Dear sons and daughters of God,

We are well aware that we belong to God by a special sign and familial character through the grace of Baptism. In Baptism, we are united to Jesus in a way that allows us to share in His filial relationship with the Father. We are the members of Christ’s Body.

The Sacrament of Confirmation perfects and completes this baptismal grace. Here, the Holy Spirit is given to seal the filial character of the disciple of Jesus. Made sons and daughters of God at Baptism, the Spirit now “confirms” this Divine adoption. Notice that confirmation is not primarily our choice to belong to God, but God’s choice to bring us more closely to Him.

As you know, last spring Bishop Kemme made the decision to lower the age for Confirmation. Once reserved for teenagers in high school, we will now offer Confirmation to 6th and 7th graders. Our kiddos need the graces of Confirmation to navigate the ever-increasing anxieties of modern life with purpose and direction.

This next few years will be a time of transition for our diocese. At Holy Cross, we are preparing 7th-10th grade to receive Confirmation this year on March 15th. That’s a lot of disciples!!

Confirmation is a Sacrament of Initiation, not a sacrament of graduation. It completes a Christian’s commencement into the life of Jesus. Culturally, we are accustomed to think of a commencement ceremony as the end of a process, but that misses the mark. In reality, it is a springboard into all the adventure of life that lies ahead. Confirmation is the Divine springboard into the fullness of the life of faith.

To those already confirmed in the Christian way: let us urge each other onward in the life of faith and formation. None of us are done muffins! Parents, do not fail your children by allowing them to get by with a minimum level of participation in the life of faith. Even, and perhaps especially, after they are confirmed.

In this newsletter, you will read about some of the opportunities at Holy Cross to engage in faith formation. It is not exhaustive, but it will give you a window into the many ways that the Spirit moves among us. We all run this race together. Let us run so as to win!

Fr. Michael Kerschen
Parochial Vicar
Monday Afternoon Bible Studies

The Bible Study at 1:00 on Mondays meets in the Lower Level of Holy Cross Church. We currently have 19 members. The Bible Study we are using is “The Great Adventures Series.” Jeff Cavins narrates most of the DVDs with workbooks helping us to answer questions/information along with using the Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

We are studying “The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation” This is taking us through the Bible like we are reading a book. We are learning the major people, places and events of the Bible. It is the story of our Faith and how it applies to our life. It is a 24 weekly sessions and we are more than halfway through.

Our next study will be “Acts: The Spread of the Kingdom” which is a 20-week study. It shows how Christ’s Kingdom on earth is spread with the Holy Spirit’s guidance. Watch the bulletin for the starting date. If you are interested please feel free to contact one of the following people: Linda Tegethoff will be Facilitator (620) 663-9734, Linda Parsons will be Assistant-Facilitator (620) 727-0502, and Bobbi Gann will be Coordinator (620) 663-2673.

Barbara Heer is stepping down. It is joyful but sad to be announcing her move to Blackwell, Oklahoma, to be near her daughter, husband and two small boys. She has made many friends in the Hutchinson area and at Holy Cross Church. If anyone is traveling the highway to Oklahoma or Texas, let her know and she will meet up with you to enjoy catching up with you. Blackwell is just across the State line. She will be back for visits. Its not a “goodbye” but “see you later.” Thank you for your friendship and building faith.

God Bless you all, Barbara Heer

Baptisms

Iris Gabriel Vega  Eric Adael Vega
Elsie Cecelia Mobley  Caleb Leon Patterson
Myles Shine Racette  Kyle Borntrager
Lakota Meyer  Oliver Whiteman
Olivia Whiteman  Tatem Elise Schmidt
Owen Burkhart  Luisa Monique Nunez
Tatum John Burkholder  Claire Lind
James Peter Curiel Davis
Apollo Gabriel Curiel Mitchell
Julianna Lucille Rodriguez Carey
Isabella Jane Elizabeth Sterbenz
Lincoln Jay Reilly  Laurel Lynne Towell
Logan Rhea  Vincent Charles Craig
Nicholas Logan Oswald  Sylvia Ann Stroberg
Maddox Allen Konrade  Adelle Lorraine Horsch
Kennedy Ann Schmidt  Augustus Edward Pitts
Lisa Arnett Saylor  Theodore Joseph Roehm
Harvey Barker, III  Jude Barker
Noah Barker  Augie Christine Schmidt
Adalyn Rose Henning  Remington Lee McKee
Wesley David Holler  Kaison Eugene Zech

RCIA

RCIA is gearing up for another outpouring of grace with the Easter Sacraments! We are a small but mighty group this year. We meet twice a month on Thursday nights to discuss Catholic faith and practice and to help candidates take steps toward full communion with the Catholic Church.

Striving to live out Bishop Kemme’s vision that puts an emphasis on discipleship, we have incorporated individual meetings with the candidates so that sponsors, lay formators, and priests have opportunities to meet one-on-one with them throughout the year. The ministry leaders look forward to continuing to explore these and other new ways to make the most of a unique time of grace in the life of a convert.

