



# St. John BEFORE THE LATIN GATE

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## MEET OUR NEW CRE DIRECTOR CAREY AUSCHWITZ *CALLED TO SERVE FOR "A TIME LIKE THIS"*

Are you familiar with the Bible verse, Esther 4:14, which reads: *"Who knows — perhaps it was for a time like this that you became queen?"*

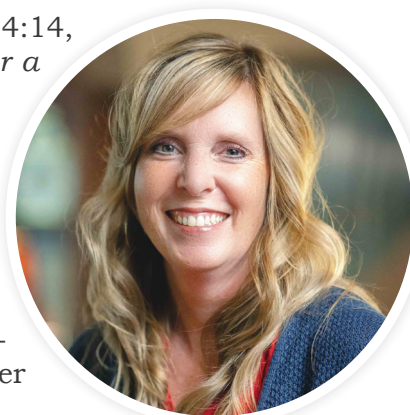
While parishioner, Carey Auschwitz, didn't become a queen, this beloved scripture passage came to mind when she agreed to become the new Children's Religious Education Director for St. James and St. John Before the Latin Gate.

When the opening for the position was first made public, Mrs. Auschwitz says she felt called almost immediately. Yet she was reluctant to leave her beloved position as the second grade catechist.

After many weeks of prayer and discernment, she finally embraced the call and applied for this important position in our parish's Faith Formation program.

"I really struggled with the idea of leaving my position which prepared children for First Communion," says Mrs. Auschwitz. "I just love that age; I love teaching sacramental preparation. But I felt that this was something God was calling me to do. That it was something He'd prepared me for and that this would be a way for me to make a difference in the lives of even more children as opposed to just that one class."

So, Mrs. Auschwitz said, "yes," beginning as the new CRE Director Aug. 1. With her heart and mind now focused on her new role, she is excited to



*New Children's Religious Education Director, Carey Auschwitz, feels blessed to serve.*



## GOOD STEWARDSHIP OF OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

When we are talking about the idea of stewardship and how we care for the tools and gifts we have been given, it is not often that we stop to have a conversation about how we are caring for and using the gift of social media to positively spread Gospel values. However, this is an appropriate topic for us to consider when we are talking about the many young people, as well as adults, who gather online on a frequent basis. Therefore, it is important for us to think about how we are using the amazing gifts of technology.

If you are frequently online — especially on Pinterest — there is a popular acronym that you may have already come across. While it is used in many different contexts, it seems very appropriate to follow as we find ourselves posting statuses and pictures on various social media sites. The acronym is T.H.I.N.K., and it invites us to consider what we are saying and sharing, and whether or not it should be said!

Is what we are posting:

**True?** Are we sharing factual information or a rumor that we heard, and if we think our information is factual, what is our source? Is it trustworthy?

**Helpful?** Is the information we are sharing something that can be useful to another person? We don't need to over-examine all of our content to consider its "educational factor," but is the content we are posting going to help someone learn about

us, learn about a place or an activity, think about the world, reflect on life, engage us in laughter, and so forth?

**Inspirational?** There is certainly no requirement to be a poet or an artist, but social media has become a wonderful outlet for positive self-expression. "Positive" is the key word — are we posting to inspire others about the good in our world, or are we posting to cut someone down or to simply rant?

**Nice?** Have we considered the feelings of others when we include them in a status or post a picture of them? Will they be embarrassed? Are we using social media to humiliate and intimidate others, or are we using it to try to better the world and the lives of others?

**Kind?** What a great tool to compliment, show gratitude, and build the self-esteem of those you care about!

People often speak of social media in a negative way because of the content they see posted. T.H.I.N.K. is a great way for us to remind ourselves that we can be good stewards of our own social media use. A major part of living out the Gospel has to do with the positive way we approach this life and bring God's light and love to others — and we can do just that by sharing an uplifting status on Facebook, a Tweet of gratitude to a friend, or a beautiful image of God's inspiring creation on Instagram. What a great way to build the Kingdom of God!

