



NEWSLETTER



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Have an idea for the newsletter? Then drop a line to Janae Spencer at janae@janaespencerphoto.com.

Welcome CFAC Families

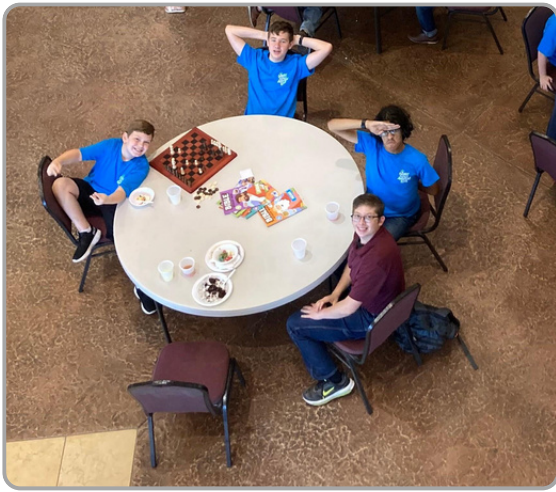
As fall slowly graces us with cooler temperatures, we're excited to present our second newsletter.

To the new families who joined us at our events last month, we extend a heartfelt welcome. Your presence has already enriched our community, and we are blessed to have you with us.

As we look ahead to October, there will be many opportunities for spiritual growth and for bringing families together. We'll be starting a novena to our beloved patron saint, Pope St. John Paul II, and we will have a community potluck to celebrate his feast day. We also have our first field trips for the Tiny Tots and service projects for the Tweens and Teens.

Blessings and prayers for a wonderful and joyful October.

– Janae Spencer
Newsletter Editor



Reflecting on Last Month

We hosted our first annual Homeschool Blessing Mass and community potluck and had an incredible turn out. It was a great way to start the school year.

More highlights include our Sundaes on Sunday for the entire family and our first field trip of the year to the Tyler Art Museum. We also had an impromptu park day to celebrate the temperatures finally dropping below 100 degrees!

Upcoming CFAC Events

First Friday Mass - Join us for First Friday Mass with Park and Play to follow. Please wear CFAC shirts.

Tiny Tot Field Trips- We have two great field trips planned: the Fire Station and the Pumpkin Patch. These events are especially for our younger friends but are open to any member of our club.

Tween and Teen Service Project- Tweens and teens will come together for some good ol' fashioned manual labor helping with projects around Elijah's Retreat.

Feast Day Dinner – Join us for a potluck dinner to celebrate the Feast Day of our Patron Saint, John Paul II. This event is for the whole family.

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



Moms' Advent Retreat & Lunch

NOVEMBER 4 9 AM – 3 PM

Father Gus Tharappel will be leading our morning retreat at the Wellspring Retreat Center as we prepare our hearts and minds for the season of Advent.

Lunch will follow at La Hacienda where we can relax and spend extra time together.

The Retreat is FREE and open to all adult members, but donations for Father Gus and the Retreat Center are highly encouraged.

Registration Required

Wellspring Retreat Center

16828 FM 2964

Whitehouse, TX 75791

La Hacienda

601 State Highway 110 N

Whitehouse, TX 75791

Community Involvement

Nurturing Faith and Community: Our Novena to St. Pope John Paul II - Join us as we participate in a novena to St. Pope John Paul II, leading up to his feast day. Novenas are a beautiful tradition in our faith, offering us nine days of dedicated prayer and reflection. During this time, we draw closer to our patron saint, seeking his intercession and guidance not only for our homeschooling journey but also for the intentions closest to our hearts. May St. John Paul II's teachings and example continue to inspire us in our daily lives as we strive to live out our Catholic faith.

Our novena will begin on October 11, and the prayers can be found in the member forum.

Getting Involved - A strong community is defined by individuals who respect each other, share common values and goals, understand one another's needs—and work together to achieve them.

Since we function as a community, all member families are asked to contribute by accepting some type of role and responsibility toward fulfilling our group's primary objectives.

Over the next month, each member family will be contacted by the leadership team to determine how your family might contribute to the overall well being of the group. Please begin by prayerfully discerning what your family can contribute to the welfare of our group. Currently, we are in need of volunteers to assist with liturgical programs and prayer and family support as well as an active committee of parents to determine the need for and coordinate teen programming.

All will give what they can, and the Lord will fill in the gaps.

Member Spotlight - We are thrilled to shine a spotlight on one of our founding members, Shari Van Vranken. She is the illustrator and designer of Katherine Bogner's new book titled *All About Advent and Christmas- Sharing the Seasons of Hope and Wonder with Children*. Shari's artistic talents breathe life into this book and make it a visual delight for all readers. This is an incredible Advent resource for kids of all ages and preorders are now open.

You can preorder your copy and find more information [here](#)!

To learn more about Shari's business and see more of her work, please visit www.catholicpapergoods.com

We are so proud of her and know that her hard work will bless our community and many other families!



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Community Corner

by Jennifer Seppi, Service Project Coordinator



“Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did to me.”

Matthew 25:40

Caritas is the Latin term for charity, or more precisely, the Christian love of one's fellow man. Our service projects are a way for our youth to have the opportunity to put that love into action. The service projects we are focusing on - hygiene bags and Elijah's Retreat - provide fellowship for our teens and tweens in addition to building virtues.

