

SACRED HEART CHURCH

627 12th Street, Alva, OK 73717 Office: 580-327-0339
www.sacredheartalva.org Fax: 580-327-0710
In case of medical or other emergencies: 580-327-8223

Our Mother of Mercy Church, Waynoka

St. Cornelius Church, Cherokee

Pastor: Rev. Fr. Cory D. Stanley

fr.cory.stanley@gmail.com

Deacon: Mr. Gary C. Means

Deacon: Mr. Roy Callison—918-822-3255

deaconcallison@sacredheartalva.org

DRE: Mrs. Sara Cook

scook@sacredheartalva.org

Secretary: Mrs. Susan Callison

office@sacredheartalva.org

Ministers - January 25, 2015

Alva

Lector: Charlotte Selfridge

Coffee & Donuts: Annette Schwerdtfeger

Servers: Emily B., Julie O., Hannah O.

Usher: Tim Ohm

Gifts: Jerri Franco

Cherokee:

Lector: Rashele Blakely

Ushers: Ken Koppenaar

Gifts: The Sims Family

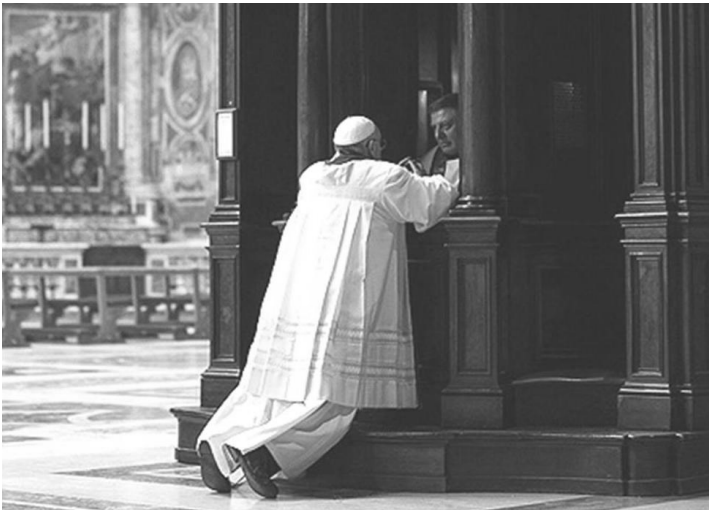
Waynoka:

Lector: Kama Nixon

Usher: Larry Ball

For bulletin entries please e-mail the secretary at office@sacredheartalva.org or leave a message at the parish office.

Bulletin deadline Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.



Pope Francis goes to Confession

St Peter's Basilica, 28 March 2014

Marriage

If you are engaged or preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage within the next year, please contact Fr. Stanley as soon as possible to begin speaking about the "Marriage Preparation" process. It is never too early to have the first meeting with the priest, even if the subsequent meetings are months away. This meeting is necessary in order to set the date of the wedding.

Please note our new Daily Mass schedule and opportunities for Confession

Convalidations

If you or your spouse were Catholic at the time of your marriage and did not work together with a Catholic priest or deacon to be prepared for the Sacrament of Marriage, if you have not yet done so, you need to have your marriage convalidated (or as it is often said "blessed by the Church"). This is a very simple process, and it costs nothing. Please contact Fr. Stanley for more information.

Annulments

If you are now Catholic and are divorced and remarried (or even just dating after a divorce), your previous marriage needs to be annulled - even if you were not yet Catholic at the time of that previous marriage. Please contact Fr. Stanley to ask questions about or to begin this simple and free process. This process is composed of filling out and submitting a small amount of paperwork (sometimes this includes a questionnaire). After those papers are submitted, your part of the work is finished. Once submitted, it takes anywhere from a few weeks to a few months for the process to be completed.

RCIA Instruction to "Become Catholic"

If you are interested in joining the Catholic Church or would like to learn more about what it means to be a Catholic, please contact Fr. Stanley by phone or by email.

Baptismal Seminars

If you need to have one of your children baptized (even if the child is not yet born) or if you desire to be the Godparent for a family member or friend who is being baptized, please contact Fr. Stanley to set up a one-hour baptismal seminar.

