

# SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Ponca City, Oklahoma

July 15, 2018

Dear parishioners,

In last week's bulletin I shared with you a little bit about discernment and mentioned a few different ways to pray that are helpful when discerning what God is asking us to do in our daily lives. I want to focus on one in particular, Lectio Divina. Lectio Divina, which is Latin for divine reading, is a very valuable asset in our prayer toolbox. Not only is it a good method of prayer for private prayer, but it can also be done in a group prayer setting as well. Traditional Lectio Divina is made up of four parts, lectio (read), meditatio (meditate), oratio (pray), and contemplatio (contemplate). Each of these steps are valuable movements that allow us to better engage the scripture and take the time to better digest what the Lord is trying to tell us.

The first step is to read, which seems like a pretty obvious step. This reading should be slow and intentional which will allow us to really hear or see the movements and actions in the scripture and allow us to engage the words on the page. We may even read the passage several times to really let what we are reading sink in. The second step invites us to meditate and reflect on what we have just read. It involves a silent pondering and meditation on the scripture and allowing the Holy Spirit a chance to illuminate our reading of the passage. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that, "2706 To meditate on what we read helps us to make it our own by confronting it with ourselves. Here, another book is opened: the book of life. We pass from thoughts to reality. To the extent that we are humble and faithful, we discover in meditation the movements that stir the heart and we are able to discern them. It is a question of acting truthfully in order to come into the light: 'Lord, what do you want me to do?'" This is important for us to keep in mind as we meditate on the scripture.

The third step calls us pray with the scripture we just read and meditated on and take it to God and to our hearts. We must remember always that prayer is a dialogue and that when we take what is in our hearts to Him, we must give Him an opportunity to reply. It is in this step of prayer we move from meditative prayer to contemplative prayer, the fourth step. The Catechism describes contemplative prayer as, "2712 [T]he prayer of the child of God, of the forgiven sinner who agrees to welcome the love by which he is loved and who wants to respond to it by loving even more. But he knows that the love he is returning is poured out by the Spirit in his heart, for everything is grace from God. Contemplative prayer is the poor and humble surrender to the loving will of the Father in ever deeper union with his beloved Son."

So now that we have discussed what Lectio Divina is, it is important to talk about how to go about doing it. The simplest form would be to sit and pray with the readings, letting the power of silence do its work and allowing God to speak to our hearts; in the silence of our hearts he teaches us wisdom. However, I am going to share with you my favorite way to do Lectio Divina, especially when doing it in group.

First the scripture is read one time, placing special attention to what is being read. Then the scripture is read a second time. During this second reading try and focus on a word or phrase that jumps out or sticks with you. Then take some time to really meditate and contemplate on what that word or phrase was. In group Lectio Divina, you can then take some time to go around as a group and sharing what your word or phrase was. Then the

scripture is read a third time, followed by another moment for silent contemplation and reflection. This moment is to be used to discern what God is telling you, today, through that particular scripture passage. What is God sharing with your life in the present through that particular passage? Once sufficient time for reflection has passed you may encourage the group to share if being done in a group setting. Lastly, the passage is read a fourth time, this time focusing on what God is calling you to do going forward. The third reading is focused on what is God telling you in the present whereas this movement is more focused on the future.

It is important to remember we are all different and while for some it may be easier to discern what God is telling them through Lectio Divina, for others this may be a struggle. Even if it is a struggle, do not be discouraged because we each have gifts and strengths that may lead to certain prayers being easier than others. So, if you find that you struggle with this form or other forms of prayer, it is ok. The important thing isn't how we pray but that we pray. It is important that we lift up our joys, struggles, happiness, sadness, and love to God, that we seek to be more united to Him and keep Him close to our hearts. God is our Father, a loving parent who wants us to make Him an important part of our lives. Much like we involve our earthly parents in our lives, we need to remember to keep our Heavenly Father in our lives as well. Which reminds me, I really need to call my mom soon.

