



Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World by Knowing, Loving and Serving God.



Assuming you are reading this hot off the press, we will be soon celebrating the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. On the calendar, his feast falls on October 4 but as is our custom, we will be transferring our observance to the nearest Wednesday which this year is October 2. We will be continuing the tradition of blessing pets on that evening. We will begin at 6:00 pm with a short liturgy and blessing for those who wish to bring their animals. That will then give people a chance to get their pets home with hopefully enough time to return for Eucharist at 6:30. If you can only make it for one or the other, please still come.

The tradition of blessing pets in honor of St. Francis is celebrated in many places. This is due to his status as the patron saint of animals and ecology. Francis saw nature as good and beautiful despite the need for its redemption due to human sin. He saw the glory of God reflected in the natural world and had a great love for animals. There are various stories including one instance where Francis stopped to preach to the birds and it is said that they surrounded him and did not leave until he was finished. In another story he was said to have chartered a pact between a ferocious wolf and the people of the city of Gubbio whom the wolf preyed upon. Francis sought out the wolf and brought him into the city where people agreed to feed the wolf and he no longer terrorized them.

Here at St. Gregory's we too have a longstanding love of animals. One of our founding members, Abby Wilson, was heavily involved with Pet Partners, a group dedicated to training and evaluating therapy dogs and their handlers to volunteer in all kinds of settings from hospitals to schools to workplaces. This relationship with Pet Partners continues with the use of our facilities in their evaluations in the very hall now named for Abby and Rollin. We are so fortunate to be able to support such a worthy organization which was so beloved to one of our own.



Animals are an amazing gift from God and as St. Francis taught us and as organizations like Pet Partners display, they can be wonderful companions, provide a comforting presence, and give us the opportunity to express and receive love to and from God's creation. I hope everyone who is able will bring their pets to be blessed as we celebrate the feast of St. Francis and understand our care for God's creation as part of the stewardship to which we are all called.

Fr. Alan Horton+

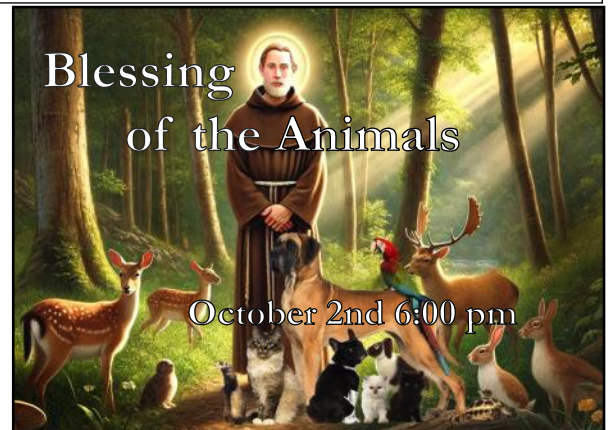
Congratulations to Our Team

Thomas Hightower, John Hamaker, James McDuff, and Fritz Barowsky participated in The Bishop Reed Sporting Clay Challenge. The event was held on Saturday, September 28th at Alpine Shooting Range in Ft. Worth and benefits Camp Crucis.



Thomas Hightower, John Hamaker,
James McDuff and Fritz Barowsky

Special shoutout to John for winning the high score for the Senior group. This was John's goal for the year. And this John's fourth year to come in first and he had his best score yet at 84! Our team had the second highest team score of the tournament.



Blessing of the Animals

October 2nd 6:00 pm

SALADS, SANGRIA & PAINTED CHURCHES

Salads & Sangria was the theme of our Fall Ladies Social this year. Held on September 12th in Wilson Hall, this was our second Fall Ladies Social.



We were delighted to have Father Horton offer the blessing and sample a few goodies before leaving to attend another event.



A mock Sangria Punch (without wine) was served. We also had several varieties of wine, which the ladies could add to their punch or just enjoy as a delightful glass of wine with dinner. The salads and bread were provided by the ladies, and as usual, no one went home hungry! The warm garlic bread was a real treat, along with selections of cheese & crackers. Dessert was mini bundt cakes, lemon bars, cobbler, brownies, cookies and more, causing many to forego counting calories.