## A Letter From Our Pastor BEING GOOD STEWARDS OF OUR PERSONAL HARVEST

Dear Parishioners,

October is that special time of year when the summertime heat has long since broken and fall is in the air.

For most of the country, October also brings the completion of harvest. Although most Americans live in urban areas and many of us seldom ever see a farm, the foods we all eat — fruits and vegetables, meats, milk, and the grain for our bread — come from farms and ranches across America and around the world.

Some of us may feel completely detached from farm life and think that the harvest has little to do with us, but we are all connected with agriculture more closely than we realize. The success of the harvest affects the prices we pay; and if the harvest were to fail completely, there would soon be nothing available to put on our grocery shelves.

In the Old Testament world, most people were farmers, and the Israelites were to bring offerings to God from the harvest of their fields and flocks. The success of the harvest directly affected their wellbeing during the next year. At their agricultural festivals, "the measure of your own freewill offering shall be in proportion to the blessing the Lord, your God,



has bestowed on you" (Dt 16:10) they were told.

The same holds true for us. We may not have a harvest of fruits or grains, but we do receive a return for our own labor, whether it is in a factory, an office, a classroom, or wherever. And, we also are invited by God to return a portion to Him for His glory and our own spiritual welfare, in proportion to the blessings we have received.

It's ultimately a choice we make. Are we going to hoard everything we get, or are we going to share our Time, Talent and Treasure, which all are ultimately gifts that God gives us?

The Israelites brought the "first fruits of the various products" (Dt 26:2) they raised. Are we, as stewards, going to return the first fruits, rather than the leftovers, to God? What choice will you make?

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. John O'Neill  
Pastor

## DON'T FORGET TO RETURN YOUR COMMITMENT CARD!

*The 2019 Stewardship Renewal is ongoing. Please remember to turn in your commitment cards to the parish as soon as possible.*

*We appreciate your willingness to participate in this year's renewal. The more we grow to embrace and understand the stewardship way of life, the more our parish will flourish and grow!*



## MEET CASSIE REBEOR — Our New Youth Director

Middle school. High school. The teenage years can often be a confusing and overwhelming stage in the journey of life. As a parish family, it is our job to step up and walk alongside our young people, teaching them about our faith and empowering them to live a life of Christian discipleship.

With this vision and heart, we welcome Cassie Rebeor as our parish's new Youth Director. Having recently graduated from Louisiana Tech University with a degree in Family and Child Studies, Cassie's first experience with youth ministry was as an adult volunteer. Although she was born Catholic, Cassie fell away from the faith in middle school and through most of high school, returning to the Church shortly before college. Once at college, Cassie became involved in campus ministry, which not only strengthened her own faith, but also gave her an opportunity to serve, at the local parish youth group.

"I just fell in love with youth ministry and was



Cassie first experienced youth ministry serving as an adult volunteer at the parish she attended in college.

like, 'This is what I want to do,'" says Cassie. "I just knew, that this is what I wanted to do with my life - serve the youth of the Church."

Cassie plans to incorporate the ideas and priorities of our young people in the vision of Bartlesville Catholic Youth Group, which will serve the youth of both St. John and St. James parishes. Over the summer, Cassie had the opportunity to meet with our youth and hear what they wanted from youth ministry.

"This is their group. I'm there to help guide their vision and help them develop an adult faith," says Cassie. "That's what I believe youth group is for."

"They're pretty excited," she added. "They want more training in apologetics, they want more mission trips, they want more vocations talks. My goal is to give as much to them as possible. They have a great foundation, they're ready for more, and I'm ready to give them more."

The high school youth ministry program will continue to meet each week on Sunday evenings and with a monthly event for our middle school students. There will also be additional opportunities for service in the community, as well as annual trips such as the March for Life and the Steubenville Youth Conference.

Cassie hopes that, through youth ministry, our young people will come to know God's love, as well as the support of the Church.

"My big thing is, 'You're loved, you're appreciated, you're wanted and you're not alone,'" says Cassie. "I want them to know you're never alone, because the Church is your family and you're never going to be abandoned, no matter what happens."

