



# NEWSLETTER



## Welcome, CFAC Families!

Whether your homeschool year is in full swing or just beginning, it's a great time to remember why we do what we do.

As St. John Paul II said, "Life with Christ is a wonderful adventure." Our days may be filled with math, read-alouds, and field trips, but at the heart of it all is a shared journey: growing in faith, forming holy habits, and discovering God's beauty together.

This quarterly newsletter will share upcoming events, ways to connect, and ways to support one another as Catholic homeschooling families.

Welcome to the adventure! It's going to be a great school year!

Cheering you on,

Janae Spencer

Newsletter Editor

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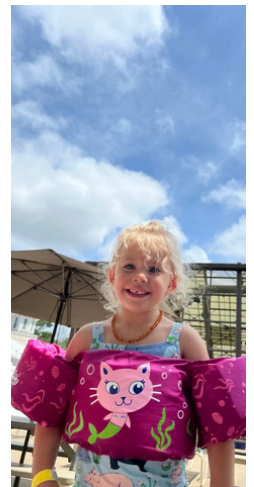
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Around the Diocese



## Looking Back at Summer

We've had a fun and full summer! Highlights included our Mt. Carmel Celebration with a puppet show from our teens and Family Movie Night where over 130 members were in attendance. It's always hard to say goodbye to a CFAC summer, but we're just as excited for the adventures this new season will bring!





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### AUGUST

Youth Social - BINGO!  
Sundaes on Sunday  
Art Museum Field Trip

### SEPTEMBER

Student Picture Day  
Discovery Science Museum  
Heritage Park Museum  
Cookies for First Responders

### OCTOBER

Jubilee Year Pilgrimage  
St. John Paul II Feast Day  
Camp Tyler Wildlife  
Adventure

### NOVEMBER

All Saints Day Mass + Celebration  
Veteran's Day Parade  
Zoo Field Trip  
Tyler State Park Field Trip

### OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**September 5- Homeschool Blessing Mass**

**November 1- All Saints Day Mass**

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



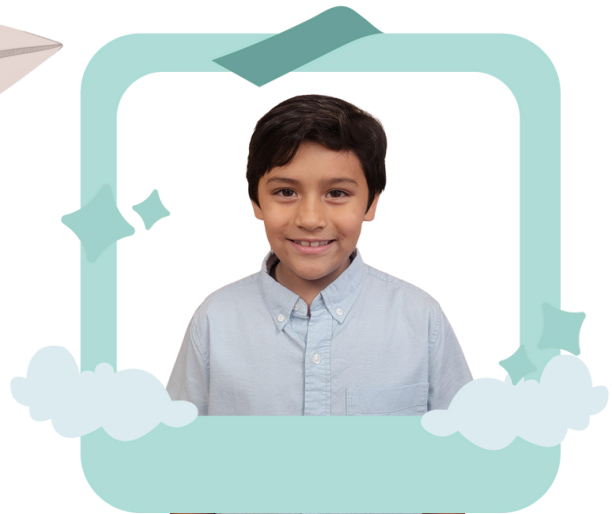
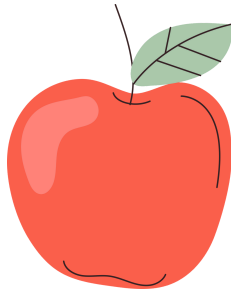
# BACK TO SCHOOL



**MONZERATH, 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**



**ENZO, 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE**



**MARGO, KINDERGARTEN**







**Jacob,  
3<sup>rd</sup> grade**

**What do you want to be when you grow up?**

**"A soccer player."**

**What is your favorite subject? "Gym"**

**Jocelyn,  
6<sup>th</sup> grade**

**What do you want to be when you grow up?**

**"A dancer."**

**What is your favorite subject? "English"**

**Julissa,  
2<sup>nd</sup> grade**

**What do you want to be when you grow up?**

**"A singer."**

**What is your favorite subject? "Art"**

Matteo,  
Pre-K

**What are you looking forward to this year?**  
“Picture Day and Blessing Mass with CFAC”



**Matteo's Prayer for the School Year:**  
“Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom  
God's love commits me here, ever this day be at  
my side, to light and guard, rule and guide.”  
Amen





Lucy,  
Pre-K

**What do you want to be when you grow up?**

"A mommy... A QUEEN!"

