



ST. FRANCIS

OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

2021 Guide Book & Directory

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

1901 N.W. 18th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73106
405.528.0485

A Letter from Our Pastor

Dear parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi,

We are pleased to present you with this St. Francis of Assisi Parish Guide Book and Directory for the year 2021-2022. Please keep it in a place that is convenient and handy. This Guide Book gives you easy access to names, addresses and telephone numbers of other parishioners. It also serves as a resource for sacramental information, ministries, and spiritual formation.

To quote our patron, Saint Francis of Assisi, "All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle." In these challenging times, the membership of our parish is remaining strong at 1100 households as well as 255 students enrolled in Rosary School. We are welcoming new parishioners every week and celebrating many weddings and baptisms! Now more than ever, our connection to each other is of the utmost importance. While some programs may be temporarily suspended due to the pandemic, our future is as bright as ever!

This Guide Book is offered through the generous support of our many advertisers. Please support and patronize them: and let them know you saw their advertisement in this booklet.

Fr. Linh and I are honored to serve you as your priests. Be assured of our continued prayers and support.

Sincerely yours, in Christ,

Fr. Novak

General Office Information

Parish Office

Office Hours.....	Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Church Address.....	1901 N.W. 18th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73106
Church Office.....	405-528-0485
Church Fax.....	405-524-1260
St. Vincent de Paul Helpline.....	405-602-8909
Bulletin Email.....	secretary@stfrancisokc.com
Church Website.....	www.stfrancisokc.com
Pastoral Emergencies.....	405-604-0611

School Office

School Address.....	1919 N.W. 18th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73106
School Office.....	405-525-9272
School Fax.....	405-525-5643
School Website.....	www.rosaryschool.com

Holy Mass Schedule

Weekend

Saturday.....	5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
Sunday.....	8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Weekday

Tuesday.....	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....	7:30 a.m.
Thursday.....	11:30 a.m.
Friday.....	11:30 a.m.

Holy Days of Obligation

Consult the bulletin or church website

Confessions

Saturday.....	3:00 p.m. (or by appointment)
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Devotions

The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Rosary are prayed at 7:55 a.m. each Sunday. Eucharistic Adoration every first Friday of the month – call the office to confirm time.

Church Office Staff

Pastor

Very Rev. William Novak, V.G.....wnovak@archokc.org

Associate Pastor

Rev. Linh Bui.paullinhbui@yahoo.com

Deacon

Mr. John Harnedjohnharned@gmail.com

Director of Sacred Music/Organist

Mr. Alvez Barkoskie IV.....music@stfrancisokc.com

Director of R.C.I.A.

Deacon John Harned.....johnharned@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education

Ms. Teresa Schumacher.....teresa-schumacher@att.net

Director of Youth

Mrs. Katie Tooleyyouth@stfrancisokc.com

Financial Secretary/Wedding Coord.

Mrs. Jill Jacobyjjacoby@stfrancisokc.com

Church Secretary

Mrs. Lynn Cochransecretary@stfrancisokc.com

Facility Manager

Mr. Jarod Tracy.....facility@stfrancisokc.com

Safe Environment Coordinator

Mrs. Kim Youngsfaokc.safeenv@gmail.com

School Office Staff

Principal

Mrs. Christy Harris.....principal@rosaryschool.com

School Secretary

Mrs. Patty Roberts.....secretary@rosaryschool.com

Cafeteria Director

Ms. Becky Hardinbecklou1@yahoo.comDirect 525-2626
.....Cell 317-4600

Kidz Club Director

Ms. Vanessa Avery.....vrbrandon@gmail.com ...Cell 918-361-8578



St. Francis of Assisi Parish History

In 1904, the Vatican empowered the Bishop of Oklahoma, Theophile Meerschaert, to build a “fitting and commodious” residence on what was then known as the Walch Family farm. Complete with chapel and offices, it was the first residence built for a Catholic bishop. Catholics came by horseback and covered wagon to gather at the Bishop’s chapel for Sunday Mass. The building was dedicated in 1906, and has been declared a landmark by the City of Oklahoma City Historic Preservation Society. Bishop Meerschaert occupied the residence until his death in 1924. Bishop Kelley stayed in the residence until 1932.