Angie Griffin shared information about "The Painted Churches of Texas." These churches, built when Czech and German immigrants came to Texas to start a new life, have ordinary exteriors but magnificent masterpieces of artwork inside. Five of these are in the Schulenburg, TX area. Angie will research a group trip for us (Spring 2025) More info to come!



After a few fun door prizes, the clean up was quick. Everyone was on their way home by 8:30 pm.

Plan now to attend our 2nd Annual February event - "GAL-N-TINES SOCIAL" on February 13, 2025.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

The third annual Wreaths Across America Celebration Day is approaching! We have, once again, been invited to place wreaths on the graves of Veterans who are buried at Parkdale Cemetery in Arlington in Block 9A of the cemetery.

The date is Saturday, December 14, 2024. We will share more information about the exact time as we get the information, but I think the time will be much like the past two years. A sign-up sheet will be in the back of the church a bit later, but we wanted to let you know the date so that you can put it on your calendars.

As we have done the past two years, we will provide a light lunch of soup, sandwiches, bread, and dessert in Wilson Hall after we finish at Parkdale. If you want to help but don't want to be at the



cemetery, we could use a few volunteers to be at the church getting our lunch ready. A sign-up sheet will be provided for this.

Even though December is still two months away, the organization needs donations to purchase the wreaths. Without donations, wreaths cannot be purchased. You can donate on-line at <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org>. Please specify that you want to donate to Parkdale Cemetery in Arlington, TX.

We cannot express how much we appreciate your time and efforts in helping us decorate the graves of these veterans for the Christmas season. It is a small thing to do in return for the sacrifices they made for us.

Thank you!

Barbara & Trice Edwards



Wreaths Across America 2023

St. Gregory's at the Parkdale Cemetery

Christmas Ornament Workshop

I'm sure that most of you are looking forward to dressing up as ghosts and goblins and going around your neighborhoods to collect a load of candy and to scare folks. That's great but before you do, think about coming on Saturday, October 12th to Wilson Hall at 9:30

in the morning to our Christmas Ornament Workshop.

We will be making glass alcohol ink ornaments. We're planning for each of us to make 2 ornaments. They're fun and easy to make. There will be a sign-up sheet and supply list in the back of the Sanctuary. Visit with Trice before you purchase any supplies because he may already have most of them.



Ornament Supply List

Must Have:

Ornaments (available from Hobby Lobby in 2", 3" and 4")

Alcohol Ink (available from Michael's in many colors)

White Liquid Acrylic Paint (available from Michael's)

Recommended Supplies:

Disposable gloves, Paper Towels, Alcohol

2 Small Squeeze bottles (1 for water 1 for alcohol)

Optional Supplies:

Glitter (small flakes), Hair Dryer, Electronic Duster (compressed air)

SAVE THE DATES FOR OCTOBER

- 01~ 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
- 02~ 6:00 pm Pet Blessing
- 03~ 9:30 am Genealogy Meeting
- 05~ 8:00 am Men's Group @ Rosa's
- 06~ Diaper Drive begins
- 08~ 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
- 11~ 9:00 am St. Clara's Guild
- 12~ 9:30 am Ornament Workshop
- 14~ Columbus Day ~ Office Closed
- 15~ 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
- 17~ 9:00 am Dominoes & Donuts
- 19~ 8:00 am Men's Group @ Rosa's
- 11:00 am OSL Group
- 22~ 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
- 26~ 9:00 am Outdoor Cleanup
- DHC Lunch & Shoebox Stuffing
- 27~ Food Drive - Children's Sermon
- Fall Festival

I share
Jesus

ST. CLARA'S NEWS



St. Clara's Guild will meet on Friday, October 11 at 9:00 am to work on the dignity bibs that will be donated to a local nursing home. Please note that this is a change from our normal meeting date.

We will need sewing machines and the usual sewing tools. If you don't sew, we will have other things for you to do to help with this project.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 03 Linda Wirt
- 05 Addie Horton
- 09 Fr. Alan Horton
- 18 Dan Lemser
- 21 Bill Griffin
- 28 Harriet Motter
- 29 Fritz Barowsky
- 29 Terry Black



The Genealogy Group's next meeting will be Thursday, October 3rd, at 9:30 am. Wilson Hall

FAITH



- Heinz Liedke

Faith is the belief that something not confirmed or backed by logic will become reality. No; faith is much more: Faith is the conviction that whatever you hope and pray for HAS ALREADY BEEN GRANTED. This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we ask of him. 1 John 5:14-15

Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father."

