



# NEWSLETTER



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## Welcome CFAC Families

As summer break begins to wind down, it's time to gear up for another fun year with CFAC.

In this August edition of our newsletter, we reflect on all the fun summer events that kept our community engaged over the past few months. From Splash Pad days and Skating Rink Parties to our fun Family Movie Nights, it's been a summer to remember!

Looking ahead to the upcoming school year, we have a packed calendar filled with exciting events to help you ease back into the academic routine. Be sure to check out our sneak peek of upcoming events, including a note from our director and tips on how to make the most of your membership.

Thank you for being a vital part of Catholic Family Adventure Club. We are blessed to share this journey with you and look forward to all the blessings the new school year will bring. Have a joyful and blessed transition into the new school year!

- Janae Spencer  
Newsletter Editor

# From the Director

*Melissa Reaves, August 1, 2024*

**“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”**

**Matthew 18:20**



As we begin our third year, I can't help but be amazed by how many God moments are a part of the Catholic Family Adventure Club story, but it's only in looking back that you can see it all so clearly.

Our community began with a simple need - a group of new friends looking to find Catholic friendship and homeschool support. We all had wildly different views on parenting, homeschooling, and even politics, and our families looked different in everything from the number of children to the ages of our kiddos. Those worldly differences could have been the end of our fledgling friendship; however, it was our Catholic faith and a love for our families that continued to bring us together. Each of us was looking to fill a need for our family, and we understood that the best way for us to do that was together through faithful friendship.

Over time, new friends have joined this community and some, no longer looking to fill those same needs, have left. However, our mission remains unchanged.

**.. bring Catholic homeschooling families together in community for mutual support and social connection, with the greater goal of enhancing His Church Militant and nurturing the future of the Church.**

What continues to be clear is that our mission cannot be carried out by a select few; we must continue to work together. For us to flourish, you, and all our member families, must engage with one another in a spirit of cooperation. We are a community called to serve one another, and each family, from the youngest child to the parents, leaves a mark on this community by virtue of their contributions. In looking back, it is easy to see where God has beautifully orchestrated the right people for the right job at the right time as our community has grown.

A group of this size requires that all member families contribute in some way, and I would ask that you prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to serve this community over the next year. As a homeschooling mom of seven, I understand “seasons of life,” and over the next few weeks the Leadership Team and I will be reaching out to determine how your family can support the community during this season of your family’s life.

I want to thank those men and women who have selflessly given of their time, talents, and treasure over the last two years. This summer alone I estimate that over 1500 hours have gone towards meeting the administrative needs of such a large, actively growing community (now registered non-profit) and planning the over 80 events and activities on the programming calendar. This couldn’t have been accomplished without a lot of support from husbands, wives, patient children, and a whole lot of God’s grace - truly a family contribution.

As we begin this new year, I continue to feel blessed to be a part of this community and serve you by my participation in it as Director. I have had the opportunity to meet so many lovely, faithful Catholics, and I’m so excited to meet you and your family and introduce you to mine.

Melissa



## Reflecting on the Summer

It's clear that our community made the most of summer with a fantastic array of events. Our Used Book Sale was a great success, allowing families to exchange resources and gear up for the new school year. Family Movie Nights were a fun way to enjoy time (and snacks!) together. Our Splash Pad Days and Lake Day were a splash-tastic hit, offering much-needed relief from the summer heat and a chance for kids to play and make memories. There were so many events throughout the summer for teens and tweens to get together or for our hardworking moms to enjoy a relaxing evening together.



Thank you to everyone who participated and made these events memorable. We hope you all had as much fun as we did!



## Upcoming CFAC Events

Over the last few months, the Leadership Team and our Community Collaborators, a dedicated group of core volunteers, have spent countless hours meeting, brainstorming, and planning for a year's worth of events and activities that will support the many needs of our actively growing community. You will have a chance to meet them and learn about what they have planned at the Member Meeting. It must be said that without them and their efforts, our programming calendar would not be as robust; a special thank you to all of these hard working volunteers.