Confirmation

If you are a Catholic and for some reason have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation, please contact Fr. Stanley to arrange for that to take place in the upcoming months.

Do you receive the Sooner Catholic?

Every two weeks, the archdiocese publishes the Sooner Catholic newspaper with book reviews, feature articles on what's happening around the state and a column by Archbishop Coakley.

To subscribe, send your name, mailing address and telephone number to Tips@ArchOKC.org or call (405) 721-1810.



WEEKEND COLLECTIONS

	Sacred Heart	St. Cornelius	Our Mother of Mercy
Weekly Budget	\$1,260.00	\$340.00	\$260.00
Collection	\$1,607.00	\$201.00	\$322.15
Over/Under	+\$347.00	-\$139.00	+\$62.15
Good Samaritan	\$101.12		
Building Fund	\$300.00		

Liturgical Schedule

The Second Week in Ordinary Time

Saturday, January 17, 2015

3:30 pm: Sacrament of Confession

4:00 pm: Mass, Waynoka for +Everette Coontz

Sunday, January 18, 2015

8:15 am: Sacrament of Confession

9:00 am: Mass, Alva "For the People"

11:20 am: Sacrament of Confession, Cherokee

12:00 noon: Mass, Cherokee for +E. Coontz

Monday, January 19

No Mass

Tuesday, January 20

5:45 pm: Sacrament of Confession

6:30 pm: Mass, Alva for +Everette Coontz

Wednesday, January 21

12:00 noon: Mass, Alva for +Kimberly Pribble

6:30 pm: Holy Hour with Benediction, Cherokee

Thursday, January 22

8:00 am: Mass, Alva for +Jack Weber

Friday, January 23

8:00 am: Mass, Alva for the Souls in Purgatory

The Third Week in Ordinary Time

Saturday, January 24

3:30 pm: Sacrament of Confession

4:00 pm: Mass, Waynoka "For the People"

Sunday, January 25

8:15 am: Sacrament of Confession

9:00 am: Mass, Alva for Kent Hoffman

11:20 am: Sacrament of Confession, Cherokee

12:00 noon: Mass, Cherokee for +Rev. M. Seymour

*The Holy Rosary is prayed before Mass
on the first and third Sundays of the month in Alva and every
Sunday before Mass in Cherokee.*

Please pray for:

Michael Arebalo, Maria Morris, Kathy Pierce, Tracy Lundy, Kyle Hadwiger, Alfreda White, John Selfridge, Tammy Brown, Gary Kilian, Mary Ellen Turner, Glenn Schlarb, Deacon Gary Means, Louise Ewing, Mike Ewing, Kim Pribble, Deloris Kilian, Donovan Reichenberger, LaUna Levings, Ruby Kaczor, Wesley Mervine, Fred Isenbart, Sr., Frank Lavery, Rev. Lawrence & his parishioners.

The Pastor's Column

This weekend we heard the story of God calling Samuel, a calling to which he responded, "Speak, your servant is listening." Often times the Lord wants to speak to us through his Church, so we can hear his voice and be inspired. But, many times the message gets lost, or even distorted, before it makes it to our ears.

During his papacy Pope Francis has said and done many things, many wonderful things, but sometimes the things he is "reported" to have said and done are false. For one of the most recent examples of this, occurred when the media widely and falsely attributed to Pope Francis the statement that 'even pets go to Heaven' claiming that he spoke these words as he consoled a crying child at a General Wednesday Audience in Rome. A quick review of the video of that event revealed that no encounter of the sort had occurred. The Pope had clearly consoled no child (cf. <http://goo.gl/IYKwpg>). But, all over the Western world, each major news source had reported both this statement and encounter. Slowly, when the truth began to surface, they began one-by-one to publicly recant their stories – but the damage of false reporting had already been done.