Since Faith can not be logically proven it can be assumed that Faith is entirely spiritual. It is important to keep that in mind. When one tries to explain or prove Faith through worldly means, one becomes instantly aware that by worldly means Faith cannot be explained.

"Lord if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" Matthew 14:28-31

This is proof that believing in the power of worldly things, in this instance wind, distracts from faith and causes doubt. Once this happens we no longer operate in spirit but in the world. We must remember that the world is the domain of the devil (the master of lies) and it is in his interest that we have little or no faith.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is— his good pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2

It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak. 2 Corinthians 4:13

DHC NEWS

Daughters of the Holy Cross are going to be busy this month with Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child.

Our church's response last year was so impressive with the number of shoeboxes we filled. We are hoping to do as many shoeboxes as possible this year.

During the month of October, boxes and directions will be available to the parish in two locations. We will have a small table in the church and another table in Wilson Hall.

If you want to shop and bring items to fill the shoebox, there will be a large box for gifts.

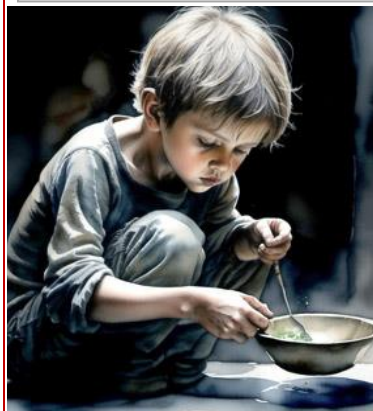
Additionally, if you want to help pay for the shipping of the shoeboxes, a fee of \$10 per box is needed. If you are donating, please be sure you put OCC Shoebox on the memo line of your check.

A brunch and packing party will be held on Saturday, November 2nd, from 10:00 until 2:00 pm. This is a fun event, and all are invited to help fill the boxes. This year we are hoping to take some students and adults to the Regional Distribution Center in Dallas. It is exciting to see how expansive this project is and to see our contribution in spreading God's word and love around the world.

On the horizon in November is the Angel Tree project, which will start at the end of November or the first of December.

The Christmas Prayer Bears for Cooks Children's Hospital and the DHC/Ladies of St. Gregory's Christmas luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, December 7th. Keep us on your calendar for the coming months.

Kathy Walker, DHC President



I share
Jesus

Food Drive
Sunday, Oct. 27th

Your food donations help so many!

Join Us in Service and Fellowship

Altar Guild

This group maintains the altar for Sunday service, Baptisms, funerals and other special services.

St. Gregory's Choir

The choir is for men and women who like to sing and offer praise to God with their voices.

Daughters of the Holy Cross

This group of women take a lifetime vow of prayer, service, study and evangelism.

Evangelism and Outreach

Planning activities and events, this team shows the love of Jesus in our Mansfield community.

Flower Guild

Learn the art and skill of flower arrangement with fresh flowers for our sanctuary.

Healing Ministry

A group of prayer teams to pray on those seeking healing as directed by Jesus.

Men's Study Group

The men of the church meet on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays for a time of study, service and fellowship.

Women's Study Group

The women of the church meet on Tuesday mornings, enjoying book studies and fellowship.

St. Clara's Guild

This group sews quilts for the sick or to welcome new members at baptism. They also knit caps for newborns in local hospitals and complete other hand done projects for the community.

St. Gregory's Genealogy Group

Explore your family history and heritage with our group. Or learn how to research your family's roots using the knowledge shared by our members.

St. Gregory's Nursery Helpers

This group provides care in our nursery for children under 3 years of age while services are taking place in the sanctuary.

St. Martha's Guild

By providing meals for parishioners and their families during times of illness, bereavement, or even the birth of a child, this group shares God's love.

St. Francis Pet Therapy (Pet Partners)

Through Pet Partners, owners and pets are trained to visit residents of nursing homes and schools, offering God's love through time with a gentle pet. Those without pets may also serve.

St. Gregory's Worship Teams

Our team of Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM), Lectors, Crucifers and Oblationers (Ushers) make of this group. Special training is provided for those wishing to serve on this team.



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