"I hope they know that, no matter what's happening in their lives, they always have God and the Church," she adds.

Cassie encourages adult members of the parish to support our youth ministry, both in sharing ideas, as well as considering serving our young people, as part of the adult core team.

"I'm looking for people who love the Church, love their faith, and want to share their journey and faith," says Cassie, "People who are willing to give of themselves to the next generation of Catholics."

Cassie looks forward to becoming part of our community and working together to support the youth of our parish.

"I'm going to give the Church and the youth 100 percent of myself," says Cassie. "They're not just the 'future' of the Church, they are the Church and they deserve all of our support. Working together as a parish, we can do amazing things."

"This is just such an amazing community," she adds. "And I want to be a part of it."

For more information or to become involved in our youth ministry program, or if you're interested in volunteering as part of our adult core team, please contact our Youth Director Cassie Rebeor at 918-336-4353 or bartlesvillecatholicyouth@gmail.com.

### New CRE Director Carey Auschwitz *continued from front cover*

continue working alongside her fellow catechists to build up this next generation of Catholic leaders. She hopes to create a warm and welcoming environment where our Pre K through eighth grade children can come to know, love, and serve God more fully. Mrs. Auschwitz also desires to help shape the environment where the children can gain a greater sense of Catholic community and begin to understand their irreplaceable role within the Church.

"I really want them to get to know each other, forming their own sense of Catholic community, and to become strong in their faith — to help them draw closer to God and to ensure that when these kids are out and about they maintain this sense of connection to the parish community," she says.

Children's Religious Education classes officially began on Wednesday, Aug. 28 and will continue throughout the school year weekly from 6:00-7:15 p.m. at St. James Catholic Church. The goal is not only to teach the kids about the faith, but also to help them live it in their daily lives.

Mrs. Auschwitz says this is essential, particularly during the middle school years when many of our children are internally making long-term decisions about their beliefs in God and the Church.

"The children are the future of our faith and it has been shown in studies that most of the kids who decide to leave the church decide to do so during their middle and high school years," Mrs. Auschwitz says. "It is so important that we work with our children

and help them form a solid faith foundation, so that they continue to grow and continue being active members of the Church throughout their life."

That's why Mrs. Auschwitz plans to focus particularly on enhancing the CRE middle school program over the next year, working to create an even more vibrant and solid curriculum during these crucial years.

Feeling deeply privileged by her new position, Mrs. Auschwitz hopes and prays to be able to make as much of a difference as possible in the lives of these children.

"We really want to help give them that firm foundation, to create a bond that will help them with the many changes they're about to be going through in life," she says.

For more info about the Children's Religious Education program, registration, or volunteering, please contact CRE Director Carey Auschwitz at crebartlesville@gmail.com or 918-335-0844.



## THE STEWARDSHIP OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

He was born as Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone in Assisi, Italy, in 1181 or 1182 and died at the age of 44 in 1226. In spite of his given name, his father was traveling in France at the time of his birth, so he opted to call him Francesco, which means “the Frenchman.” We, of course, know him as St. Francis of Assisi, whose feast day we celebrate on Oct. 4. To say that he is among the most revered of our Catholic saints would be an understatement.

In their pastoral letter *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops states, “After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward.” Our Catholic saints also provide us examples of what it means to be a steward, but perhaps none more than St. Francis of Assisi. Like the Lord and His Blessed Mother, St. Francis exemplified stewardship.

We were reminded of that fact when our Holy Father chose the name Francis. The pope explained his choice in this way: “For me he [Francis] is the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and safeguards Creation. He is a man who gives us this spirit of peace.” From the time he was a boy, Francis recognized that he was gifted — he also understood that he needed to put his gifts at the service of God and others. One of his followers, Brother Leo, was fond of telling that he could hear Francis praying at night, and that St. Francis used the same prayer over and over. It was, “Oh God, Who are You, and who am I?”