During an interview published in the December 7, 2014 edition of the Argentinean newspaper, La Nacion, Pope Francis responded to claims that some people within the Church were feeling disoriented, as if the Church were sailing along as a 'ship without a rudder'. The Holy Father said,

"Those expressions strike me as odd. I am not aware of anybody using them. The media quote them. However, until I can ask the people involved "have you said this?" I will have brotherly doubts. **In general people don't read about what is going on.** Somebody did say to me once, "Of course, of course. Insight is so good for us, but we need clearer things." And I answered, **"Look, I wrote an encyclical, true enough, it was a big job, and an Apostolic Exhortation, I'm permanently making statements, giving homilies; that's teaching. That's what I think, not what the media say that I think. Check it out, it's very clear."**

By using the bulletin more intentionally, I hope to pass along to you many of the wonderful things our Holy Fathers, past and present, have truly said – things that to the world are often unimportant. Along with this, I intend to utilize the bulletin to promote devotional reading of the Bible, ancient sayings of the Saints, and our Church's teachings as found in the Catechism.

This week I have also announced a new weekly opportunity for the Sacrament of Confession and a slight alteration to our Daily Mass schedule. I believe the new Tuesday evening celebration of the Sacraments will allow our working families and college students another chance to integrate frequent Confession and even occasional attendance at Daily Mass into their lives.

I pray that these efforts will be helpful as we each strive to listen to the Lord and to respond generously.

"Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will" (*Ps 40:8a-9a*).

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Cory Stanley

Pope Pius XII on Confessing Venial Sins

*Encyclical on the
Mystical Body of Christ
June 29, 1943*

Available online: <http://goo.gl/KRp9zz>

[To] ensure more rapid progress day by day in the path of virtue, We will that the pious practice of frequent confession, which was introduced into the Church by the inspiration of the Holy spirit, should be earnestly advocated. By it genuine self-knowledge is increased, Christian humility grows, bad habits are corrected, spiritual neglect and tepidity are resisted, the conscience is purified, the will strengthened, a salutary self-control is attained, and grace is increased in virtue of the Sacrament itself. Let those, therefore, among the younger clergy who make light of or lessen esteem for frequent confession realize that what they are doing is alien to the Spirit of Christ and disastrous for the Mystical Body of our Savior. (n. 88)

Pope Francis on the Sacrament of Confession

*General Audience
February 19, 2014
Available online: goo.gl/gwCg4M*

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Good morning!

Through the Sacraments of Christian Initiation — Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist — man receives new life in Christ. Now, we all know that we carry this life “in earthen vessels” (2 Cor 4:7), we are still subject to temptation, suffering, and death and, because of sin, we may even lose this new life. That is why the Lord Jesus willed that the Church continue his saving work even to her own members, especially through the... “Sacraments of Healing”. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a Sacrament of healing. When I go to confession, it is in order to be healed, to heal my soul, to heal my heart and to be healed of some wrongdoing. The biblical icon which best expresses them in their deep bond is the episode of the forgiving and healing of the paralytic, where the Lord Jesus is revealed at the same time as the physician of souls and of bodies (cf. Mk 2:1-12; Mt 9:1-8; Lk 5:17-26).

1. The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation flows directly from the Paschal Mystery. In fact, on the evening of Easter the Lord appeared to the disciples, who were locked in the Upper Room, and after addressing them with the greeting, “**Peace be with you!**”, [Jesus] **breathed on them and said: “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven” (Jn 20:21-23)**. This passage reveals to us the most profound dynamic contained in this Sacrament.

First, the fact that the forgiveness of our sins is not something we can give ourselves. I cannot say: I forgive my sins. **Forgiveness is asked for, is asked of another, and in Confession we ask for forgiveness from Jesus**. Forgiveness is not the fruit of our own efforts but rather a gift, it is a gift of the Holy Spirit who fills us with the wellspring of mercy and of grace that flows unceasingly from the open heart of the Crucified and Risen Christ.

Secondly, it reminds us that **we can truly be at peace only if we allow ourselves to be reconciled, in the Lord Jesus, with the Father and with the brethren**. And we have all felt this in our hearts, when we have gone to confession with a soul weighed down and with a little sadness; and when we receive Jesus’ forgiveness we feel at peace, with that peace of soul which is so beautiful, and which only Jesus can give, only Him.