Please pray for our candidates as we look forward to welcoming them into the Church at Easter Vigil!
Please welcome the following members who have recently joined our faith community. We’re glad to have you as part of our parish!

Brandon Siruta
Tad & Taylor Ramage
Tony, Kim, Callie & Brittany Schleich
Nicki, Elanna & Oliva Holtz
Paula Lambert
Derek, Conner & Myles Racette
Jacqie, Isabel, Tatem & Leighton Schmidt
Ashley Winters
Richard, Mandy, Mya & Kyler Snyder
Shaun Doeden
Jason, Rebecca, Cecilia & Julianna Rodriguez Carey
Connor, Rhyanna & Lincoln Reilly
Lila Hickert
Terrence Coffey
Michael & Vicki Cox
Joe, Clair, Ambrose, Samuel, Elias, & Ignatius Pennycuff
Kerry Ann Unrein
Matthew Halula
Edward & Marilyn Spor
Jeffrey, Marilyn, Wells, Reiley Bartel, Nathaniel & Emiley Wells
Kenneth & Carol Ratzlaff
Amanda, Wyatt & Parker Ratzlaff
Bryan & Holly Gilliam, Shaye, Tavian & Taysia
+Michael & Emily Ronan
Christopher Hoffmann
Anthony, Keile, Desmond & Gabriel Litrenta
Antonia Ahlgrim
Caroline Ahlgrim
Gina & Elijah Emel & Michael Cole
Paige Martin
Cody, Jessie, Addison & Savannah McKee
William, Maria & Gianna Morrell
Olamide Opadokun

Continued in next column

The following were united in the Sacrament Of Matrimony

Cody Jenkins & Brooke Maier
Hunter Stucky & Tara Becker
Kyle Borntrager & Darby Strawn
Ethan Wright & Samantha Zeller
Jacob Holle & Courtney Chacon
Luis Ewing & Emily Yoder
Timothy Stuchlik & Addie Love
Drake Spellman & Gemma Rajewski
Tanner Wulf & Shelby Letourneau
Harvey Barker & Dana Ediger
Cody Allen Ruebke & Rebecca Lynn Page

Remember in Your Prayers Those Who Have Died

Carol Clark
Bill Heer
Glenda Janner
Virginia Cochran
Edna Tamaat
Ronald Caley
Donna Adkinson
Kathy Loehr
Margaret Lee
Arlene Shaver
Georgia Darrow
Jim O’Connell
Wilford O’Connor

Marie Mantooth
Maurice Cummings
Lance Darrow
Jory Konrade
Frank Gulotta, Jr.
Pauli Stewart
Bernadine Stroberg
Mary Bea
Rick White
Dan Smith
Amy Eaton
Michael J. Ronan
**CYM**

High School Youth Ministry is taking on a new look! You will remember the flooding we had in the lower level last summer. Well, CYM made the best of a bad situation and used the opportunity to knock down a wall in order to create a side room capable of holding gatherings of prayer, discussion, and fun for our youth.

The new room includes a small library, furniture for seating, TV for formation videos, a prayer pillar with chalkboard paint for intentions, and beautiful murals on the walls to remind us what we are all about at Holy Cross.

Lots of people have been pitching in with resources, ideas, and time to make this happen. Kylee Baldetti, who also recruited her talented sister Kaycee from Wichita to come and help out with some of the murals, says, “Having a space that is dedicated to our youth groups shows how important we believe our next generation to be. We hope to foster a deep love for Christ and build friendships within our parish. Something as simple as a room with games, music, technology, and a beautiful prayer space could do just that.”

Watch for the open house to show off the new room when it’s all completed.

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**Cursillo**

Cursillo in Christianity focusing on growing Christ centered leaders. A Cursillo weekend brings together a diverse group of Catholics to share the richness of many modes of worship and broadens our appreciation for our Church. Cursillo started in Mallorca Spain in the late 1940's under the leadership of their bishop and several laymen. Their intention was to formulate a way to draw active laypeople into the work of "Christianizing" the everyday life settings where they lived.

The weekend is led by lay people with clergy present for spiritual advice. It starts Thursday evening and ends on Sunday afternoon. It is a short but intense course to enrich and deepen our faith that we already have. Over the course of the weekend there are several talks and meditations. A lot of Fellowship, fun and food is enjoyed!

After the weekend small group reunions are formed and monthly Ultreya. The small groups meet weekly at a agreed time and place. This group is a great resource for strengthening you as you work in your environments. Ask any Cursillista that has made a weekend this is a bond of faith and fellowship that is key and most helpful.

For more information go to www.SLCwichita.org/ministries/cursillo
The fall **CHOICE WINE** program ended with its traditional wedding banquet on Sunday, November 17th. Three couples participated in the program. The closing session was followed by a brief ceremony in the church to renew and bless the respective couple’s marriages conducted by Fr. Michael. This is the seventh program to be completed in the Parish since its beginning in the fall of 2016 as part of our 60th Parish anniversary celebration. Couples continue to be drawn to the 9-session program to be able to spend two hours together each week with their fellow parishioners viewing various topics dealing with aspects of their marriage and their Catholic faith. Couples view an hour-long DVD followed by a relatively short discussion about the subject matter and its application to their relationship.

