



SDNB

Salina Diocesan News Bulletin <http://salinadiocese.org/home/sdnb>

Volume 430

November 2016

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

THE SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS is celebrated Tuesday, November 1, 2016 and **COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (All Souls' Day)** is commemorated on Wednesday, November 2nd. The Chancery will be closed on the Holy Day of Obligation, November 1st.

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR THE MILITARY ARCHDIOCESE (held every three years) is the weekend of November 5-6, 2016. Please refer to my email of October 12th to all priests/PLC's with further details and possible bulletin insert to help publicize this collection designated throughout the United States to help the Military Archdiocese provide services for all Catholic members of the military serving in the US and in other countries.

NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK is November 7-12, 2016.

COUNCIL OF PRIESTS will meet in Victoria on November 8th.

SEMINARIAN COLLECTION WEEKEND – November 12-13, 2016. Please continue to promote this collection from the pulpit. I am grateful for your assistance in promoting much needed vocations in our Diocese. Please refer to my email of September 14th containing the change in procedure this year, namely the implementation of the “called by name” program. Parishioners will have the opportunity to assist by completing personalized index cards with names of potential young men who might be interested in the Priesthood. Additional information on this collection is in the Development Office section of this SDNB.

YEAR OF MERCY CLOSING LITURGIES: Saturday, November 12th at 5:30 p.m. I will celebrate the closing liturgy at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina and on Sunday, November 13th, at 10 a.m., Fr. John Schmeidler OFM Cap., Rector of The Basilica of St. Fidelis will be the main celebrant. Your assistance in promoting these two special Liturgies within your parishes is appreciated.

PROMOTION OF OUR DIOCESAN NEWSPAPER – The November 11th issue of *The Register* will include a donation envelope. Please refer to last month's edition of the SDNB for my two letters and also further information from the Register Editor including Bulletin Inserts promoting the Renewal of The Register. Your assistance in promoting our Diocesan Newspaper through the suggested bulletin inserts is critical and most appreciated.

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP (cont.)

THANKSGIVING is a special time to not only thank God for his abundant blessings, but also to extend our thanks to all of the people who have touched our lives and have given so much in service to the Church. Thank you for all that you do for those whom you serve and for being a channel of God's blessings to me. **The Chancery will be closed November 24 - 25, 2016.**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT is Nov. 27, 2016.

PRIESTS ADVENT DAY OF PRAYER IS November 28th in Victoria. All are encouraged to attend.

BISHOP'S FUND – The Bishop's Fund with the **Catholic Community Foundation** is currently taking grant requests for needs at a Parish or Parish School. **The Grant requests process is conducted online.** The application can be found on the diocesan website on the Development page. The **deadline for application is December 1, 2016.** Also see page 2 of the October 14th issue of *The Register*, for a detailed list of the 2016 grants awarded and more detailed information. Please contact Syndi Larez with any questions by either email at syndi.larez@salinadiocese.org or call her at 785-827-8746.

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION—Thursday, December 8th is a Holy Day of Obligation. **The Chancery will be closed.**

OFFICE OF VICAR GENERAL

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COLLECTION (CCHD) – is November 19-20, 2016. Please refer to *The Register* and to the promotional materials you should have received in giving support to this important national program of the US Catholic Bishops, across the country and in our local communities by working to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ "...to bring good news to the poor...release to captives...sight to the blind, and let the oppressed to free" (Luke 4:18). The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty by funding community programs that encourage independence. You are essential to its success. Your generous donations will give those in poverty the support they need to make lasting changes. Together, we can make a difference in families and communities across the United States. Your assistance in promoting this annual collection is appreciated. **CCHD offers a hand up – not a hand out.**

2016 RETIRED RELIGIOUS COLLECTION, Dec. 10-11, 2016. See promotional materials you should have received in the mail from the National Religious Retirement Office and note Bishop's letter dated November 2016 which was included with the October, 2016 issue of the SDNB for promotion within the parishes. The Nov. 25th issue of *The Register* will contain more information with further information promoting this important collection.

OFFICE OF VICAR GENERAL (cont.)

HUMAN TRAFFICKING ALERTS for the month of November 2016 are listed below in both English and Spanish. Thank you for your continued support in promoting this important cause within your parishes.

November – **ALERT** U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking (USCSAHT) is the designated U.S. representative to Talitha Kum (Little Girl Arise!), which is the international Network of Consecrated Life Against Trafficking in Persons. The goal of Talitha Kum, located in Rome, is to share and maximize the resources that Religious Life has on behalf of prevention, protection and assistance, awareness raising and denouncement of trafficking in persons. Catholic Women Religious from 81 countries are represented in this network. Go to **sisstersagainstrafficking.org** or **Bakhitainitiative.com**.