Until next time,

*Will Banowsky*

Seminarian

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City



## Mass Schedule

### MONDAY, JULY 16, 2018

12:10pm Spec. Int. Fred Spellman

### TUESDAY, JULY 17, 2018

12:10pm †Larry Patterson/Rich & Mollie Koenig

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 2018

12:10pm †Dr. Gus Kever/Jim & Suzy Paschal

### THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2018

9:30am †Joe Schieber/Bernie Betzer

(St. Francis of Assisi, Newkirk, OK)

4:00pm Spec. Int. Tudy Lockwood/Sue Lawson

(Via Christi Chapel)

### FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2018

7:00am Spec. Int. One Church, Many Disciples

12:10pm †Bill Hastings/Tim & Genny Coffman

### SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2018

9:00am †Rev. John T. Hall/Knights of Columbus

5:00pm †Oley Bullard/Jim & Mary Dexter

### SUNDAY, JULY 22, 2018

8:00am †Ernest & Pauline Vap/Their Children

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

11:00am Spec. Int. Alexander King/Larry King

1:00pm MASS (Spanish Mass)

7:00pm †Helen Rice/Sue Rice

## Weekly Income Report

July 8, 2018

Weekly Collection

\$17,904.28

## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### The Week Ahead July 16-22, 2018

<b>Monday</b>		
<b>Tuesday</b>	6:30pm	SUMMER BIBLE STUDY, Byrnes Room
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:00am	MEN'S BIBLE STUDY, The Perk
	6:30pm	YOUTH GROUP, Byrnes Room
<b>Thursday</b>	4:00pm	ALTAR SERVER PICNIC-SUN 'N FUN
<b>Friday</b>	7:30am	ADORATION, Chapel
	10:30am	CONFESSION, Church
<b>Saturday</b>	8:00am	GROUNDS CLEAN-UP DAY
	3:30pm	CONFESSION, Church
<b>Sunday</b>	6:00pm	CONFESSION, Church

**St. Mary's Catholic School** is accepting enrollment for Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grades for the 2018-2019 school year. Please stop by the school office and speak with the school principal, Sarah Hunsaker or the secretary, Leanna Rexford or you may call 765-4387 for more information.



Join us for popcorn and a movie in the Byrnes room this Wednesday from 6:30-8PM.

**ATTENTION ALTAR SERVERS:** Please join Fr. Carson at Sun 'n Fun Thursday, July 19<sup>th</sup> for a fun evening of appreciation for your service at our Masses. **There is no cost to you.** Parents, you are invited for a cookout dinner of hamburgers & hotdogs at 7PM at the park pavilion. If you would like to help Fr. Carson chaperone this evenings' events we ask that you call the office at 765-7794. Please meet at Sun 'n Fun from 4pm-8pm. Letters with permission Forms were mailed. We need your forms in the office no later than July 17<sup>th</sup> if you plan on going!

**Rest in Peace:** Please pray for the souls of Ed Clark, nephew of Mary Tapp, for Paul Flax, uncle of Karen Hull and for Placida Young, sister of Mollien Koenig. May God grant them eternal rest.



#### **PARISH OFFICE E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

If you are sending e-mails to [stmarysponcacity@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stmarysponcacity@sbcglobal.net) they are not being received in the Parish Office. I apologize; there is a technical error that ATT can't seem to figure out. Please update your address for the church e-mail to: [office@stmarypc.com](mailto:office@stmarypc.com). Again, I apologize for any inconvenience or missed messages this may have caused.

#### **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

#### **St. Thomas More University Parish**

Are you a student going to The University of Oklahoma this fall? St. Thomas More University Parish would like to invite you to our Welcome Mass and Luncheon for students and parents August 17 at noon! We will also have a parish picnic on August 19 following 11:00am Mass. This is a great opportunity to sign up for activities and bible studies, meet your peers, and get involved in the St. Thomas More community! We also have regular events throughout the week. I hope to meet you soon!

God Bless,  
John King  
Student Outreach Chair  
Campus Ministry Team  
(580) 352-4848  
[Johnking99.jk@gmail.com](mailto:Johnking99.jk@gmail.com)

Today, we are taking up the collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign. Your support helps the CCC connect people to Christ here and around the world. Half the funds we collect remain in our archdiocese. Be a part of this campaign to spread the gospel message, and support the collection today! To learn more visit [www.usccb.org/cc](http://www.usccb.org/cc).