**What is your favorite subject?** "Cooking with Mom!"

Jack Henry  
1st grade

**What do you want to be when you grow up?**

"An artist."

**What is your favorite subject?** "Writing"

Walter,  
2 Years Old

**Job?**

"being Mommy's barnacle"

**Back to school tradition?**

"Splash Kingdom as a family"

Thomas,  
2<sup>nd</sup> grade

**What do you want to be when you grow up?**

"A builder like Daddy."

**What is your favorite subject?** "Math"

**Terry,  
Kindergarten**

**What do you want to be when you grow up?**  
“A Transformer”



**What is your favorite subject?**  
“Legos”





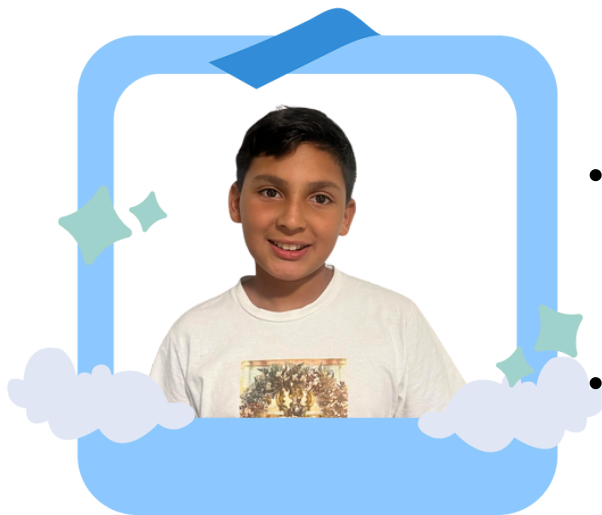
## **RUTH, 4TH GRADE**

- **What do you want to be when you grow up?**  
“A nurse or a police officer”
- **What is your favorite subject?**  
“Art and science”



## **ANDRES, 5TH GRADE**

- **What do you want to be when you grow up?**  
“A welder”
- **What is your favorite subject?**  
“Science and history”



## **OLIVER, PRE-K**

- **What do you want to be when you grow up?**  
“Police officer”
- **What is your favorite subject?**  
“Counting”



### **Family Tradition?**

“Baking a cake together on the first day of school”

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# Back to School Prayer

Dear Lord,

As our children begin a new school year, I pray that you will keep them in your care. Send your Spirit to open their minds to all that is true and beautiful and good. Help them to see the gifts and talents you have given them and to use them well. Help them to grow in knowledge and wisdom. Help them to be kind to others and lead others to be kind to them. Give me patience and understanding and me teach what is just and true. Send your angels to guide and guard our children and to keep them from all harm. Open their young hearts to your presence and enfold them in your peace and protection. Hold them in the palm of your hand and keep them safe, steady, and walking in Your ways.

Amen.

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## Homeschool Blessing Mass

**September 5th @ 12:30 PM**



Celebrant:

**Bishop Gregory Kelly**

St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church

**All are welcome to  
register at:**



Sponsored by the **Diocese of Tyler** and the

**Catholic Family**  
**ADVENTURE CLUB**



# Wisdom for the Way

*an interview with Monse Gomez*

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We are all on different pages of our homeschool journey and it's always nice to hear how our fellow families go about the task of education. Our Montserrat Gomez has been on this journey for a few years and has shared some of her wisdom and encouragement with our community.

## **1. What is something you prioritize at the start of the new year?**

“One priority for me at the start of a new school year was to attend Mass and ask the priest for a blessing. In the weeks leading up to the new year, I had already gathered the books, printed the syllabus, and prepared my weekly calendar. Staying organized and planning ahead are essential to homeschooling.”



## **2. What do you do to keep yourself and your children motivated on tough days?**

“What I learned in my early years of homeschooling is that having and maintaining a good relationship with your child is of greater importance—and more valuable—than academics. On tough days, we would take a break and go for a walk, get ice cream, or play in the backyard. Sometimes I needed that time off too, because we all have those high-stress days. Taking those breaks helped us maintain a strong and beautiful relationship.”