Noviembre - **ALERTA** Las hermanas católicas contra la trata de personas (USCSAHT por sus siglas en inglés) es el representante designado de los EE.UU. para *Talitha Kum* (¡Niña Levántate!), la red internacional de la vida consagrada contra la trata de personas. El objetivo de *Talitha Kum*, situado en Roma, es compartir y maximizar los recursos que la vida religiosa tiene para la prevención, protección, asistencia, sensibilización y denuncia de la trata de personas. Religiosas católicas de 81 países están representadas en esta red. Para más información visite: **sisstersagainstrafficking.org** o **Bakhitainitiative.com**.

OFFICE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION OF PRIESTS

ADVENT DAY OF PRAYER: November 29, Capuchin Center, Victoria, 10:30 to 2:30. Our time together will begin with coffee and donuts at 10:30, a presentation on Advent at 11:00, our meal at noon, and the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 1:00. The day will conclude around 2:00 p.m.

JANUARY RENEWAL DAYS: will be January 16-19, 2017. These days begin with supper at 5:30 on Monday. Fr Tony Cutcher from the St. John Vianney Center will address us on Tuesday. Christopher Hall will address on Tuesday and Wednesday on Patristics. The cost is \$350 payable to the diocese. We will conclude on Thursday at noon.

CONVOCATION: September 18-22, 2017. This will be held at the Pastoral Center in Kansas City, KS.

PRIEST COUNCIL

PRIEST COUNCIL DUES: It's not too late to pay your Priests' Council dues. They are still \$25.00 this year. There will be a list of those who have paid their dues for the 2016-2017 fiscal year in the envelope that is sent to priests only. Please make checks payable to Priests' Council and send to Fr. Joseph Kieffer P.O. Box 395, Hanover, KS 66945. Thank you!

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

CHANCERY EMPLOYEE HANDBOOKS: Please be advised the Parish and Chancery Employee Handbooks have been recently revised. The newly revised employee handbooks can be found on the Diocesan website under Human Resources. All newly hired employees must sign the Employee Acknowledgement Form (last page of the handbook) and placed in the employee's personnel file. Current employees need to be advised the Employee Handbook has been revised. They do not need to sign another Employee Acknowledgement Form. If you have any questions, regarding any of the revisions, please contact Pamela Sullivan (pam.sullivan@salinadiocese.org) or (785.820.8704 Ext. #18).

CONTRACTS: This is a kind reminder to all pastors that all contracts over the amount of \$10,000.00 involving diocesan/parish properties must be signed by Bishop Weisenburger. This would include contracts with architects, contractors and other builders (e.g., heating & air, parking lots, roofing, etc.).

Please note that the diocesan policy is that projects are not allowed to begin until all contracts have been reviewed by the diocesan attorney and the diocesan finance officer and then must be signed by Bishop Weisenburger. No contracts will be approved until the builder provides a Certificate of Insurance which names the parish/school and the Diocese of Salina.

When the parish reaches the point of entering a contract, several documents are necessary to be presented to Bishop Weisenburger and Fr. Keith Weber:

1. A letter signed by the pastor indicating the need, a brief review of the research and bidding process, and the source of funding (e.g., cash on hand, deposits at the chancery, or the need for a loan).
2. The contract proposal signed by the architect, contractor or builder.
3. A Certificate of Insurance.

OFFICE OF FINANCE

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS: Every year on the second Sunday of December there is a special collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Interest from these funds is dispersed every year to various men and women religious communities to help with the retired members of their orders. Please encourage this collection. After the collection is taken, please send one check for the entire amount to the finance office at the chancery.

A possible bulletin announcement is as follows:

Retirement Fund for Religious

There will be a special collection on December 11 for the National Retirement Fund for Religious Sisters, Priests and Brothers. Due to the generosity of people across our nation, last year the National Religious Retirement Office was able to disperse \$25 million to 401 religious communities for direct care of elder members. Thank you for your generosity.

DIOCESAN COLLECTIONS: The List of Diocesan Collections for 2017 is enclosed.

THE REGISTER

The Register Drive begins with the Nov. 11th paper. In conjunction with the drive, please be sure to update the addresses of parishioners when they move. This helps to avoid any unnecessary fees from the Post Office that occur when the address is incorrect. Thank you for your assistance.

OFFICE OF MARRIAGE TRIBUNAL

Revisions of Defect of Form Petitions and Pre-Nuptial Forms

Next month we will be including revised copies for the **Defect of Form Petition** and the **Pre-Nuptial Forms** for your Diocesan Handbook. Please get rid of all the older forms before January 1, 2017 and use the newly revised forms.

If you prefer to start using these now, the forms are available in a PDF format so you can request the template file to save on your own computer and print as needed. We hope soon to have the forms available as a pdf fillable form that can be accessed from the diocesan web site.

Also, please get rid of all the older **Preliminary Petition and Questionnaires** for Annulments. The old ones have some key information missing that delays the handling of the annulment case.

All the revised forms indicate 2016 revision stated on them. Contact the Tribunal Office (Ext. 22) or carolyn.juenemann@salinadiocese.org if you have any questions or want any of the templates sent to you for your own office computer.