In 1925 as urban development overtook farmland and the Catholic population grew, the new Bishop, Francis C. Kelley, saw the need to establish a parish on site. A larger “Bishop’s chapel” was built on the west side of the Meerschaert House; this is the present day parish hall and Rosary School cafeteria.

In 1927, one of Oklahoma’s missionaries from Belgium, Father John Van den Hende, became pastor and established the parish school in a small white framed house at 15th Street & Youngs Blvd. The Sisters of Mercy provided the staff who commuted daily by trolley line from Mount St. Mary’s High School. By 1935, the current pastor, Father Van der Grinten, had relinquished the Meerschaert House to the nuns to use as a convent and school (with 53 students). That same year a new rectory was built on the corner of 18th Street & Kentucky Ave. In 1938, the Sisters of Mercy were replaced by the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa, Wisconsin. Father Van was so elated with their acceptance that he changed the name of the school to Rosary School, the same as the Dominican College where the nuns had received their education (Rosary College, River Forest, Illinois).

In 1941, he announced plans for a new school but wartime restrictions on building materials delayed the opening until 1944. As soon as the war ended the parish began building the present church, the Shrine of Saint Francis. Dedicated on May 22, 1947 by Bishop Eugene McGuinness, it was completed at a cost of \$192,000. The steeple cross was set at 128 feet high. Pink Tennessee marble, white Italian marble statues, Bedford blocks and St. Meinrad sandstone lent solidarity to the structure topped by a red tile roof. The magnificent stained-glass windows depicted scenes in the life of Saint Francis.

In 1953, retired military chaplain Father Bart Murtaugh became pastor. He followed the faithful stewardship of Father Van and enlarged the rectory and continued modernizing the Meerschaert House, still serving as convent and school.

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Monsignor Murtaugh was succeeded by Monsignor John Walde. He was Oklahoma's famous "Radio Priest" and author of many pamphlets on the Catholic faith. He purchased the house at 1925 N.W. 19th Street for use as a convent which was later purchased by the Archdiocese as housing for the Ace Student Program.

Father George Wagner became pastor in 1970. He maintained a strong parish community, established the Board of Christian Education and Parish Council, and gave stability to the finances of the parish.

In 1977, Father John Petuskey assumed the office of pastor and oversaw a major renovation of the Kelley Room in 1983 to accommodate the growing parish activity. During his decade at St. Francis, Father Petuskey was Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese so Rosary School became a top priority. Kindergarten and Pre-school were added to the curriculum as well as a "sitting" service before and after school for working parents.

In 1985, Father Charles Schettler joined the parish as priest-in-residence until his death in December 2009. From a dairy farm in Sterling, Oklahoma, he became a highly educated and respected Chancellor and Judicial Vicar of the Tribunal for the Archdiocese of Oklahoma.

Around the same time as Father Schettler's arrival, Sister Mary Joseph Meis of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ Convent began her 23 years of service as the Pastoral Associate for the parish. She tirelessly visited the sick and homebound while acting as Chaplain for the parish's St. Vincent de Paul Society. Sister Joseph retired in 2006 and returned to Kansas where she passed away in 2013.

In 1987, a son of the parish, Father William Eichhoff, became pastor. A campaign to renovate and expand the school was completed in 1990. A subsequent campaign completed in 1995 added a Preschool (Eichhoff Annex) and a fully equipped gymnasium named after long-time parishioner, T. Philip Kierl, Sr.

After being an assistant at the parish twenty-seven years earlier, Father Thomas Dowdell became pastor in 1997. He would be the pastor to lead the community through the healing process following the death of Father Eichhoff. He would also begin to refocus on community life and the parish's spiritual mission.

