



# NEWSLETTER



## In this Issue:

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**Welcome CFAC Families**

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**Reflecting on Last Month  
+ Upcoming Events**

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**Making the Most of Your  
Membership**

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**Celebrating Traditions**

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Have an idea for the newsletter? Then drop a line to Janae Spencer at [janae@janaespencerphoto.com](mailto:janae@janaespencerphoto.com).

## Welcome CFAC Families

As we approach the final stretch of the year, we're excited to present our third newsletter.

We know this time of year is busy and our calendars are brimming with plans, but we hope to continue to be an inspiration to each other on our homeschooling journeys.

November carries profound tradition and remembrance in the Church. As we approach this special month, we're thrilled about two key events: the Mom's Advent Retreat, a time for spiritual rejuvenation, and the St. Andrew Christmas Novena, uniting us in prayer for the upcoming Christmas season.

Blessings and prayers for a fruitful and joyful November.

– Janae Spencer  
*Newsletter Editor*

# Thank You

A special thanks to the Liturgical programming committee for organizing two great events in October, The month of the Rosary event and mass and the St. John Paul II Feast Day Dinner.

To lend a hand to this committee, please contact Jennifer Pacheco at [juanonered112@hotmail.com](mailto:juanonered112@hotmail.com)

## Reflecting on Last Month

We saw so many joyful faces at our field trips this month. On our visit to the pumpkin patch we learned about the life cycle of the pumpkin, played fun farm games, enjoyed hayrides, and put our creativity to work while decorating pumpkins.

More highlights include our field trip to the fire station, Tween and Teen Service Project at Elijah's Retreat and feast day dinner celebrating our patron saint, Pope Saint John Paul II. Thank you to all the families who joined us to celebrate!

## Upcoming CFAC Events

**Leadership Meeting-** The Leadership Team meets at least once a quarter to discuss the state of the club. All members are invited to participate.

**Third Tuesday Mass-** We meet every third Tuesday of the month for Mass and fellowship.

**Tween and Teen Service Project-** Teens and tweens are invited to this service project to assemble hygiene bags.

**St. Andrew Christmas Novena-** Advent is right around the corner and we will begin this special Christmas novena on November 30th.

*Members can view more details, RSVP for events, and see the full calendar in the member portal.*

# Making the Most Out of Your Membership

Here we are officially three months into the new programming year with Catholic Family Adventure Club, and you might still be trying to figure out your family fits in and how to make the most of your membership. Here are some things that can help:

- **Attend At Least One Program a Month-** Consistency is key when developing relationships, and the more your family gets to be seen and see others, the greater the likelihood that true and lasting friendships will be forged.
  - There are some in our community going through particularly challenging seasons (pregnancy, medical concerns, etc.), and attendance at that rate just isn't feasible. Let us know who you are so we as a community can support you; whether it's through prayer, providing meals, or just touching base every few weeks to know that you're not forgotten. Supporting on another during difficult seasons is as important to the group as it is to you.
- **Get Involved-** Whether it's joining a committee or signing up to sweep floors after an event, each of us has something to offer.
  - Take a quick inventory of your special gifts and talents and those of your family members. How can those gifts and talents be used to help support the programming efforts of Catholic Family Adventure Club?
  - If you don't have a lot of time to spare outside of regular attendance at events, no worries. Perhaps you can sign up to come a few minutes early or stay a few minutes late and help with clean-up?
- **Get Out of Your Comfort Zone-** Take advantage of more subdued events, such as park days and potluck dinners, to meet and get to know new families.
  - It's very easy to spend your time chatting with those you are already familiar with, but we were all the new person at some point, and with new families joining us every month, there will undoubtedly always be someone new to meet.
  - Please also be mindful to share this idea of "meeting new people" with your older children. With such a larger community, it is understandable that many children will already know each other from other cross-sections of the community, and it's very easy for children and teens especially to put off the "closed group" vibe without meaning to.

Right now, we are looking for individuals to assist with **Prayer and Family Support** and serve on the **Teen Programming Committee**. We also need individuals who are administrative-minded and can assist the leadership team with on-boarding new members and various marketing functions. The time commitment is approximately two hours a month, spread throughout the month. Please email [generalinfo@catholicfamilyadventureclub.com](mailto:generalinfo@catholicfamilyadventureclub.com) to learn more.

# Celebrating Traditions

In just a few short weeks, we will begin the 2024 liturgical year on the first Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2023. As Catholics, we are bound together by our shared faith and the many traditions that we celebrate, and the Advent Season provides so many opportunities for celebrating.

Some families prepare for the Christmas Season by placing ornaments on a Jesse Tree or lighting Advent Candles as a part of evening prayer. Other families take advantage of this liturgically rich season to honor many well known saints such as St. Lucy or St. Nicholas. Others use this time to teach culturally rich traditions that have their roots in our faith such as Las Posadas or Our Lady of Guadalupe. During this time of watching, waiting, and preparing for the birth of Our Lord, Jesus, we also get to celebrate his mother and ours by attendance at Mass to celebrate her Immaculate Conception.


This is definitely a busy time of year, and depending on your season of life, you might find it possible to do only a few special celebrations, or your kids might be a bit older and you can do a few more. Regardless, it is our hope that you are able to find a few traditions that you can make your own and help prepare your family for the joy that comes with the celebration of Christmas beginning on December 25th.