OFFICE OF RESPECT LIFE

“**The USCCB has prepared materials** to help educate the faithful about the Solemnity of Christ the King, which will take place on November 20, 2016, and its connection to religious liberty [*October 18, 2016 Memorandum*].” Using the online version of SDNB (available on the diocesan website for those who may not have an electronic copy) simply click on the appropriate link:

[Christ the King Bulletin Insert \(English\)](#) [Cristo Rey Bulletin Insert \(Spanish\)](#)

Bulletin inserts also available @ www.usccb.org/freedom

The deadline for registration for the pilgrimage to the 2017 March for Life in Washington DC sponsored by the Salina Diocese Respect Life Office was September 30, 2016. The Respect Life Office is no longer taking registrations. All buses (4 of them) are full. If there are persons who wish to go onto a waiting list, then they may email respectlife@salinadiocese.org

Word of Life respect life petitions, bulletin briefs, and bulletin art for the month

@ www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/word-of-life. Simply click on the appropriate month and download. Also available in Spanish. These resources are from the USCCB and are free.

For updates, information, inspiration, and action items related to respect of all human life from conception to natural death, like the Salina Diocese Respect Life Office Facebook page @ www.facebook.com/officeofrespectlife

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT

SEMINARIAN COLLECTION – November 12 & 13

The Seminarian collection is scheduled for the weekend of **November 12 & 13**. Thank you for promoting this important collection that covers the costs of educating our Seminarians. As always, we are grateful for all that you do to assist us as we continue to promote and pray for much needed vocations in our Diocese.

- **AGAIN THIS YEAR** ~ we are requesting that names and addresses of any Parishioners that give \$100.00 or more to the Seminarian appeal please be forwarded to Syndi Larez at the Chancery. Please process these donations as you normally would and submit just the usual parish check to the Chancery.

BISHOP'S FUND – The Bishop's Fund with the **Catholic Community Foundation** is currently taking applications for needs at a Parish, Parish School or Catholic Ministry in the Diocese of Salina. This includes any active ministries in the parish. **The application process is now done online.** The application can be found on the development page of the diocesan website under the Catholic Community Foundation under "grants." This application is for the calendar year 2017. Please remember this fund is NOT for debt and cannot be used for any materials that have already been ordered. The **deadline for application is December 1, 2016.** If you have any questions, please either email: syndi.larez@salinadiocese.org or call Syndi at 785-827-8746.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY ANNUAL APPEAL - We are in the last quarter of the year and we making positive progress toward our Diocesan goal of 1 Million to assist the many ministries in the Diocese. We still need \$50K to fully fund these ministries. We continue to be grateful for any promotion that you can give to this appeal.

PARISHIONER LIST – Thank you for reviewing and returning your Parish List earlier this summer. For any parish that did not return their list, Lois will be sending a current list to you and we ask that you return it to us by November 17, so that we will be able to update our records. We ask that you please review it and submit any changes including: address changes/additions/deletions/ deceased names/ and those that are no longer in the parish. You can either email them or send a hard copy to Lois Yost at the chancery. Her email is: lois.yost@salinadiocese.org

YEAR-END GIFTS

It is never too early to put something in your bulletins promoting year-end giving. A large amount of gifts are given to entities during the last quarter. Let your parishioners know that they can support your parish, school or other catholic ministry through these year-end gifts. If you need any assistance, please contact Syndi Larez.

OFFICE OF RURAL LIFE

The November Meeting of the Rural Life Commission will be November 19th at 11 a.m. in Hays. If anyone is interested in attending or has a proposal for the Rural Life Commission, give Fr. Rich Daise a call at [\(785\) 462-2179](tel:7854622179).

The Methodist Rural Life is hosting a "Hope in Action", November 5th, from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m., at the Quinter United Methodist Church, 218 W. 4th St. in Quinter. They have always had interesting presentations. This year the topic concerns revitalizing rural communities.

OFFICE OF RURAL LIFE (cont.)

Hope in Action - Recent headline in the Hays Daily News reported another net loss in population for Northwest Kansas. It seemed to be the same discouraging message that we have heard for decades; however the small print revealed some interesting and promising exceptions!

The community of Quinter had gained 30 new residents! Some other communities had gained as well--some by 5, some by one. It is exciting to know that some of these western Kansas towns are growing! And one wonders, what are these communities doing to attract people to make a move? What does it take to get rural communities to invest in themselves and to attract people who energize communities and create new businesses?

In an effort to answer some of these questions, the Hays District Connectional Ministries Council is planning a rural revitalization event entitled "Hope in Action." It will be held on Saturday, November 5, from 3:00-7:00 P.M. at the Quinter United Methodist Church, 218 W. 4th St., Quinter, Kansas.

The keynote speaker will be Ericka Gillespie Nicholson, a dynamic young professional who grew up in Quinter and chose to return to assume a leadership role in the city of Quinter with a "never give up" attitude. Ericka dove head first into rural Kansas issues after the 2010 census showed her home county at a 13% decline in population. She will "tell the Quinter story" and her part in that story--why she came home, what has worked, what hasn't. She will discuss the challenges (the "CAVE" mentality), the victories---and the failures---and will help her listeners understand why what is happening in Quinter is working right now.

