



# NEWSLETTER



## In this Issue:

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**Welcome CFAC Families**

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**Reflecting on Last Month  
+ Upcoming Events**

---

**New! High School Social  
Events**

---

**New Year, New Adventures +  
Leadership Team Updates:  
Melissa Reaves**

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**The View Looking Back:  
Jennifer Seppi**

## Welcome CFAC Families

Christmas time is here! I learned recently that the Christmas season officially ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 7) and historically it lasted until Candlemas on February 2.

I love that in our Church, Christmas is an entire season- not just a day! As a parent, I appreciate that I can leave up Christmas decorations all month.

You can keep the party going too by joining us at several CFAC events including First Friday Mass + Three Kings Day and a fun field trip to the Planetarium.

May we spend January celebrating our King together with friends and family.

As always, you are in my prayers. Wishing you a blessed Christmas season!

- Janae Spencer  
Newsletter Editor

## Reflecting on Last Month

Last month we celebrated St. Nicholas with a fun-filled morning full of hot chocolate, treats, and fun activities like making orange pomanders and playing soccer outside in the beautiful weather.

We also had another Tween and Teen Service Project Day assembling hygiene bags for senior adults. The bags have already been distributed and the recipients really appreciated them, especially the kind notes.



## Upcoming CFAC Events

**First Friday Mass + Three Kings Day** - Join us for First Friday Mass with a Three Kings Day celebration to follow. The tweens/teens are invited stay for adoration while our younger kids join us in the Parish Hall for a lesson about Three Kings Day, along with related activities. Be sure to bring your lunch and wear your group shirts.

**Tween + Teen Game Night**- Join us for Mass and stay for dinner and fellowship. This has been one of our most requested events; we hope to see all of our tweens and teens there.

**Planetarium Field Trip**- Join us for one of our more popular field trips...a fun and educational morning at the Planetarium complete with movie and space themed activity.

**Third Tuesday Mass** – We meet each third Tuesday for Mass and fellowship, rain or shine! In the case of inclement weather, we'll meet in the Parish Hall for board games.

**Mom's Lunch**- This event is scheduled for February, but it's never too late to make plans. We're looking forward to food, fun, and fellowship just for the moms. Hope to see you there.

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

# New Program!

## High School Social Nights

In an attempt to form a cohesive, supportive, and fun group for our high schoolers, we are creating activities specific to them. This group will be coordinated by Jennifer Seppi and Preeti D'Souza, and supported by Monse Gomez, Christine Squires, and Melissa Reaves.

We will be having activities the third Friday of every month except when there is a tween/teen activity the following Saturday. Our initial plan is to alternate hosting the teens at our homes, where they will be able to socialize, play games, just hang out and have fun together. These evenings are open for the parents to stay and get to know each other as well - the fun isn't just reserved for the high schoolers. Hopefully this will provide some fellowship and support for us - parents and teens - as we pursue our homeschool vocation.

**The first evening is scheduled for February 16 from 6-9pm, sign up and details are on the calendar.**





# New Year, New Adventures

## *A Note from Melissa Reaves, Club Administrator*

Happy New Year!

As we enter into the spring semester, I'm filled with so much excitement about the many upcoming opportunities we have to get together and serve each other in community over the next few months. In addition to our monthly opportunities to celebrate Mass together, meet for park-and-play, and go on a wide variety of field trips, we also will celebrate several Feast Days together, St. Valentine's Day, St. Joseph's Day, and Pentecost.



In the planning stages are several large events where we will serve each other as well as the greater Catholic Homeschool Community in general, a Student Entrepreneur Fair in May and our Annual Used Book Sale in June. We are still actively meeting in small groups with expanded opportunities for both the tween and teen groups and several mom meetups scheduled throughout the semester.

None of these events or programs would be possible without member contributions, and in order to prepare for the next programming year, we are having a member retreat and planning session on April 13th. This event is a mom's retreat and strategy session rolled into one, and it is during this meeting that we will create the template for next year's programs and events. If you have ideas or suggestions, want to get more involved, just want to know what to look forward to next year, please make sure to block off this entire day on your calendar.



## Save the Date

April <b>13</b>	Members Retreat and Planning Session
May <b>4</b>	Student Entrepreneur and Craft Fair
June <b>1</b>	Used Book Sale

# Leadership Team Updates

One of our largest struggles as an actively and quickly growing organization is how to best use and organize our “people power,” this is especially important since we are a co-op, which means that every member must contribute in some way to the good of the community. In response to this need, the Leadership Team is making some changes to how we meet and divide responsibilities.

- **First**, the Leadership Team will now meet monthly, typically the first Friday of each month unless there is a holiday or conflict. The meetings are posted on the calendar and all members are invited to attend, but at a minimum, all members of the leadership will be present. During these meetings we will still handle club business such as present financial and membership reports. Sub-committees are encouraged to meet and do their work during this time if possible so we can streamline communication.
- **Second**, we are actively developing a second tier of leadership in the form of our sub-committees. We currently have an active Liturgical Programming Committee, Membership Committee, and High School Youth Programming Committee.
  - We need to fill out participation in the following committees: Middle School Youth Programming, Prayer and Family Support, and Communication Committee.

We ask **all members** to prayerfully discern how their time and talents might best serve our community and reach out to a member of the Leadership Team. If you are not currently volunteering in some capacity, please email [generalinfo@catholicfamilyadventureclub.com](mailto:generalinfo@catholicfamilyadventureclub.com) with your area of interest and/or expertise.

“A community needs a soul if it is to become a true home for human beings.  
You.. the people must give it this soul” - Pope St. John Paul II

# The View Looking Back

*by Jennifer Seppi, Service Project Coordinator*



Christmas may be a season that is simply exhausting. Beginning with Thanksgiving, lasting through Advent and into the new year, it can be a rollercoaster ride of stress. There is the adjustment to the time change, with shorter days and longer nights. There is a change in the normal rhythm of our schedule with special meal preparations and parties or other holiday activities. There is the quest to find the "perfect" gifts for your loved ones. There are several extra holy days and obligations to attend to. This also marks the half-way point of the school year for many, and this can be good news or bad as we start to look toward the culmination of this year and start to plan the next.

If you will please be so kind as to let me share some thoughts with you that I wish someone had told me long ago when my children were little:

**Take the time to stop and soak in the little moments. Look at the beautiful faces of your children and your spouse - REALLY look at them. When you're at Mass, look down the pew and capture that moment in your mind. It won't always be like that, as those children (and you) get older and "fly away" onto their own adventures.**

**Be fully in the present moment and in that moment find some peace. As the angel announced to the shepherds in Luke 2:14, "...and on earth peace to men of good will."**

May you have a blessed and peaceful Christmas!



# Around the Diocese



**MOM'S MINI DAY RETREAT**  
Hosted by St. Mary Magdalene Mom's Circle Ministry

## "BE STILL"

PRAYER LIFE FOR BUSY MOMS

**EMCEE**



**LESLEY LERMA**

**OUR SPEAKERS**



**DEANNA JOHNSTON**



**MIKKI SCIBA**

Join us for a wonderful afternoon of Faith, Fun, Giveaways, Catered Pretzel Bar, and more!  
Tickets \$10

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 27TH 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM MASS - 5:00 PM**  
ST. MARY MAGDALENE CATHOLIC CHURCH 18221 FM 2493, FLINT, TX 75762

Vanessa Jones  
@Vanessa-Jones-259



**venmo**

Register to attend via [Event Brite](#) or sending \$10 to Vanessa's Venmo

# 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**