

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Ponca City, Oklahoma

June 10, 2018

Dear parishioners,

Thank you for your prayers (and patience) as the priests attended our Annual Convocation. It was a much needed time of fraternity, prayer and professional development. Our speaker was Christopher West, and he spoke about St. John Paul's "Theology of the Body" and the role of "eros" in our lives. Pope Benedict XVI, in his encyclical "Deus Caritas Est" speaks at length about the role that eros plays in our life, but also how eros is supposed to draw us up to heaven. I find paragraph five rather interesting. Warning...if you're reading this out loud to kids you might want to read ahead before you read it out loud! "Two things emerge clearly from this rapid overview of the concept of *eros* past and present. First, there is a certain relationship between love and the Divine: love promises infinity, eternity—a reality far greater and totally other than our everyday existence. Yet we have also seen that the way to attain this goal is not simply by submitting to instinct. Purification and growth in maturity are called for; and these also pass through the path of renunciation. Far from rejecting or "poisoning" *eros*, they heal it and restore its true grandeur.

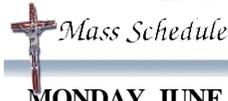
This is due first and foremost to the fact that man is a being made up of body and soul. Man is truly himself when his body and soul are intimately united; the challenge of *eros* can be said to be truly overcome when this unification is achieved. Should he aspire to be pure spirit and to reject the flesh as pertaining to his animal nature alone, then spirit and body would both lose their dignity. On the other hand, should he deny the spirit and consider matter, the body, as the only reality, he would likewise lose his greatness. The epicure Gassendi used to offer Descartes the humorous greeting: "O Soul!" And Descartes would reply: "O Flesh!".^[3] Yet it is neither the spirit alone nor the body alone that loves: it is man, the person, a unified creature composed of body and soul, who loves. Only when both dimensions are truly united, does man attain his full stature. Only thus is love —*eros*—able to mature and attain its authentic grandeur.

Nowadays Christianity of the past is often criticized as having been opposed to the body; and it is quite true that tendencies of this sort have always existed. Yet the contemporary way of exalting the body is deceptive. *Eros*, reduced to pure "sex", has become a commodity, a mere "thing" to be bought and sold, or rather, man himself becomes a commodity. This is hardly man's great "yes" to the body. On the contrary, he now considers his body and his sexuality as the purely material part of himself, to be used and exploited at will. Nor does he see it as an arena for the exercise of his freedom, but as a mere object that he attempts, as he pleases, to make both enjoyable and harmless. Here we are actually dealing with a

debasement of the human body: no longer is it integrated into our overall existential freedom; no longer is it a vital expression of our whole being, but it is more or less relegated to the purely biological sphere. The apparent exaltation of the body can quickly turn into a hatred of bodiliness. Christian faith, on the other hand, has always considered man a unity in duality, a reality in which spirit and matter compenetrates, and in which each is brought to a new nobility. True, *eros* tends to rise "in ecstasy" towards the Divine, to lead us beyond ourselves; yet for this very reason it calls for a path of ascent, renunciation, purification and healing."

So, brothers and sisters, let's continually ask God for purification and "re-direction" of our *eros*, that what we experience naturally on earth might lead us to the supernatural joys of heaven. If you haven't read "Deus Caritas Est" here's your invitation! It's a wonderful encyclical that is all about how much God loves us! Have a good week, and know that you're in my prayers!

In Christ, *Fa. Carson*



MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2018

8:00am †Joe Schieber/Mary Ramey

TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2018

12:10pm †Bishop Stephen Leven/Michel Gray

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2018

12:10pm †Oley Bullard/Women's Bible Study

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2018

9:30am †Ernest & Pauline Vap/Their Children
(*St. Francis of Assisi, Newkirk, OK*)

4:00pm †Dr. Gus Kever/Chuck & Suzie Greenwood
(*Via Christi Chapel*)

FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 2018

7:00am Spec. Int. Mary Tapp/Justin & Reba Bush

12:10pm †Deceased Relatives of Roberta Meyer

SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2018

9:00am Spec. Int. Sr. Vickie Diane Bass

5:00pm †Kateryna Hercyk/Jim & Mary Smith

SUNDAY, JUNE 17, 2018

8:00am †JoAnn O'Neill/Linda Cremers

9:30am †MASS (*St. Francis Church, Newkirk*)

11:00am †Bill Hermes/The Will

1:00pm People of the Parish
(*Spanish Mass*)

7:00pm †Genevieve Black/Sr. Choir

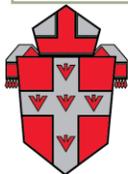
The Week Ahead		June 11-17, 2018	
Monday	8:30am-Noon	all week:	VBS, meet in the Parish Hall
Tuesday	6:30pm	SUMMER BIBLE STUDY,	McGurk Room
Wednesday			
Thursday	6:00pm	BUILDING MAINTENANCE MEETING	
	6:30pm	CAPITAL CAMPAIGN,	Byrnes Rm
Friday	7:30am	ADORATION,	Chapel
Saturday	8:00am	GROUND'S CLEAN-UP DAY	
	3:30pm	CONFESSION,	Church
Sunday			

TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekly Income Report June 3, 2018

Weekly Collection	\$14,914.67
Birth Choice	\$ 1,260.00

St. Mary's School is accepting enrollment for Pre-K through 8th grades for the 2018-2019 school year. Please stop by the school office and speak with the school secretary, Leanna Rexford or call 765-4387 for more information. *Scholarships available*



Go Make Disciples

ONE CHURCH, MANY DISCIPLES
ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

St. Mary - Ponca City

As of Thursday, June 7, 2018

Raised:
\$1,540,325

132%

Goal:
\$1,170,000



VBS! Our backpacks are packed and ready! Our Wilderness Adventure through the Sacraments begins Monday, June 11th at 8:30am. We can't wait to have you join us on the hike of our lives! Meet us in the Parish Hall ready for adventure and play! Didn't register? We

take late registrations for a \$5 late fee.

If your children are attending VBS, you can get daily videos sent to your email to keep the excitement alive at home. Just go to : <https://mailchi.mp/catchat.ca/vbs-sign-up-form> and fill out our start date of 11/06/2018 and select Wilderness Adventure. Enjoy the daily videos!

SUMMER BIBLE STUDY: Chris Beck will be leading a 10-week Bible Study for all parishioners from St. Mary's & St. Francis parishes from June 12th to August 15th. It will be titled: "The Mission of Jesus & You. *A walk through Salvation History and the Mission of Christ.*" Join us in the McGurk Room for these programs every Tuesday at 6:30pm.



American Red Cross

Blood Services

St. Mary's Catholic Church will be hosting a Blood Drive Sunday, **June 24th from 8:00am until 1:30pm in the Parish Hall.** To schedule your appointment please call Tammy Hunnell with the American Red Cross at (316) 253-0553 or go online to redcrossblood.org/RapidPass.

Don't miss out on summer activities - - stay informed - - - sign up for Flocknotes by texting **84576** and using the "keyword" **DISCIPLES**.

Please Pray For those who need prayers:

Mary Brown, Jeanette Vassar, Charlotte Meyer, Charlene Vap, Dora Behar, Cindy Wardlow, Maggie Hahn, Dave & Fran Baur, Don Schiltz, Ester Scobee, Jeanne Glaser, John Coffman, Patsy Hastings, Brooks Ditmore, Mary McFarland, Vickie Johnston, Vince Mattione, Reed Alward, Bennie Westerman, Keith Behara, Shari Beck, Eileen Spellman, Candy Bowlin, Ginger Younger, Dawn Oscarson, Darrel Neely, Lisa Sloan, Mary Kassen, Keith Goss, Linda Courtney, Karla Rojas, Maribelle Rojas, Vincent Farruggia, Patricia Evans, Karen Larimer, George F. Brown, Eva Boberg, Jeanne Specht, Chris Bulling, Sid Kothe, Martha Begwin, Lucille Fleming, Edmund Young, Carol Wilson, Travis Beekman, Holly Kerr, Rachel Stephenson-Spellman, Robert Brown, Genevia Kitchen, Andy Chaney, Palka Wladyslaw, Linda Gray, Connie Smith, Melissa Smith, Christy Vice, Melissa Swords, Pake Clinesmith, Teresa Epperson, Benita Vap, Tommy Gray, Sue Rozell, Ted Thomas, Elaine Gray Calahan, Todd Hatchett, Mike Majoros, Gae Meyers, Gary Kirchmeyer, Donna Schlitz, Jim Sheets, Mike Cofer, Dawsyn Kirkes, Ramona Coutre, Kathe Jo Johnson, Lois Frisch, Denver Gearhart, Terry Stewart, Judy Waters, Lynda Howard, Joel Rivera, Marian Jeter, Jaycee Colclasure, Shelly Behar, Gabriel Dietz, Jay Underwood, Jill Kestler, Carol Evans, Allen Arthurs, Mary Knori, Mary Austin, Hannah Boyer, Jesus Cvarrillo, Logan Blakey, Asher Dailey, Betty Dimond, Terri Bechtel, Ramona Lantz, Phil McCartney, Tyson Rutter, Martha Robinson, Diego Blanco, Mary Boor

Rest in Peace: Please pray for the soul of Mona Leven, mother of Rosalie Hodgson, Harold Leven and Johnnie Leven. May God grant her eternal peace.



Friendship Feast is this Tuesday from 4:30-6PM. Call/text Lisa if you can help.

Join us on Wednesday for games on the school field from 6:30-8PM. Upcoming 7th graders are now welcome to attend all youth activities this summer! We look forward to having you!