Ericka will share the keynote spotlight with Dan Steffen, Regional Project Manager for Business and Community Development with the Kansas Department of Commerce. Dan has been key in many of the exciting changes in Gove County and has an enormous network of economic development-rural alliance partners. Ericka says, "There isn't much Dan hasn't seen or come across in a struggling Kansas town."

Following the keynote address, Simone Cahoj Elder, an innovative young woman who works for NetWork Kansas as Manager of Rural Entrepreneurship, Western Kansas, will be sharing about the NetWork e-Community Partnership and their vision for creating an entrepreneurial culture across the state. She will also share how NetWork Kansas helps to connect businesses to resources that help them start and grow. In fostering an entrepreneurial environment across the state, NetWork Kansas helps to empower and engage community leaders to recognize opportunities and turn ideas into action. Simone will also stress the importance of involving young people in planning for rural revitalization!

While Ericka and Dan and Simone will help us think about ways to revitalize declining communities, Gregg Waters, who grew up in Bird City and is now with The Peoples Bank in Greensburg, will share his experiences in helping to rebuild a community following a devastating tornado. How did it happen? Who was involved? What prompted them to decide what to include in this "new" community? And what is it like in Greensburg today?

Following a supper showcasing locally grown foods, all four speakers will be featured in a panel discussion. Those attending will surely stay energized and engaged during this discussion as the speakers will want to hear from all attendees, to discuss YOUR struggles and successes so that each participant might leave with HOPE that can be put into ACTION.

OFFICE OF RURAL LIFE (cont.)

Anyone who is interested in the possibility of renewing their hometown is invited to attend this meeting on November 5. This would include city managers, economic development directors, pastors, and other community leaders. And Ericka, our keynote speaker says, "I'd LOVE for those who attend to e-mail pictures of what they love in their respective towns, and I can make their pictures part of my slide show." You can reach Ericka at ericka.jean.gillespie@gmail.com Registration of ten dollars, payable at the door; will include the supper served by the Quinter United Methodist Men.

The National Office of CRL at the FFA Convention in Indianapolis - Opportunity to Reach Out to Future Farmers.

The National FFA Convention & Expo is underway this week in Indianapolis. Literally tens of thousands of young people - future farmers of America - will learn about careers in agriculture, meet with industry leaders, and develop skills they can take back to their home FFA chapter.

CRL is attending this year: we'll have an information table in the main exhibit hall. This is an opportunity for us to raise awareness about our programs in support of family farms and beginning farmers and ranchers. The enthusiasm of the young people attending the convention is infectious, so we hope to draw this energetic spirit into the Catholic Rural Life network.

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TOTUS TUUS (Summer 2017)

A large number of parishes have scheduled TOTUS TUUS for next summer. If you would like to have a team come to your parish please let us know as soon as possible.

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| June 3-9, 2017 | FULL |
| June 10-16, 2017 | 1 opening |
| June 17-23, 2017 | FULL |
| June 24-30, 2017 | 3 openings |
| July 8-14, 2017 | FULL |
| July 15-21, 2017 | 1 opening |
| July 22-28, 2017 | 3 openings |

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTRY SURVEY: Please have your Religious Education Coordinator and Youth Minister send their survey into the Office if they would like to be on the mailing list during the year. We want to make sure that the new people are on the list.

OFFICE OF YOUTH MINISTRY

PRAYER AND ACTION: If there is a parish on the eastern part of the diocese that would like to host Prayer and Action the three weeks in July please contact me in the Office as soon as possible.

NCYC: We have some forms from the parishes that will participate in NCYC next November. If your youth from your parish are planning on going to Indianapolis for NCYC please make sure we have the name of the contact person who needs to get the mailings for this event.

OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Do you know a young man who might want to check out the seminary? This **November 12, 13, 14 is the Encounter Weekend at Conception Seminary.** The diocese will again be taking young men interested in the seminary to the encounter weekend. I would ask you to be proactive in inviting young quality men to consider making this trip. Fr. Kyle Berens and Fr. Andrew Rockers will both be attending the weekend. If you know of someone who may be interested, feel free to contact Fr. Rockers, Fr. Berens, or Fr. Gale about this.

November 6-12 National Vocation Awareness Week (NVAW) is an annual week-long celebration of the Catholic Church in the United States dedicated to promote vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life through prayer and education, and to renew our prayers and support for those who are considering one of these particular vocations.

One suggestion for the promotion of vocations during this week is to simply tell your vocation story to your parish. A personal testimony is always powerful.

Vocation Postcard project (Called by Name)

We are also asking each of you to help participate in the postcard project the weekend of Nov. 12. You should already have your parish resources (cards and envelopes) for this.

Feel free to distribute the cards on the weekend of the 6th and ask your parishioners to pray about who they feel may be called by God to this particular vocation. They can then write down names turn in the postcards the next weekend. Those postcards can be tallied and then the names can be sent in to the chancery, or to Fr. Gale at pastor@saintxparish.org. It would be best if we ask parishioners write names of young men who are at least of high school age and not younger.

