitive wages and a sign-on bonus after a probationary period.

To email your resume or for more information, contact director Belia Eckert @ belia.eckert@smsponcity.org or call 580.762.0175.

RCIA

We will not meet again for class until Tuesday January 3rd.

Have a Merry Christmas break!

**Confirmation Preparation
Family and Sponsor Seminar**

January 8th from 9:15-10:45 in the Parish Hall.

Please use the Flocknote sign-up to RSVP

Elementary Faith Formation

No Elementary Faith Formation 12/21 and 12/28.

We'll see you back on January 4th!

YOUTH GROUP

There will be no Youth Group this week. Enjoy the rest of your break and see you next week!