Striving to come to an understanding of his relationship with God, and his role as a disciple of the Lord, St. Francis tried to rid himself of all the things that might prevent him from discovering his role in the Kingdom. Early on, he embraced poverty as a way of life. By eschewing possessions, Francis maintained that his voluntary poverty gave him freedom, freedom from owing anyone other than God, and thus giving him the complete freedom to serve God.

We speak of the Four Pillars of Stewardship — Hospitality, Prayer, Formation and Service. The life St. Francis embraced and the life he lived can almost be defined by those pillars. Francis and the community he developed did not accept money —

they worked for enough food to eat for that day, or for water, or for a place to sleep. His example coerces us to ask, “Are there possessions that restrict us, that hinder our ability to be a disciple?”

St. Francis dedicated his entire life to imitating the life of Christ and to carrying out the work of the Lord as he, Francis, perceived Christ would do it. Of course, St. Francis had ultimate love of the Eucharist, and great respect for the priests who carried out this sacrament. As stated, poverty became a way of life for him. In fact, in his last written work, *The Testament*, Francis stated that personal and corporate poverty were essential as the lifestyle for the members of his Order.

Francis was a steward of all creation. He believed that nature and what it represented was the “mirror of God.” Most representations we see of Francis have animals with him and surrounding him. He called all creatures his “sisters” and “brothers.” He had particular love of birds, and was known to preach to them. As a steward and a disciple of Christ, St. Francis viewed all people with love and respect. He said, “How can I be a friend of Christ if I do not cherish those for whom Christ died?”

It is difficult to assess all the ways that St. Francis has influenced our faith and our practice of it. His desire to be Christ-like provides a stewardship example to us that makes clear to us how to move toward holiness. He had the humility of a complete servant. He once said, “If God can work through me, He can work through anyone.” Although the famous prayer attributed to St. Francis is most likely not a direct quote from him, it well represents his philosophy and his sense of stewardship. In part it states, “Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love, for it is in giving that we receive.” Through stewardship, we give — and what we receive in return, just as was the case with St. Francis of Assisi, is beyond our comprehension.



## PRAY DURING THE 40 DAYS FOR LIFE VIRGIN MARY AN EXAMPLE OF LIFE FOR ALL OF US

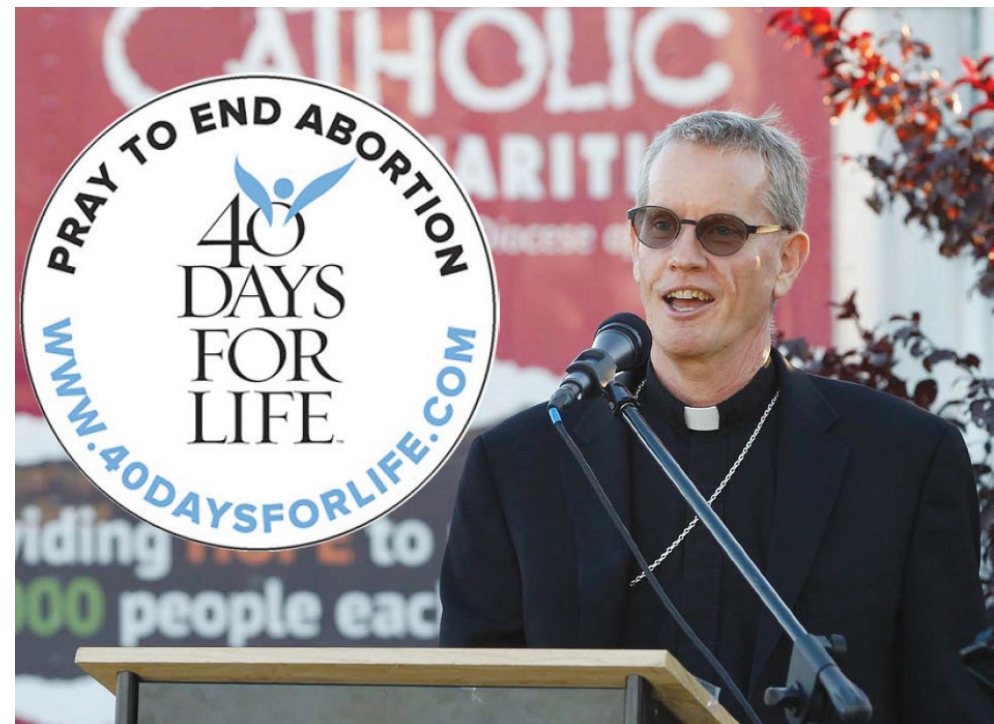
As we celebrate Respect Life Month in October, there are many saints to whom we can draw inspiration from and to whom we can call upon for their intercession through prayer, such as St. Gerard and St. Gianna Beretta Molla.