From a time perspective, the two hours spent with each other **represent slightly more than 1% of the total hours in a week. Is that too much time to spend with the person you love the most?**

To date, almost 80 couples from the Hutchinson Catholic community have participated in this enrichment program. Whether engaged, newly married or married 70 years, there is something for everyone. Time and time again couples express the comment that they wished they would have attended the program earlier in their marriages as they have found it very beneficial and helpful from a relationship and faith perspective.

Assorted snacks and goodies, along with various refreshments including wine, are a normal part of each session. As part of the final session, couples participate in a closing ceremony to renew their marriage commitments followed by a pastoral blessing. Couples then close the evening with a wedding banquet that includes social time with their fellow parishioners, dinner and the cutting of the wedding cake by one of the couples who participated in the session.

Cost to participate in the program is ten dollars to cover the cost of the material and babysitting is available if needed. **CHOICE WINE** will begin again in the fall of 2020. Come join us!

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**Catholic Dragons**

Catholic Dragons, welcomes all Hutchinson Community College students! We have bible study, snacks and a lot of fun! We meet on Monday Nights at 7:30 till 9 in the school! Over the past few months we have had trivia, fruitful prayer nights, mass, and tons of game nights! Feel free to get a hold of any of us pictured to join us for a fun time!
Serra Club
Serra Club of Reno County has been very active promoting and praying for vocations.
On October 20th we hosted a sloppy jo dinner and basketball game. Our diocesan priests played our local Knights. The priests won the game with one minor injury sending a Knight to the hospital for stitches. That’s commitment! Thank you to all who came out and supported the priests, the Knights and the Serra Club. All proceeds help our seminarians.

November 6th we hosted “Holy Feud”. What an exciting time for all! Surveys were filled out and answers compiled as the Priests played against our local parishioners from all three Hutchinson parishes. Lots of laughter and fun was had by all. $2500.00 was sent to the House of Formation (Diocese of Wichita College Seminary) to help with their needs. What a great turnout that far exceeded our expectations. Watch for Holy Feud 2 coming Fall, 2020!

Right now, Serra Club is gearing up for our 6th grade Vocations Day at Our Lady of Guadalupe on Thursday, March 5th. Bishop Kemme will celebrate Mass, and several priests and sisters will give talks and participate in relays with the 6th graders from St. Mary, Newton, St. Joseph, McPherson, St. Patrick, Kingman, St. Mary, Derby, St. Joe, Ost, Holy Cross and homeschoolers. We host this great event every year and have between 90 and 150 young people participate. It’s a great start for our youth to pray for their vocations and to hear our clergy and religious vocation stories.

If interested in joining Serra Club of Reno County, please contact Sue Hall 620-664-9077 or Mari Mesh 620-200-7751.

Garden Ministry
Spring is coming and the garden ministry is gearing up!
Plans are underway to plant vegies soon. If you’re interested in getting involved with this ministry contact Ashley Winters at batman6489@gmail.com

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...
If you would like to send cards and letters to Fr. Aaron while he is away, please mail them or bring them to the parish office. We will try and mail him a package weekly. Fr. Aaron’s birthday is March 4th! We will be mailing him a package on Feb 28th so it reaches him by the 4th. You can drop or mail your cards to the parish office, or drop them in the collection basket. Thank you!

Breakfast with Fr. Aaron
Confirmation

Confirmation 2020 is quickly approaching on Sunday March 15th. Bishop Kemme will confirm 60 Holy Cross and St. Teresa’s youth at the 11:00 am Mass and 80 at the 1:30 pm Mass that day. We are blessed to have so many receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please keep them in your prayers as they finish their preparation and retreat. Thank you!

Young Adult Group

A group of young adults gather weekly to learn, share, and express their faith. Reporting on their behalf is Blaine Te-ter, who joined the Catholic Church on Easter 2018:
"The young adults group isn't just a bible study group, it's an ever expanding family. It's been a joy watching it go from a simple bonfire meet-and-greet outside the church in December of 2018 with the occasional board game night, to those willing to host meet ups on Sundays, to not just reading from the bible but discussing philosophy, theology and the catechism, all at a fun pace. As a Catholic convert this group has helped me learn more about the faith while helping cradle Catholics reconnect with the faith. The best part of it is, we are only getting started. We welcome all young adults wishing to improve and learn about the catholic faith."

Thank you to our crew who keeps our church, school and Sister’s house clean from in the snow and ice! Russ Ginest, Doug Shald, John Knipp, and Mike and Dianne Kelsey! Thanks for keeping us safe!

Walking with Purpose Women’s Bible Study

is coming soon. Contact the parish office to sign up or get more information.