Confirmation Retreats in recent years Fr. Gale has given a number of Confirmation retreats, as part of his work in the vocations office. This helps him to get to know the youth of the diocese, and also familiarizes those attending the retreats with him. This year Fr. Gale will be leading the following retreats:

Dec. 10th – St. Thomas More in Manhattan

If you would be interested in your confirmation class attending any of these retreats, please contact Fr. Gale and let him know. pastor@saintxparish.org

OFFICE OF VOCATIONS (cont.)

Intercessions for vocations

For those parishes that have been using the intercessions for vocations, they can be found at the following website: http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/vocations/voc_intercessions.aspx

Running Revs game and Luncheon with the Seminarians – Dec. 27th

We will begin the day with an 11:00 Mass and a luncheon to follow. If any priests are interested in attending please let Darlene Streit know at the chancery.

OFFICE OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES

2016 Annual Appeal: We are so grateful for your parish's continued support of Catholic Charities. For your information, we have enclosed a list of the totals to date for the *2016 Annual Appeal - Blessed are the Merciful*. Please note that there were donations totaling more than \$10,000 not associated with any specific parish. We remain truly humbled by this generous response as we have raised over \$270,000 in support of our annual operations. We cannot **THANK YOU** enough for these blessings and all your assistance.

Building Update: Many of you are probably aware that an anonymous donor stepped forward to purchase and help renovate a larger building in Salina for the Catholic Charities office. The project is currently in process and scheduled for completion in March of 2017. We hope that each of you will have an opportunity to visit sometime during the next year.

OFFICE OF FAMILY LIFE/NFP

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH: Is a collective national effort to raise awareness about the more than 100,000 children in foster care waiting for permanent and loving families to adopt them. For more information on the adoption process go to the Adoption section of the Child Welfare Information Gateway website: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/> or call 1-800-394-3366

FOCCUS INVENTORY SCORING: Pastors can give the FOCCUS inventory to couples to manually complete at their parish. If parishes need help with scoring they can send the completed answer sheets to the Family Life Office to score for \$15.00 per couple. Booklets can be reused and blank answer sheets can be copied or emailed to parishes upon request from the Family Life Office.

The Family Life Office can also help parishes to set up couples to take the inventory online. If couples take the inventory online, the finished report is not sent to the couple but directly to the pastor who then reviews it with the couple at a later date.

OFFICE OF FAMILY LIFE/NFP (cont.)

NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK: From November 13-19, 2016, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops invites families, parishes, schools, and other Catholic groups to participate in National Bible

Week in celebration of the 51st Anniversary of the Second Vatican Council Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, Dei Verbum. This year's theme, "The Bible: A Book of Mercy," builds on this year's Jubilee Year of Mercy. Suggestions for families are included in this mailing.

ENGAGED ENCOUNTER DATES FOR 2016-2017

Feb. 10-12, 2017 - Capuchin Center for Spiritual Life-Victoria

Apr. 28-30, 2017 - Capuchin Center for Spiritual Life-Victoria

June 9-11, 2017 - Capuchin Center for Spiritual Life-Victoria

GOD'S PLAN FOR A JOY FILLED MARRIAGE SEMINAR DATES FOR 2016-2017

Dec. 3, 2016 - Our Lady of Perpetual Help-Concordia

Feb. 18, 2017 - Our Lady of Perpetual Help-Concordia

Apr. 1, 2017 - Our Lady of Perpetual Help-Concordia

June 17, 2017 - Our Lady of Perpetual Help-Concordia

BULLETIN INSERTS OR HANDOUTS: National Bible Week 2016, Thanksgiving and Celebrate Advent at Home are enclosed.

MISCELLANEOUS

Updates for the Diocesan Directory:

1. Priest Council Membership – pg 12 – add Rev. Dana Clark
2. Schools – pg. 24 Rebecca Schek's email: principal@sj oakley.org
3. **Parishes – pg. 27** – New emails for St. Mary's Parish, Salina:
 - Fr. Kevin Weber – frkevin@stmsalina.org (also pg. 77)
 - Fr. Luke Thielen – frluke@stmsalina.org (also pg. 76)
 - Deacon Steven Frueh – deaconsteve@stmsalina.org (also pg. 88)
 - Nancy Sherffius – nancy@stmsalina.org
 - Mrs. Kathy Gasper – kathy@stmsalina.org
- Abilene – pg. 27 – Take off: MISSION: St. Michael, Chapman
4. Religious Ed. Coordinators
 - Bird City: Dana Wright/Heidi Ketzner (pg. 30)
 - Colby: add Wallace Severson (9-12) (pg. 32)
 - Hill City: Shayla Zeigler (pg. 40)
 - Junction City: Delete Lynda Costello
 - Change Leistner to (PreK-9) (pg. 41)
5. Clergy – pg. 74 Remove Fr. Larry Pierce
6. Seminarians – pg. 92 Remove Scott Stramel