In 2002, Father Richard Stansberry brought his energy to the parish by adding four new classrooms to the school as well as creating the Margaret Love Early Childhood Development Center at Rosary School. The parish offices were relocated from the second floor of the Meerschaert House to the first floor for better accessibility and the parish grounds were professionally manicured and landscaped.

Dr. *Mike Kierl* 
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In June of 2007, Father Charles Murphy continued to guide our school and church. Sympathetic to the church's limitations for expanding because of being "land-locked", he worked diligently with the parish council to acquire the "Braniff House", which he refurbished to become an updated rectory, and two homes adjacent to the church proper in hopes of someday expanding the campus.

In July of 2013, Father William Novak, acting Vicar General of the Archdiocese, became our pastor. In the summer of 2015, we welcomed newly ordained, Father Lance Warren as associate pastor. In June of 2017, after three years of long-range planning, we broke ground on a \$5.5 million dollar capital campaign "Build Up My Church" showcasing a Family Life Center, church addition, parish hall renovation, additional school classrooms/playgrounds and parking.

In the summer of 2018, as the vision for the Capital Campaign began to materialize, Rev. Linh Bui joined the parish staff as associate pastor. The Family Life Center, the first of many campaign projects, was completed and dedicated by Archbishop Paul S. Coakley on October 7, 2018. The renovation of the Parish Hall was unveiled and celebrated on September 6-8, 2019 with a glorious open house. St. Clare Park opened soon after to serve as a play space and gathering place for our parish. In the summer of 2020, additional classrooms on the east end of the school were completed, as well as landscaping to compliment the entire campus.

Sacramental Information

Baptism

The sacrament of baptism is offered for children (infant up to seven years) of registered families who have been attending Mass for at least six months and actively practicing their faith. Prior to the baptism, parents are required to attend a baptismal seminar. Godparents are encouraged to also attend a baptismal seminar if possible. Such preparation can be made at another Catholic parish. Call the parish office for the dates of scheduled seminars at St. Francis. For baptism of those over age seven, see RCIA and RCIC below. Contact Kim Young at sfaokc.safeenv@gmail.com

Reconciliation (Penance, Confession)

The sacrament of Reconciliation is offered each Saturday at 3:00 p.m. or by appointment. Location may vary – please call the church office.

Normally, First Reconciliation is offered to our second grade students attending Religious Education classes and Rosary School.

Penance Services (communal) are usually scheduled during Advent or Lent. Check the bulletin for dates and times when these services are scheduled or call the parish office.

Holy Communion (Eucharist)

See the Mass Schedule for daily and weekend Masses.

Normally, First Communion is offered to our second grade students attending Religious Education classes and Rosary School. Students older than second grade will be placed in a special sacraments class and will need at least seven months of preparation. Contact the Director of Religious Education for more information. Adults who need First Communion, see RCIA below.

Those unable to attend Mass due to infirmity, sickness or disability can arrange to have Holy Communion brought to their home. Please call the parish office to make arrangements.

Confirmation

RCIC (Rite of Christian Initiation of Children)

Unbaptized children older than seven years are invited to a year-long process of conversion and catechism, culminating in reception of the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion) at the Easter Vigil.

Contact Teresa Schumacher at teresa-schumacher@att.net or 405.948.8743.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Adults who wish to convert to Catholicism or who have not received all three sacraments of initiation are invited to a year-long process of conversion and catechism, culminating in reception of the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion) at the Easter Vigil. Contact Deacon John Harned at johnharned@ymail.com

Middle School Confirmation Program

On September 29, 2020, Archbishop Paul Coakley announced a change in placement for the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Preparation for Confirmation will be completed in one year instead of two and will be held in the sixth or seventh grade instead of during high school. Changes will be implemented by Fall 2022.