But, the most important saint to choose life was Our Blessed Mother.

“She ultimately chose life, and because she did, her Son, our Lord and Savior, was born for our salvation,” says GoLife Mobile Medical Executive Director Karen C. Guzman.

GoLife Mobile Medical is a non-profit organization made up of life-affirming citizens in the Metro Tulsa area. Through the use of a mobile medical facility and with on-staff certified medical professionals, GoLife offers free ultrasounds, life affirming resources and pregnancy tests. The organization is coordinating this year’s 40 Days for Life on behalf of the Diocese of Tulsa. This year, the commemoration of the 40 Days in our diocese will be held Sept. 25 through Nov. 3. Fr. John spoke at this year’s kickoff rally on Sept. 24.

Although she was frightened, Mary’s bravery for choosing life for Jesus is an example for us all — a shining example of just how important life is. Through prayer during the 40 Days for Life — and through Our Blessed Mother’s intercession



Bishop David Konderla speaks at the 40 Days for Life Kickoff in 2018

— we can help advance pro-life issues.

“We are asking parishes to take at least one day, 24 hours,” Karen says. “We also want to have parishioners sign up for hours to pray at the Garden of Hope.” Please keep an eye on the bulletin to see when St. John’s day will be.

The Garden of Hope is a place of prayer managed by the diocese. People often gather there to pray for the respect of all human life, from conception to natural death. People also pray for women who are experiencing an unexpected pregnancy.

Karen says respecting life for all is respecting the Body of Christ.

“The killing of human life, no matter what age or stage in life, goes against our Creator and the dignity and sanctity of life,” Karen says. “Who are we to ‘play God’ and decide who should and should not be allowed to exist?”

Check the bulletin for information on the March for Life on January 19, 2020, as it approaches. We will once again be sending a group of youth from the parish to be part of this event. The March for Life is a peaceful demonstration held

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# St. John BEFORE THE LATIN GATE

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Office: (918) 336-4353 | [www.stjohn-bartlesville.org](http://www.stjohn-bartlesville.org)



## Pray During the 40 Days For Life *continued from page 7*

around the United States to unite pro-lifers to advocate for life, celebrated around the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court decision that decriminalized abortion.

To get more involved, GoLife promotes and trains sidewalk advocates who pray and intervene on behalf of those choosing abortion in Tulsa.

“Our office is strategically located across the street from the only abortion facility in Tulsa and we train the advocates and their prayer partners using the peaceful, prayerful method when trying to reach women and men heading to the abortion clinic,” Karen says.



*Youth gather with Bishop David Konderla at the 40 Days for Life Kickoff in 2018.*

To find out more about GoLife Mobile Medical, visit [www.GoLife.org](http://www.GoLife.org).  
For more information on 40 Days for Life, March for Life or becoming a sidewalk advocate, contact Karen C. Guzman at 918-518-0648 or [karen@golifemobilemedical.com](mailto:karen@golifemobilemedical.com).

### LITURGY SCHEDULE

**Saturday:** 5 p.m. | **Sunday:** 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. (en Español)

**Tuesday:** 7 a.m. (chapel) | **Wednesday:** 5:15 p.m. (church) | **Thursday:** 7 a.m. (chapel)

**Friday:** 8:15 a.m. (church during school year/non-school days in chapel)

**Reconciliation:** Saturday: 4-4:45 p.m. | Sunday: 12:30-1:15 p.m.