~ DECEMBER 2016 ~

| ◀ Nov 2016 Jan 2017 ▶ | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| | | | | 1 Confirmation –Ellsworth Correctional Facility 6 p.m | 2 | 3 Oakley Winter Fest 5 – 9 p.m. |
| 4 Mass & Parish visit St. Francis 8:30 a.m. Mass & Parish visit Bird City 10:30 a.m. | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Immaculate Conception Chancery Closed | 9 Lay Review Board 4 p.m. | 10 Retired Religious Annual Collection |
| 11 Retired Religious Annual Collection Our Lady of Guadalupe Spanish Mass 12 p.m. S.H. Cathedral, Salina | 12 Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe | 13 Finance Council Mtg. 4-6 p.m. | 14 Catholic Community Foundation Mtg. 3 p.m. | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve |
| 25 Christmas Day | 26 Chancery Closed | 27 Seminarian & Parents Mass – 11:00 a.m. Luncheon to follow Runnin Revs bb game | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 New Year's Eve |

until Christmas Eve.

Here is a blessing to pray together when you unpack the nativity set and set it up.

A Christmas Crib Blessing

Come, Lord Jesus, bless this crib and all that reminds us of your being born for us in this holy season of Advent and Christmas. Make our hearts like the crib, open and ready for your presence among us.

*For Your coming on Christmas day,
prepare our hearts, O Lord.*

*For Your coming to us in the scriptures,
prepare our hearts, O Lord.*

*For Your coming in the Eucharist,
prepare our hearts, O Lord.*

*For Your coming into our lives through
the love of one another in our family,
prepare our hearts, O Lord.*

*For Your coming at the end of time,
prepare our hearts, O Lord.*

*May we be, like the angels, messengers of
Your good news to each other and to those
outside our home. Amen.*

Taken from *Faith and Fest*
© 2004 The Catholic Archdiocese of Omaha

*Celebrate Advent
at Home*



*Family Prayers and Activities for Putting
Christ Back into the Christmas Season*

Advent Wreath

An Advent wreath is a circle made of evergreen boughs and holly. Within the circle are four candles. (A circle of styrofoam, with holes for the candles provides a good base.) Place the wreath on the dinner table or on some other prominent place.



The Advent wreath is filled with symbolism. The circle represents the life of God—no beginning and no end. The evergreen symbolizes hope because no matter what happens, it remains green. (For this reason it's best to use real evergreen.) One candle is lit each week of Advent until all four are lit. This provides a visual symbol of Jesus the Light coming closer. The ceremony consists of a prayer and the singing of an appropriate carol each time the candles are lit. On Christmas Day some people add Christmas balls, glitter and a white candle to celebrate Jesus' birth.

Advent Remembering

In Advent we remember and celebrate the coming birth of Jesus. Use this season to remember your own children's birth (or adoption). Take out baby pictures, cards and Baptismal memorabilia and remind your children how their births were anticipated with excitement.

St. Nicholas' Day (December 6)

On the eve of St. Nicholas' Day parents might first read or tell the story of kind St. Nicholas—how he provided dowries for poor girls and that he is the patron saint of Russia and the special protector of children. They might

explain the custom of children hanging stockings on the bedroom door or putting shoes outside the bedroom to receive gifts from St. Nicholas. Parents (or St. Nicholas) can fill the shoes or stockings with a single item for each child. This item may later be used in the family's preparation for Christmas (a tape of Christmas music of a spiritual nature, a Christmas calendar, a box of Christmas cards, a crib set, a Christmas book, etc.).

Immaculate Conception (December 8)

Parents could explain the meaning of this day and what is celebrated—that it was Mary who (as a special favor from God) was conceived without the stain of sin in preparation for the birth of His Son. The family should go to Mass and then pray together around a picture of Mary, a lighted candle decorated to honor the Mother of Jesus. A plain white or blue ribbon will make the candle special. Perhaps part of the rosary or some other favorite prayer to the Blessed Mother could be prayed.

Place a statue or picture of Mary in a prominent place (on the kitchen counter or hall table) to remind you that Mary is our mother too!

The Crib

A Christmas nativity set ought to be a family treasure. It's a project that can be years in the making. Start with three or four figures: Jesus, Mary and Joseph and, maybe, an angel. Add another piece to the set each year. When children are old enough, get an inexpensive set for each to keep in his/her room. It's best to hide the figure of Jesus



Making the Word of God a Part of Your Home

The priest was near death, his body surrendering to a long struggle with cancer. He had spent his entire life immersed in the Word of God. He loved to tell others how he had caught his love for the Bible from his parents, who had read him favorite stories at bedtime. His love of Scripture grew through adolescence and young adulthood, nurtured by a favorite catechist and a kind pastor, a vibrant homilist. After ordination the priest was invited to pursue biblical studies, a path that eventually led to a long career as a renowned Scripture scholar. Admired by the scholarly community and loved by his students, he took to heart the famous words of St. Jerome: "Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ." Thanks to his parents, the seed of God's Word was sown early in his life and took deep root. In this seed, he discovered a friendship with Christ, an intimacy that deepened each passing year. Now he prayed, quietly and peacefully, "Lord, I sought your Word, and you found me. You know I'm ready. Your Word has been my light and my life. I live no longer, but you live in me."

