

# SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Ponca City, Oklahoma

July 29, 2018

Dear parishioners,

It is an exciting time to be Catholic in Oklahoma. This weekend, more precisely Saturday July 28, 2018, the Archdiocese celebrated the first official feast day of Blessed Stanley Rother. I say first official because there have been masses in his honor for years, long before he was beatified last September. Blessed Stanley Rother is the first United States born priest to be beatified. He is also the first person born in the United States to be officially recognized as a martyr, being killed in hatred of the faith. We are all called to be Saints and they can be called from anywhere, even Okarche, Oklahoma.

When we look at the lives of the Saints, sometimes it is easy to get into the mindset that they are all figures that are so far away in time, distant and remote. We can get stuck on the image that the Saints are only holy men and women from the early centuries of Christianity or the medieval period. It can be easy sometimes, at least for me, to forget that Saints are still among us today, living, breathing, serving, dying, and glorifying the Lord here in 2018 just as they were for the last 2000 years. The reality that we can sometimes lose sight of, especially with a news cycle focused primarily on the negative and the secular, is that there are still Saints being canonized and recognized today, many whom are from the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. The time of Saints is not over, and our call to strive for sanctity continues.

There are two kinds of saints that the Church recognizes, Saints with an upper case S and saints with a lower case s. The upper case S Saints are those that the Church has officially canonized and recognized as being in heaven and who have lived a holy life worthy of imitation. The lower case s saints are all those in heaven regardless of whether they are canonized or not. We may never be officially canonized, but that doesn't mean that we aren't called to be counted amongst the communion of saints. We seek God daily, we strive to follow Him and love Him, and we want to be with Him in heaven for all of eternity.

It is through this desire to be holy that it becomes increasingly important to frequent the sacrament of reconciliation and to receive the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist. The sacraments are sort of our cheat sheet in our quest to be holy and faithful disciples of the Christ. A heart that loves God, that prays, is open to His call, receives the sacraments faithfully, and seeks to mend the divide that sin causes between us and God, is a heart that is on the path to sainthood, to being in heaven with God.

Now living a holy life isn't always easy, especially in today's world, with all the distractions that are present. It becomes ever more important that we keep our lives focused on God, even if we slip up from time to time, because He is more real than those things that keep us away from Him. With that in mind, here are my seven somewhat easy steps for trying to be a saint:

1. Go to mass as often as you can, but especially every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation. To not go to mass on Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation is a mortal sin, which is why we have number 2.
2. Frequent the Sacrament of Confession. Confession may seem scary but it is a wonderful thing. Through it God forgives our sins and the fracture in our relationship with God that sin causes is mended.
3. Pray. Prayer is an important way to focus our lives on God and to build that relationship with Him.

4. Read the Scriptures. It is the Word of God, why wouldn't we want to read it?
5. Read the lives of the Saints. The lives of the Saints serve to inspire us and guide us to be more holy. They are our role models.
6. Ask Mary for help. Mary is not just the Mother of God, but she is also our mother and wants to be there for us and pray for us. Ask for her help, for her prayers. Jesus listens to His mother and she is a powerful ally.
7. Recognize that we aren't perfect and that sometimes we are going to slip up. We shouldn't lose heart when we fail or we sin. This is why step number 2 is important. We have confession to help us. We shouldn't be discouraged when we fall. Even Saint Peter denied Christ three times.

Now I am sure there are other things that I could add here, but I thought seven was a good number to stop at. We are called to be holy and to strive to be saints, and thankfully we have the tools at our disposal to do so. Together, I think we can work to strive for that holiness, to be saints, and spend eternity with God in heaven.

Blessed Stanley Rother, Pray For Us

*Will Banowsky*

Seminarian

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City



## Mass Schedule

### MONDAY, JULY 30, 2018

12:10pm †Iden Schieber/His Family

### TUESDAY, JULY 31, 2018

12:10pm NO MASS

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2018

12:10pm Spec. Int. Tim Coffman/Trey & Deb Beard

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 2018

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

4:00pm †Gary Gregg/Marilyn Gregg  
(Via Christi Chapel)

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2018

7:00am †Oley Bullard/Stam & Maria Villines

12:10pm NO MASS

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 2018

9:00am †Ron & Trudy Frick/Rhonda Smith

5:00pm †Diane Simpkins/Tina Allen

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2018

8:00am †Rob Villines/Michel Gray

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

11:00am †Kenneth Jackson/Tim & Genny Coffman

1:00pm MASS (Spanish Mass)

7:00pm †Rev. Joseph McGurk/Knights of Columbus

### Weekly Income Report

July 22, 2018

Weekly Collection

\$11,220.17

## SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### The Week Ahead July 30-August 5, 2018

|                  |        |                                 |
|------------------|--------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    |        |                                 |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | 6:30pm | SUMMER BIBLE STUDY, Byrnes Room |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | 1:00pm | FALL FFEST MEETING, McGurk Room |
|                  | 7:00am | MEN'S BIBLE STUDY, The Perk     |
| <b>Thursday</b>  |        |                                 |
| <b>Friday</b>    | 7:30am | ADORATION, Chapel               |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | 3:30pm | CONFESSION, Church              |
|                  | 6:00pm | STEBENVILLE FOLLOW-UP, McGurk   |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | 6:00pm | CONFESSION, Church              |



ALL teens are invited to join us for a pool party at the Roche's this Wednesday from 6-8PM. Please bring a towel, local field trip permission form, and a snack to share.

**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 & Sue 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, Chris Bulling, Sid Kothe, Martha Begwin, Lucille Fleming, Edmund Young, Carol Wilson, Holly Kerr, Rachel Stephenson-Spellman, Robert Brown, Genevía 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, Mark Ramsey, Nathan Bickle, Betty Pino, Hanger Family, Kenneth Cookson, Kaye Cunningham, Fred Spellman

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS - - Liturgical**

**Minister Training:** Fr. Carson is holding training for new and seasoned Altar Servers, Lectors, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. The date is **Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**. This will be the **ONLY** training that Fr. Carson will hold, so don't miss out, especially if you are wishing to become a Communion Minister as commissioning will be on Christ the King Sunday, November 25, 2018.

The Minister Schedule for the months of **September, October** and **November** is being compiled. Please call the office with dates you are unavailable to serve, if you want to be put on the new schedule OR if you need to be removed from the schedule. Thank you for your stewardship!



Mrs. Hunsaker, Principal, along with Fr. Carson will be hosting a parent "orientation" Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm and 6:00pm and again on Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the Parish Hall. This will be a very informative meeting about our upcoming school year. Parents, please plan to attend one of these orientations.

## Come & Grow With Us!

### St. Mary's Catholic School To Love God and our Neighbor

From preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, St. Mary's Catholic School provides a safe and nurturing environment for your child to flourish and grow! Contact Sarah Hunsaker, Principal at (580) 765-4387 for enrollment questions.



Our 2nd graders made cutouts of the Last Supper in anticipation of Holy Thursday! What a great reminder of the meal that instituted the priesthood and the Eucharist!

**St. Mary's Church & School Staff & Faculty will be out of the office all day Friday, August 3rd to attend a Staff Retreat at OLOG.**

There will be **NO 12:10pm Mass** this day and **NO Confessions** heard. There will be Adoration and Benediction in the Chapel as normal with the need for coverage from 12:00 – 12:30pm. Please keep our Staff & Faculty in your prayers.