Matrimony

Engaged couples must contact the pastor at least six months prior to the wedding and before the date has been set. Please be an adult registered member at St. Francis and use your Sunday Visitor envelopes weekly. The archdiocesan policy mandates at least six months to accomplish the necessary preparation. Contact Jill Jacoby at jjacoby@stfrancisokc.com

Holy Orders

Any men who are discerning a call to the priesthood are asked to call the parish office to make an appointment with the pastor.

The Anointing of the Sick

The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is available for those who are suffering from chronic illness, advanced age, or for anyone preparing for major surgery. Contact the parish office to schedule a time for anointing. In an emergency situation, call the parish office Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and the rectory (405-604-0611) after hours and on weekends.

Ministries, Activities and Spiritual Formation

Some ministries shown below may not be active due to the pandemic.

If no contact is given please call the parish office for more information.

Adopt-A-Street

Our parish picks up trash on Penn Ave, between 23rd and 16th. Team captains are needed to lead groups 4 times a year. Help keep the route to our church clean and welcoming! Contact Becky Hardin at beclou1@yahoo.com or 405.317.4600

Adults Time Out

Even adults need a "time out" from their busy schedules! ATO is an adult social group for the parish that meets several times a year with onsite childcare provided. Hosts and ideas are always needed for events! Contact Katie Suarez at kmsuarez@gmail.com

Altar Servers

Boys and girls, 5th grade through high school, assist at Masses, funerals, weddings, Stations of the Cross and other services. Training is mandatory. Contact Deacon John Harned at johnharned@gmail.com

Altar Society

The Altar Society is a service organization and all ladies in the parish who are 18 years and older are considered members. Its mission is to care for the needs of the church sanctuary and sacristy during each liturgical season; encourage prayer and devotion to our Eucharistic Lord in the tabernacle; offer opportunities for humble service; and develop loving relationships among its members. Fundraising efforts are focused on providing for funeral dinners, baptismal gowns, as well as altar wines, breads, candles and holiday flowers used throughout the year. In addition, the society prepares the church for both the Christmas and Easter seasons. Activities are widely advertised throughout the year encouraging participation from all ladies of the parish. Contact Michelle McGannon at teacup49@cox.net or 405.740.8556



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Boy Scouts

Cub Scouts includes a variety of fun and exciting activities for boys in 1st through 5th grades and Boy Scouts for boys age 11 through 18. They offer camping, outdoor activities and a challenging advancement program to help develop self-confidence and leadership skills. Contact Teresa Schumacher at teresa-schumacher@att.net or 405.590-3694

Cafeteria Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve lunches in the school cafeteria Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Safe Environment training required. Contact Becky Hardin at becklou1@yahoo.com or 405.317.4600

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program

This Montessori-based program for children ages 3-6 years offers a prepared environment, called the Atrium, with child-sized representations of the materials used at Mass and the sacraments, as well as tactile dioramas and figures of stories and people from the scriptures. Contact Mary Scaperlanda at maryscaperlanda@gmail.com

Choir

The Parish Choir sings regularly at the Sunday 11:00 a.m. Mass and evening Masses for Holy Days. The Women's Choir sings occasionally at 5:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 8:30 a.m. Masses once a month and for special services throughout the year. Adults, high school age and older who love to sing are encouraged to join either or both of these groups. Contact Alvez Barkoskie IV at music@stfrancisokc.com or visit the choir loft after Mass to speak in person.