What greater desire could any parents have for their children than to form a friendship with Christ that would grow and deepen throughout a lifetime—to live and die as this holy priest, rapt in God's love to the end, a friendship discovered early in the home through the sharing of God's Word. This is the wish the Church has for all God's people, young and old.

National Bible Week highlights the Church's desire that the Word of God be a central focus in all aspects of Catholic life. The Church draws nourishment from the Word in numerous ways: in its liturgy and prayer, in its work of evangelization and catechesis, in biblical exegesis and theology, and in the lives of believers in whom God's Word takes root.

Nowhere is the potential for God's Word taking firm root greater than in the home. National Bible Week provides a unique opportunity for parents to revisit and renew their understanding of the power of the Word of God in the life

of their family. As leaders of the "domestic Church," parents are encouraged to be not only the first but the best of teachers for their children in the ways of faith. Parents help fulfill this challenge by ensuring that Scripture, the living Word of God, is given due emphasis in the life and activity of the home.

The more deeply the Word is rooted in the home, the more the entire family grows in relationship to Christ and to one another. Parents today rightly take time to promote family health by choosing appropriate food, drink, and exercise to build healthy bodies and by forming their children in proper study habits. A critical component of the spiritual health of any family is a well-balanced diet of God's Word. Wise parents understand that building healthy habits requires daily attention and repetition, rather than occasional focus. The same is true of habits in the home surrounding the Word of God. It must be a daily effort. The following suggestions can help families make the Word of God part of their regular home life.

Focus First on Self

The first rule of making the Word of God a central part of the home is to first make it a priority in one's own life. Parents cannot pass on to children what is not firmly rooted in their own lives. Take a few moments each day to read God's Word. Slowly pray through a Gospel or a New Testament letter, reading a few minutes each day. Be sure that your children see you spending time with the Word. The daily Scripture readings (in English and Spanish) can be found at and printed from www.usccb.org/bible. Those who listen to podcasts can download the daily readings from this same address.

Invite Others

Begin simply within the family. Suggest reading a brief Bible verse together each day. This can be done at the conclusion of a meal, as part of a bedtime ritual, or prior to school and work as a blessing for the day. Prepare a bowl with slips of Scripture verses, and place it on the family table. Invite

family members to take turns drawing a passage from the bowl, finding it in the Bible, and reading it to everyone. Discuss it briefly, and end by thanking God for the gift of his Word.

Dust Off That Family Bible

Many homes have a family Bible tucked away on a shelf. Bring it out, and make it visible. Ensure that children have age-appropriate Bibles at their bedside for prayer and for storytime. Seek out Scripture stories in audio formats. Ask your parish catechetical director or pastor for suggestions on where to locate resources.

Show Reverence

Communicate in word and action that the Bible is a special book, worthy of reverence. When reading the Bible, handle it carefully, modeling to the family that it is God's holy Word. Enthroned the Bible in a special room or in a corner set aside for family prayer. Place the Bible on a piece of cloth (use the colors of the liturgical season) on a small table with a candle or vigil light. Gather around the Bible each day for a short family prayer. (A service for "Enthroning the Bible in the Family" is available at www.usccb.org/bible/nationalbibleweek.cfm.)

Link Parish and Home

Don't let what happens in church stay in church. Do your best to bring the Word home each week, making connections between the liturgy and the home. Read the weekly Scriptures before or on the way to Sunday Mass (find the daily liturgical readings, both in text and as a podcast, at the USCCB Web site, www.usccb.org). Promote active listening at weekly Mass by asking children what they heard in the homily and discussing how it applies to the family. Bring home a favorite song or a refrain to sing during family prayer.

Special Programs

Look over your parish's offerings for a special catechetical program the family could attend. Many parishes offer occasional intergenerational gatherings or seasonal days of prayer. At home, designate one night each month as family Bible night. Together, watch a DVD on the life of Jesus (or an animated Bible story, if children are younger), look up information on Jesus and the Bible on Catholic sites on the

- Internet, play a Bible game, or work on a puzzle or a craft that promotes familiarity with the Bible. Check Catholic goods stores for resources.

Be Creative

Teach your family scriptural "mantras"—short phrases taken from the Bible, quietly repeated over and over (i.e., "The LORD is my light and my salvation," "Fear not, for I have redeemed you," "I have called you by name," etc.). Use these mantras as part of family prayer and meditation. Place love notes with Bible verses in your children's school lunch bags or under the pillows on their beds. Look for other ways to keep God's Word in front of them.