### **3. What criteria do you take into account before selecting a curriculum?**

“From the beginning, I wanted a curriculum that would help me form both the soul and the mind of my son. My goal was never to focus on academics as much as on good formation. Other homeschool moms had shared with me their regret over jumping from one curriculum to another, which only made things harder for themselves and their children, so I took their advice into account when choosing a classical curriculum. From my research, the program that best aligned with my goals was Mother of Divine Grace, and we stayed with it throughout our entire homeschooling journey.”



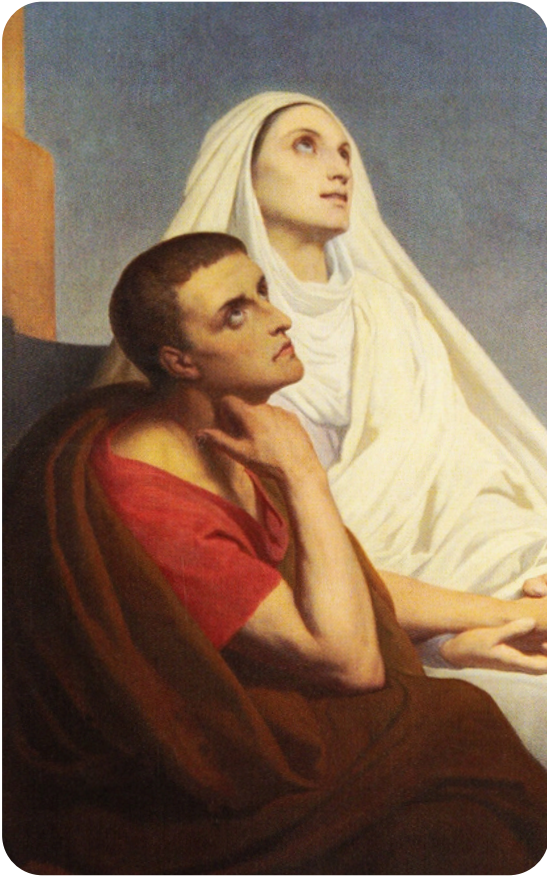
### **4. What would you tell a new-to-homeschooling or soon-to-be homeschooling family?**

“To new homeschooling moms, I would say: enjoy and cherish the honor of educating and forming your children. It is such an amazing season of life. Take them to Mass as often as possible and spend time before the Blessed Sacrament. I truly believe that I only did 1% and God did the other 99%. I prayed for the graces, wisdom, and strength to homeschool my son, and the Lord provided far more than I ever expected. Along this journey, you will grow alongside your children, come to know them more deeply, and develop a beautiful relationship with them. Forming good children for the Kingdom of God is our number one goal, and it should remain our main focus. May God bless you on your homeschool journey!”



## Liturgical Living Corner: Saint Spotlight

The feast of St. Monica is August 27. She is the patron saint of mothers and a special saint to lean on as we kick off another academic year. In our own homes, we can turn to her for help in teaching our children, in our marriages and in our parenting.



### CELEBRATE THE DAY!

- Make “Praying hands pretzels” to honor Monica’s commitment to praying for her husband and son.
- Pray the St. Monica Novena for your family’s special intentions
- Visit the FORMED website for talks and documentaries about both St. Monica and her son St. Augustine

### PRAYER TO ST. GREGORY THE GREAT PATRON OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS FEAST DAY: SEPTEMBER 3

Saint Gregory the Great, your first desire was to love God, to come to know Him through prayer and study, and to serve Him with all your heart. God took what you gave and transformed it into a solid foundation upon which He would continue to grow

His Church. Please pray for me, that my life will always be grounded upon a solid faith so that God can use me in any way He chooses for His glory and the salvation of souls. Saint Gregory the Great, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

# Liturgical Living Corner: Feast Spotlight

## Michaelmas; The Feast of the Archangels

September 29



- This feast highlights St. Michael, St. Raphael and St. Gabriel; however, its origins lie in remembering St. Michael's victory over Satan in the battle for Heaven.
- It was a Church Holyday until the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.
- The name is pronounced "mickle-mus"
- Old legends ties the feast to blackberries. They claim Satan fell from heaven into a blackberry bush. Traditionally, people have celebrated with a dish involving blackberries.
- Bannock bread is the traditional cake linked to the holiday; it originated in Scotland.