Coffee and Donuts Social

Come and enjoy this social gathering in the Parish Hall after the 8:30 a.m. Sunday morning Mass. Coffee and Donut hosts set-up and clean-up – donuts provided! Contact Becky Hardin at becklou1@yahoo.com or 405.317.4600

Eucharistic Adoration

Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place in the church on the first Friday of the month after 11:30 a.m. Mass and ending with Benediction at 3:45 p.m. Adorers are encouraged to commit to one hour on a regular basis. Contact Bonnie Burkey at 405.946.4828

Funeral Dinners

The Altar Society guild leaders call members of the parish to bring food and /or assist with set-up, clean-up and serving of the dinner. Contact Karen Oaks at ktoaks@cox.net or 405.740.9822

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal service organization of men, founded under the principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. This organization provides men with a vehicle for building up the parish community and family life with an emphasis on family, youth, church, council and community activities. Contact Henry Kubier at hkubier@yahoo.com or 405.921.3465

Lectors

Lectors proclaim the scriptures at Mass and must be a Catholic in good standing with the church and participate in a training session. Contact Deacon John Harned at johnharned@gmail.com

Mass Coordinators

Mass Coordinators “check-in” the ministers for Mass and find replacements if needed. Contact Lynn Cochran at secretary@stfrancisokc.com

Mass Gift Bearer

Gift bearers bring the gifts of bread and wine to the altar during Mass. Check in with the Mass coordinator in the back of the church before Mass begins to let them know you wish to bring up the gifts at that particular Mass. Contact Lynn Cochran at secretary@stfrancisokc.com

Mass Greeter

Greeters are stationed outside the church doors to welcome and open the doors for Mass attendees. Check in with the Mass coordinator in the back of the church to let them know you are greeting and to get a greeter badge. Contact Lynn Cochran at secretary@stfrancisokc.com

Mass Usher

The usher ministry is one of hospitality and service. Duties include greeting and handing out the worship aids, taking up the collection, counting the congregation, distributing bulletins and straightening up the pews after Mass. Contact Lynn Cochran at secretary@stfrancisokc.com

Meal Trains for New Parents

Volunteers provide meals for parishioners that have welcomed a new child in their family. Contact Nancy Soliz at nan2069@gmail.com

Mobile Meals

Volunteers deliver meals to homebound seniors once a month on Friday at 10:30 a.m. They can provide their own transportation or ride with another driver. Other volunteers are needed to provide desserts on request. Contact Claudia Kraus at krausinc@gmail.com or 405.830.5533

Nursery

Nursery is provided for the Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Masses in the Family Life Center. It is for children up to and including four years old. Contact Lynn Cochran at secretary@stfrancisokc.com or 405.528.0485

Parish Office Volunteer

Volunteers greet visitors, answer phones, stuff bulletins and help with general office duties. Contact Lynn Cochran at secretary@stfrancisokc.com or 405.528.0485

Parish Hospitality Team

Join a team of volunteers to plan decorations, serve food, set-up & clean up for parish celebrations and receptions. Contact Lynn Cochran at secretary@stfrancisokc.com or 405.528.0485

Religious Education

Religious Education classes and sacramental preparation for students Pre-K through 12th grade are offered on Sunday mornings. Contact Teresa Schumacher at teresa-schumacher@att.net or 405.590.3694

Middle School Confirmation Program

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Religious Education Catechist or Assistant Catechist

Volunteers are needed to work with the Religious Education program. Contact Teresa Schumacher at teresa-schumacher@att.net or 405.590.3694

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A)

This program prepares Catechumens for Baptism and Candidates for reception into full communion with the Church so that they may receive all the graces of the Sacraments of Initiation and live in friendship with God. Catholics in good standing are needed to support the program or to become sponsors. Contact Deacon John Harned at johnharned@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul

The St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Francis Church helps those in need of emergency assistance primarily with rent, utilities and food. Members meet twice a month on Sundays for prayer and consultation regarding requests for assistance. Contact Perry Hatch at pmhatch1964@gmail.com or 405.834.9306



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Suicide Loss Support Group

A simple gathering in a caring atmosphere offering support to survivors of suicide loss and remembering the loved ones lost. Contact Lynn Cochran at secretary@stfrancisokc.com or 405.528.0485