Our first service activity took place September 22nd at St. Mary Magdalene as we assembled hygiene bags that contained soap, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes. The bags were stuffed in record time as everyone's enthusiasm and competitive spirit emerged. Based on the laughter and smiles, it appeared everyone had a good time as they worked on a project that truly makes a difference in people's lives. As people utilize the resources of St. Mary Magdalene Food Pantry, these bags are an added benefit to meet the needs of those who may not have the means to focus on oral hygiene as a priority. Moving forward our teens and tweens have the freedom to expand on what can be included in the bags, and they can use their creativity to raise funds for the supplies. One thing any family member can do at their leisure is to make small notes to include in the bags with encouraging notes, for example “Have a nice day” or “God loves you” or even just a drawing. Many of the recipients are elderly folks with little contact with others, and it would be meaningful to receive a handwritten note or picture included in the bags. Our next meeting to assemble more bags will be October 27th and again on November 17th.

Our next scheduled tween and teen event will be a service project at Elijah's Retreat in Jacksonville on October 21st. Elijah's Retreat is a safe place for families facing autism to go and enjoy activities that include camping, horseback riding, and enjoying the outdoors. We will be there from 9am-1pm to help with projects that involve manual labor, so it is recommended to wear tennis shoes or boots and clothes that can get a little dirty.

Many times when performing service projects for others, the result is that the ones performing the activity benefit as much as those they are attempting to help. It is a blessing to have the capacity to make this world a better place, actively working as the “hands” of Jesus. Pair that with having a good time with friends, and it doesn't get better than that. Please look for these dates on the calendar, and sign up your tween or teen to participate.



Jennifer



»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, 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, 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**

Around the Diocese

Women's Retreat Registration

Saturday, October 7

Sanctity of Life Dinner

Monday, October 9

Study Scripture with Scott Hahn

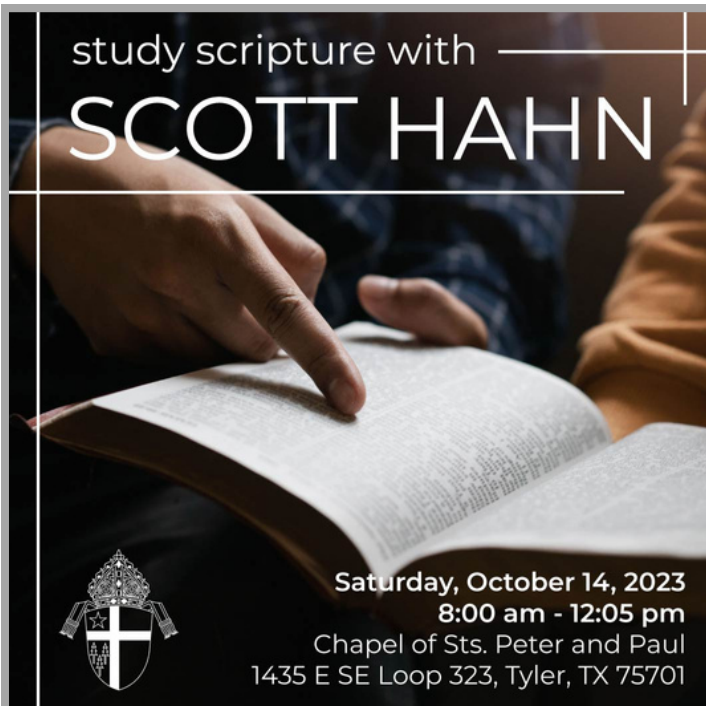
Saturday, October 14

Art Class


Saturday, October 14

Three Stay Married - Money Together

Saturday, October 21



study scripture with
SCOTT HAHN



Saturday, October 14, 2023
8:00 am - 12:05 pm
Chapel of Sts. Peter and Paul
1435 E SE Loop 323, Tyler, TX 75701

**Registration
Starts 10/7**

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 to stay up to date

Three to Stay Married MONEY TOGETHER

Saturday, October 21 | 9 am - 1 pm

St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church (18221 FM 2493, Flint TX 75762)



Are you and your fiancé or spouse ready to embark on a journey that will deepen your connection, align your goals, and unite your financial future? Join us for Money Together, a one-of-a-kind 3-part workshop thoughtfully designed for couples seeking to get on the same financial page.

\$40/couple

Childcare available (pre-registration required).

Light Breakfast & Snacks provided.

Featuring: Jonathan & Amanda Teixeira of **WalletWin**



Contact Deanna Johnston
(Director of Family Life):
djohnston@stphilipinstitute.org
(903) 630-5055 Ext 120



Jonathan and Amanda Teixeira

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT:

<http://stphilipinstitute.org/events>



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 Puschautz** at
robert@stabatmater.org

or

(773) 726-4976



SANCTITY OF LIFE ACTION COMMITTEE



BISHOP STRICKLAND'S SANCTITY OF LIFE DINNER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9

DINNER 6:30 PM

HOLIDAY INN | TYLER, TX

Early Bird Price \$80
(Until Sun. October 1st)
Livestream tickets \$35