Liturgical Seasons

Use the rhythms of the liturgical year to highlight God's Word. Include a copy of the Bible in your Christmas display to symbolize the Word Incarnate. Have children re-enact Christmas and Easter stories. Focus extra attention on family scriptural prayer during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

Lectio Divina

The ancient practice of *Lectio Divina*, the "holy reading" of the Scriptures, is a method of scriptural prayer encouraged for all Catholics in the preparation documents for the 2008 Synod of Bishops. This process involves reading biblical passages slowly and reflectively, allowing them to shape and transform our lives. This method can be prayed individually or be learned by the entire family and made part of the life of the home. (A longer description of *Lectio Divina* is available at www.usccb.org/bible/nationalbibleweek.cfm.)

Conclusion

By actively participating in some form of involvement with the Bible, your family can be assured that the Word of God will become a prominent part of your home and that family members will, at an early age, recognize the person of Christ in his Word and grow in God's love throughout their lives.

Family Feast of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is the time when more families come together than on any other day during the year. Although it occurs a full month before the official feast of the Holy Family, it is truly a holy family-time. It is a time when we put aside our daily distractions to celebrate our common gratitude for God's generosity. Often "family" expands beyond the bonds created by blood, marriage and adoption to include others about whom we care.

This family prayer service is intended to help families celebrate "the church of the home" and to begin preparation for the new millennium by focusing on Jesus and living out our baptismal call in service to others. It is suggested for use before or at the start of dinner.

Family Prayer

The family and guests gather around the table upon which there is an unlighted candle. A glass of wine or other beverage is at each person's place. When everyone is present and quiet the prayer begins:

PARENT OR GRANDPARENT-

We come to our table to celebrate this Thanksgiving day, with joy and gratitude for the good food and drink with which we're blessed today, for the people who helped prepare it and for all of God's gifts to us.

ANOTHER FAMILY MEMBER READS-

Jesus is our light and our salvation. May this light burn brightly in our hearts and around this table today and at all our family meals.

(Candle is lighted by oldest person present.)

We give thanks for all the many gifts that we have received.

(Each person is asked to share one thing for which s/he is grateful.)

Let us also remember those who today are lonely, hungry or homeless.

(Pause for silent reflection.)

We gratefully remember too, our family members and loved ones who are not here with us and celebrate the gift which they have been to us.

(Names may be mentioned aloud or in silence.)

Blessing

(May be passed for each to read a verse or read by one person.)

Lord of ages past and to come, bless our home. Help us to see You present in each other and in all who enter through our door.

As we prepare to celebrate the jubilee, hold this family in your hand. Be with us as we enter and leave this home each day.

Go with us. Guide us toward the work of freedom. Let us reflect Your light to all we meet in all we do.

Help us to forgive each other, to affirm and nurture each other, to celebrate our life together.

Make us good stewards of all You have endowed us with: our health, our love for each other, and our earthly goods.

As we prepare to celebrate the new millennium give us the faith to be Your servants in this life and the hope to spend eternity with You.

Amen.



Final Blessing and Toast

Come, Lord of Gifts,
Bless all of us and the food we are about to enjoy.

Let us thank the Lord
Today and everyday.

All toast: "Happy Thanksgiving".

Advent

Advent Wreath Blessing and Prayer

These prayers are designed to be used on each Advent Sunday as a new candle is lit to signify the coming of the Lord.

First Sunday

Father, the day of our salvation draws near; your light grows steadily around us to pierce the darkness of our minds and open us to your promise of life. Your Son, Jesus Christ, comes in our midst in Spirit where once he came in flesh. Open our eyes that we may see his presence and our ears that we may hear his call in all the events that fill our lives today. Give us the courage to respond to him; to carry on the work of service which he has sent us to accomplish. Give birth to your Son in our lives that through us he may give life to the world. Amen.

Second Sunday

Father, do not turn from us, and do not avoid us now that we are looking for words to pray to you. If we call you God, and speak your name, it is because you first pierced the silence and called us sons and daughters. You have given us your word that you will not be far from us whenever we turn to you. And so we cast aside our doubts and our fears and place our trust in your promise to us. Father, make us receptive and open as you speak to us; may we receive the blessing of your peace as we prepare for the coming of your Son. Amen.



Third Sunday

Father, we celebrate with joy the coming of your Son, for he has come in our past. We celebrate with hope the coming of your Son, for he will come again. We celebrate with peace the coming of your Son, for he is now in our midst. Help us to uncover and recognize the presence in all who touch our lives. Hatred and selfishness blind our eyes and keep us from bringing him forth. Free us now from all that stands in his way, that with a love for each other made genuine and real we might quicken his coming in our midst. Amen.

Fourth Sunday

Father, we are struck with wonder at the trust you have put in us. The work which your Son began by his coming is now put into our hands to complete. He longs to come again, but his time is not yet ripe; we must bring him forth into a world that is pleasing to him. Until that time, when the heavens will open and we will see him once more, we raise our eyes to you and ask for your blessing while we set our hands to a task you have given us. Amen.

A Blessing

Father, to you belong the seasons and the ages for you are the beginning and the end of all things. As our world enters the darkness of winter, we kindle fire to remind us that your Son is our light. Bless us, we pray, with the light and warmth of this holy season. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Taken from Faith and Fest