Totus Tuus

Totus Tuus is Latin for “Totally Yours.” This is a week-long opportunity for youth entering 1st through 12th grade. Totus Tuus seeks to share the Gospel and the Catholic faith through evangelization, catechesis, and sacramental life. During the summer, our parish hosts a team of young adult teachers from Totus Tuus of Oklahoma for a week of learning, living and loving our Catholic faith. Volunteers needed to chaperone children and teens during the program, as well as families to host the team members. Contact Katie Tooley at youth@stfrancisokc.com or 405.210.4803

Young at Heart Seniors

Young at Heart Seniors meet for a luncheon and fellowship. It is an opportunity for our seniors to meet and enjoy each other's company and share interesting programs. Contact Sylvia Mendez at 405.590.8462

Youth Group

Middle school and high school teens gather to learn about the Catholic faith in a fun way with games, food and service projects. Adult volunteers are always needed to help the leaders with organization and activities. Safe Environment Training is required to volunteer. Contact Katie Tooley at youth@stfrancisokc.com or 405.210.4803

Women's Sanctuary Development Center

Women's Sanctuary Development Center is a Day Shelter for homeless women, run by Catholic Charities. Our parish cares for the flower and vegetable gardens there, and also collects items needed throughout the year, such as toiletries, socks, blankets, etc. Contact Becky Hardin at becklou1@yahoo.com or 405.317.4600

Parish and School Advisory Committees

Parish Council

The parish council advises the pastor on the leadership and planning of the parish.

Finance Board

Appointed members of the parish meet to monitor and discuss the parish budget and financial matters.

Trust Board

The St. Francis of Assisi Parish Endowment and the Rosary School Endowment were established January 1, 1986, to assist with the cost of the endeavors to operate and maintain an excellent church and school. The Board of Directors of the Trust Funds of St. Francis of Assisi meet quarterly to review the financials of these Trusts.

School Advisory Council (SAC)

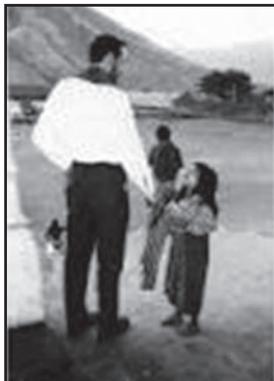
Appointed members advise the pastor and principal on the mission of the school. Members must currently have a child at Rosary School.

Legacy Society of St. Francis of Assisi

Most people would like to make their mark on the world – to do something that leaves the earth a better place. A great place to start is St. Francis and Rosary School. The Legacy Society of St. Francis of Assisi is comprised of parishioners and friends at the parish who, through their estate planning or other means of deferred financial support, have chosen to provide for the present and future financial needs of our parish and/or Rosary School.

The purpose of the Legacy Society is to encourage our parishioners to remember our parish in their trusts, wills, or other deferred means of giving. Many people have the desire to benefit an organization, but they are unsure about the process. By preparing a will and providing for your church, you will ensure that your wishes are fulfilled. Possibilities include: a bequest, a charitable gift annuity, life insurance policy, leaving bank accounts.

Everyone who remembers St. Francis or Rosary School in his or her estate plan is considered a member of the Legacy Society. We only ask that you advise us of your support. Membership may be anonymous or be recognized on our honor roll plaque in the church vestibule. The decision to make a planned gift is a personal choice and should be prayerfully considered. Talk to an attorney about the importance of a will and how to make a gift that best suits your needs. A planned gift will enable our parish and school to continue making a difference for many years. If you would like more information please call the parish office at 405-528-0485 or go to www.stfrancislegacyokc.com.



Blessed Stanley Rother

Pray for Us

*O God, fount of all holiness,
make us each walk worthily in our vocation,
through the intercession of your Saints,
on whom you bestowed
a great variety of graces on earth.
Having graced your Church with the life of
your priest and martyr Blessed Stanley Rother,
grant that by his intercession,
this humble flock may reach
where the brave Shepherd has gone.
Grant that your Church may proclaim
him a Saint living in your presence
and interceding for us all.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Beatified September 23, 2017