### LIVE IT OUT!



Try this easy  
blackberry dessert



Try traditional bannock  
bread!

## Around the Diocese



**EMPOWERING YOUTH**  
TO LIVE CHRIST'S MISSION

**OCTOBER 4TH 2025 • 8AM - 6:30PM**  
**BROOKSHIRE CONFERENCE CENTER**

**REGISTER NOW!**

**WWW.DIOCESEOFTYLER.ORG/DCYC**

**HOMESCHOOL FAMILY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

# FEED MY LAMBS

"Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."  
Matthew 25:40

**THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH**  
**CATHEDRAL CENTER**  
**10:30AM-12:30PM**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050e49a4ac2da57-50699369-homeschool#/>



Have you visited one of the 2025 Jubilee Pilgrimage locations in the Diocese of Tyler? The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Tyler is one of these locations!






# THREE TO GET MARRIED

## *Pregnancy & Infant Loss Remembrance Mass*



**Saturday, October 11  
10:30 A.M.**

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception  
Tyler, TX  
Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Gregory Kelly




### St. Vincent de Paul


2025 Rosary Walk for the Poor

**September 20th 8:30 AM**


**Chapel of Sts. Peter and Paul**



**Pray**



**Walk**



Scan the QR code to donate, buy a T-shirt, or volunteer.  
[svdptyler.info/walk-for-the-poor](http://svdptyler.info/walk-for-the-poor)

**10 Week**

## BIBLE STUDY & SMALL GROUP FOR TEEN GIRLS



**WITH REMM COUNSELING**

The Walking With Purpose ministry Sisters of Strength and BLAZE teen programs bridge the gap between the truths God reveals to us through Scripture and a teen girl's ability to receive those truths in a way that feels relevant to her daily life. These two programs will be our guide for our meetings.

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/REMMBLAZEREGISTRATIONS](https://bit.ly/remmblazeregistrations)

WE'LL TALK ABOUT:

FRIENDSHIPS

IDENTITY

PURPOSE

**DATES: WEEKLY ON MONDAYS  
SEPT 8 - NOV 10**

**TIME:  
6:00pm - 7:00pm**

**WHERE:  
305 W Rusk St, Tyler**

**\$5 PER SESSION (\$50 FOR 10 WEEKS)**

Thank you to catholic charities for obtaining a grant to make this opportunity low cost for families!

**Facilitated by:**  
Toni (Sr Josephine) Garrett, LPC  
(903) 202-0760  
[josephine@remmcounseling.com](mailto:josephine@remmcounseling.com)







# STABAT MATER FOUNDATION

*Advancing the Culture of Life Through Prayer and Art*

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**JOIN US AT THE STUDIO!**

**THE STABAT MATER FOUNDATION IS  
HOSTING  
THE TEXAS NEEDS FATIMA MONTHLY  
ROSARY**

**SUNDAY AUGUST 24, 2025 | 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**AT THE STABAT MATER STUDIO**

**410 S BROADWAY**

**TYLER, TX 75702**

**& SAVE THE DATE!**

**PAINTING WITH OUR LADY AT THE FOOT OF  
THE CROSS:  
A WOMEN'S RETREAT OF PAINTING, PRAYER, AND  
REFLECTION**

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2025 | 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**AT STAFFORD'S MEADOW FARM**

**1500 ANDERSON COUNTY ROAD 2418**

**MONTALBA, TX 75853**

Your day away will include the Holy Rosary (which we always pray at the Vogeler Cross on or near the feast day of Our Lady of Sorrows), a demonstration and painting with Catholic artist Robert Puschautz, a reflection given by Fr. Nick Nappier of the Tyler diocese, and time for Confessions--all in the rolling East Texas countryside!

***Suggested donation of \$20***

**To RSVP and request more information, please call, text, or email Ann**

**Slattery at:**

**301-908-5113**

**[ann@stabatmater.org](mailto:ann@stabatmater.org)**