## What are your favorite family traditions?

Submit your favorite family Advent Traditions and what you do to celebrate to be included in next month's newsletter. All families who submit will have their name entered into a drawing to win a copy of "All About Advent & Christmas" illustrated by fellow CFAC member, Shari Van Vranken.


*Submissions Due: November 27th at noon*


*Email: [janae@janaespencerphoto.com](mailto:janae@janaespencerphoto.com)*




*All about*  
**ADVENT**  
*& Christmas*  
Sharing the Seasons of  
Hope & Wonder with Children  
By **KATHERINE BOGNER**  
Illustrated & Designed by **SHARI VAN VRANKEN**

*All about Advent & Christmas: Sharing the Seasons of Hope & Wonder with Children* is a resource unlike any other. Explore the rich traditions surrounding Christ's birth as you journey through Scripture to understand the story of salvation and discover the meaning behind many of our celebrations during Advent and Christmas.



 **KATHERINE BOGNER** is a Catholic school teacher from Central Illinois who is passionate about equipping parents, catechists, and teachers to share the beauty and truth of Christ and His Church with children. She is the author of *Through the Year with Jesus* and *Through the Year with Mary*. Visit her website, [LookToHimAndBeRadiant.com](http://LookToHimAndBeRadiant.com), for free lesson plans, printables, and other resources for teaching the faith.

**SHARI VAN VRANKEN** is a graphic designer and illustrator with over thirty years of experience. The creative force behind [CatholicPaperGoods.com](http://CatholicPaperGoods.com), Shari has illustrated and shared the stories of over three hundred saints. She homesteads and homeschools in rural East Texas with her husband and teenage son.



Available for pre-order at [STPAULCENTER.COM](http://STPAULCENTER.COM)

# Around the Diocese

**EXALT**

Wednesday, November 8

**Women's Retreat**

Saturday, March 23

**Student Workshop and Family Bonfire**

Saturday, November 11

**Life Beyond the Chariot-Book Study**

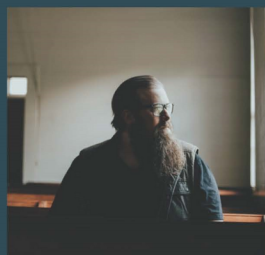
Ongoing November-December



# EXALT

EVER ANCIENT, EVER NEW

An evening of  
Praise and Worship & Adoration  
*with Dave and Lauren Moore*



NOVEMBER 8, 2023 6:30 - 8PM

Chapel of Saints Peter and Paul  
1435 E Southeast Loop 323, Tyler, TX 75702



DAVE AND LAUREN MOORE ARE THE FOUNDERS  
OF CATHOLIC MUSIC INITIATIVE



# STABAT MATER FOUNDATION

Advancing the Culture of Life Through Prayer and Art

## Upcoming Events

- Saturday, October 14 - Adult art class
- Saturday, November 11 - Teen art class followed by family potluck supper and bonfire at farm
- Sunday, December 17 - Annual Lighting of the Voegler Cross

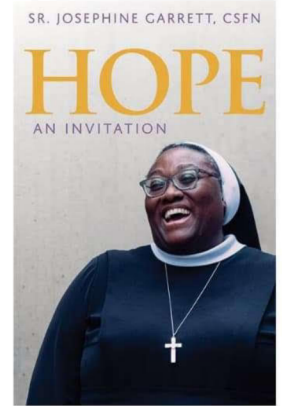
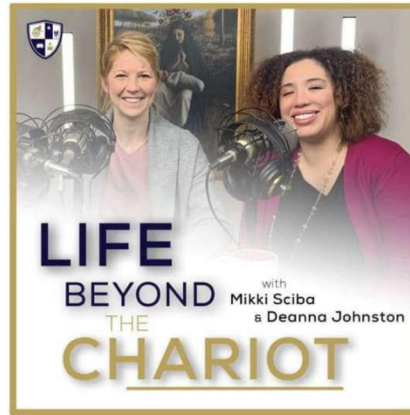
## Where

### Stafford's Meadow Farm

The Vogeler Cross  
15500 Anderson County Road 2418  
Montalba, TX 75853

## For More Details and to Register

Contact **Robert Puschutz** at  
robert@stabatmater.org  
or  
(773) 726-4976



# LIFE BEYOND THE CHARIOT BOOK STUDY 2023

Sign Up at <https://dioceseoftyler.flocknote.com/LBCBookStudy2023>

Registration  
Now Open

# they that *Wait* a women's retreat

they who wait for the Lord shall  
renew their strength. they shall  
mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.  
Isaiah 40:31



**Heather Khym**  
National Speaker, Author of  
"Abide," Co Host of the  
"Abiding  
Together" podcast



**Rachel Bulman**  
National Speaker & Author of  
"Becoming Wife" &  
"With All Her Mind"



**Regina Boyd**  
Licensed Counselor,  
National Speaker & Author of  
"Leaving Loneliness Behind"



**Noelle Garcia,**  
Emcee & Worship Leader  
International Catholic  
Speaker

**Save The Date:** March 23, 2024

**Location:** W.T. Brookshire Conference Center  
2000 W Front Street, Tyler 75702

Visit [stphilipinstitute.org/events](http://stphilipinstitute.org/events) to stay up to date