2. Over time, the celebration of this Sacrament has passed from a public form — because at first it was made publicly — to a personal one, to the confidential form of Confession. This however does not entail losing [its necessary connection with the Church*]. In fact, the Christian community is the place where the Spirit is made present, who renews hearts in

the love of God and makes all of the brethren one thing in Christ Jesus. That is why **it is not enough to ask the Lord for forgiveness in one’s own mind and heart, but why instead it is necessary humbly and trustingly to confess one’s sins to a minister of the Church**. In the celebration of this Sacrament, the priest represents not only God but also the whole community, who sees itself in the weakness of each of its members, who listens and is moved by his repentance, and who is reconciled with him, which cheers him up and accompanies him on the path of conversion and human and Christian growth. **One might say: I confess only to God. Yes, you can say to God “forgive me” and say your sins, but our sins are also committed against the brethren, and against the Church. That is why it is necessary to ask pardon of the Church, and of the brethren in the person of the priest.** “But Father, I am ashamed ...”. Shame is also good, it is healthy to feel a little shame, because being ashamed is salutary. In my country when a person feels no shame, we say that he is “shameless”; a “sin verguenza”. But shame too does good, because it makes us more humble, and the priest receives this confession with love and tenderness and forgives us on God’s behalf. Also from a human point of view, in order to unburden oneself, it is good to talk with a brother and tell the priest these things which are weighing so much on my heart. And one feels that one is unburdening oneself before God, with the Church, with his brother. **Do not be afraid of Confession!** When one is in line to go to Confession, one feels all these things, even shame, but then **when one finishes Confession one leaves free, grand, beautiful, forgiven, candid, happy. This is the beauty of Confession!**

I would like to ask you — but don’t say it aloud, everyone respond in his heart: when was the last time you made your confession? Everyone think about it ... Two days, two weeks, two years, twenty years, forty years? Everyone count, everyone say ‘when was the last time I went to confession?’. **And if much time has passed, do not lose another day. Go, the priest will be good. Jesus is there, and Jesus is more benevolent than priests, Jesus receives you, he receives you with so much love. Be courageous and go to Confession!**

3. Dear friends, celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation means being enfolded in a warm embrace: it is the embrace of the Father’s infinite mercy. Let us recall that beautiful, beautiful parable of the son who left his home with the money of his inheritance. He wasted all the money and then, when he had nothing left, he decided to return home, not as a son but as a servant. His heart was filled with so much guilt and shame. The surprise came when he began to speak, to ask for forgiveness, his father did not let him speak, he embraced him, he kissed him, and he began to make merry. But I am telling you: **each time we go to confession, God embraces us. God rejoices!** Let us go forward on this road. May God bless you!

* *Our Holy Father used the phrase “the ecclesial matrix that constitutes its vital context”.*

A Child's Examination of Conscience

Do I pray every day?
Do I realize God loves me?
Do I try to learn about God?
Do I miss Mass on Sundays?
Do I misbehave sometimes during Mass?
Do I ever say the word God or Jesus in a hateful or disrespectful way?
Do I use bad language?
Do I ever get angry, mad, or upset with other people?
Do I sometimes fight or argue with other people?
Do I ever "talk back" or act disrespectfully to my parents?
Do I always obey my parents and do my chores?
Do I lie sometimes?
Am I selfish at times?
Do I do my homework on time?
Do I cheat on school work, in sports, or in games?
Do I share my toys with others?
Do I say hurtful things about other people?
Have I been an unwelcoming person?
Do I discourage others?
Do I bully others?
Do I disrespect my teachers or classmates?
Am I ever disruptive in class?
Have I been a bad example for others?
Do I demand expensive things from my parents?
Do I watch too much TV?
Do I spend too much time on the computer or internet?
Do I eat foods that are good for me or only unhealthy foods?
Am I willing to help others?
Do I respect the property or belongings of others?
Have I done things that are harmful for me?
Do I pray for my enemies and for the people I do not like?
Am I holding any grudges?

ACT OF CONTRITION

O my God,
I am heartily sorry for having offended You,
because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell,
but most of all because they offend You, my God,
Who are all-good and deserving of all my love.

I firmly resolve,
with the help of Your grace,
to confess my sins,
to do penance,
and to amend my life.

Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.

An Adult's Guide to Making a Good Confession

We should always feel comfortable coming to confession even if we do not remember the "Act of Contrition" or the traditional words for beginning our Confession. If we need help, we should just let the priest know that it's been a while, and he will always help us.

To make a good confession, remember, we do not have to explain "why" but most importantly:

1. Name the sin;
2. Approximate the number of times.

Examples:

"I get angry with my parents and find myself yelling at them several times week."

"I have used God's Name carelessly over the last few years."

"I said God's name in vain once in the last month."

Customarily we begin a confession by telling the priest how long it's been since our last confession. **Don't worry about memorizing any of this**, but the traditional wording is, "Bless me Father for I have sinned, it's been ### days/weeks/months/years since my last confession, and these are my sins." Then, **we make our confession in our own words**.

To be prepared, we can use the following [on the back side of this column] or any other "Examination of Conscience".

We should always confess any sins we've committed since our last confession and anything unconfessed we happen to remember from our past.

At a person's First Confession since their Baptism, one confesses the sins they have committed since their baptism. Always let the priest know that it is your first Confession.

All serious sins must be confessed, but don't worry, **God is always ready to forgive our sins and to give us a new start**. We should never quit striving for holiness, despite failures or set backs. God is with us every step of the way!

An Adult's Examination of Conscience

Do you pray every day?
Do you doubt God's existence?
Have you used God's name in vain?
Have you missed Mass on Sundays or Holy Days?
Have you received Holy Communion with unconfessed serious sins on your heart?
Have you disobeyed or dishonored your parents?
Have you gotten angry?
Have you hurt others with your words?
Have you made fun of others?
Have you helped someone to have an abortion?
Have you had an abortion?
Have you had impure thoughts?
Have you had impure actions with yourself?
Have you been involved sexually in any way with another (outside of marriage)?
Have you had sex with another (outside of marriage)?
Have you used or promoted the use of artificial birth control?
Have you been involved sexually with someone of the same sex?
Have you looked at pornography?
Have you lied?
Have you cheated?
Have you stolen?
Have you gossiped?
Have you been jealous?
Have you gotten drunk?
Have you gotten high?
Have you harmed yourself in any other ways?
Is there anything else?

ACT OF CONTRITION

O my God,
I am heartily sorry for having offended You,
because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell,
but most of all because they offend You, my God,
Who are all-good and deserving of all my love.

I firmly resolve,
with the help of Your grace,
to confess my sins,
to do penance,
and to amend my life.

Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.
In His Name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

A Child's Guide to Making a Good Confession

Remember to always feel peaceful about going to Confession—even if sometimes you forget the “Act of Contrition” you memorized. If you need help with that prayer, or if you forget what to do, the priest will always help you—and he will tell you when you need to pray it.

When you go to Confession, you don't have to tell the priest all of the reasons “**why**” you did something wrong, but **most importantly say**:

1. The sins (the bad things you have done);
2. Say if you committed those sins once, twice, or many times.

Examples:

“I get angry with Mom and Dad and yell at them all the time.”

“I lied and played video games once when I was supposed to be doing homework.”

“I bullied someone at school two times this week.”

If you can remember these words, when you go to Confession, when you first kneel down (or sit down if there is no kneeler) say, “**Bless me Father for I have sinned, it's been ### days/weeks/months/years since my last confession, and these are my sins.**” Then, you say to the priest the sins you have committed and the bad things you have done.

To be prepared, use helpful questions listed here [on the back side of this column].

If you can remember a sin that you committed since your last Confession, always confess it. Or if something you did is still hurting you or making you sad, mention that thing as well.

If this is your First Confession since your Baptism, you try to confess any sins you can remember since your Baptism—and you don't have to worry about confessing sins you can't remember. If we have truly forgotten something, God knows that, and He will forgive us anyway. If it is your First Confession, always tell the priest when you come in the room by saying, “Bless me Father for I have sinned, this is my First Confession.”

When the priest says the words of forgiveness at the end of your confession, he speaks those words for God. **It is God that is forgiving your sins. God is always ready to forgive your sins and to give you a new start—because He loves you no matter what!**