**Member Meeting**-This is the only required event on the calendar, and it is not meant to be a burden, but rather an opportunity. An opportunity for all of our members to gain a better understanding of our mission as a community and the tools that we have available to help families make the most out of your membership.

Barring unforeseen circumstances such as illness, we ask that at least one parent representative of each family be in attendance. Childcare is being provided for those who would not otherwise be able to attend, but registration for childcare is required.



**Assumption of Mary** - Join us in celebrating Mass for the Assumption of Mary at followed by fellowship. Kids are encouraged to bring a flower pot for a special activity.

**Monthly Mass** - Join us for our 3rd Tuesday group Mass. Bring your swimsuits and lunch to enjoy the last of the summer days at the Splash Pad.

**Youth Meet and Greet** - The Quest and Voyage Leaders will be hosting a get together for our youth ages 10-18. This evening will begin with the youth having an opportunity to attend Mass together followed by food, fun, and fellowship. We are looking forward to giving them an opportunity to get to know one another prior to the start of the Friday Fellowship opportunities.

**Sundaes on Sunday** - What better way to get to know each other than with ice cream sundaes on a hot Sunday night? This event on August 2th is open to the entire family, and will be our first opportunity to gather together as an entire community. We will use this time to chat with old friends and make new friends. T-shirts will be distributed during this time and we'll have some fun activities for the whole family.

**Choir Practice** - This rehearsal is for those students (ages 8-18) who signed up to participate in the choir for the Homeschool Blessing Mass on Friday, September 6th. You must attend both rehearsals to participate in the choir.

**Broadcast Museum Field Trip** - Join us at Texas Broadcast Museum, which offers an eclectic mix of vintage broadcast memorabilia and equipment, which is sure to delight the young and old alike.

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



# Making the Most of your Membership

There are three keys to getting the most out of your family's membership in CFAC.

## **Key 1- Knowing and Using the Tools Appropriately**

### *Family Portal*

The Family Portal is your key to all of the necessary communication tools used by our community. This is where you can learn about and register for events, communicate with the group via the discussion forums, download a membership roster, and more.

To log in to this secure, member's only side of the website, use the credentials you provided when you signed up. If you have forgotten your username or password, simply click on "Forgot Username?" or "Forgot Password?"

### *The Atlas: The CFAC Member Handbook*

The Atlas, which is also found on the Family Portal, details everything you need to know as a member of the Catholic Family Adventure Club community. It includes important information such as our illness and weather policies, information about how the group's Leadership Team is structured, contact information for the Leadership Team, a copy of the Code of Conduct, etc.

Perhaps the most important part of the Member Handbook are the detailed instructions on how to use the Family Portal for those who are not as comfortable navigating technology.

### *CFAC Signal Group*

While the Family Portal is the official means of communication for the group, some members have found it beneficial to utilize text messaging via the Member's Only Signal Group to communicate information that requires a quick response. Examples include: emergency prayer requests, last minute park meetups, etc.

Not all of our members choose to use Signal, and we ask that information, which should be shared with the entire group, be distributed via the forum in addition to Signal.

## Key 2 Active Participation in Events

With approximately 80 events and activities scheduled during the next 10 months, there are ample opportunities to gather together in community with other faithful Catholics. Here are a few suggestions for making the most out of those opportunities.

1. Meet new people. Get out of your comfort zone and introduce yourself to someone new and make it a point to seek out faces you've never seen before. This action is where the seeds of new friendship are planted.
2. Encourage your children to meet new people. It's easy to hangout with the people you already know and it is a challenge to get to know others, but what a beautiful life skill we give our kids when we encourage them to get to know others. This is the first step in developing our youth to be disciples.
3. Seek out the person responsible for the event or activity and ask them if they need help. Let them know you are available to pitch in and help with set up, clean up, or whatever they need. And always remember to say thank you. A lot of time and effort goes into each and every one of our events and activities; time that they chose to spend on your behalf; please don't forget to express your gratitude.



## Key 3 Get Involved

You and your family will get out of your experience what you're willing to put into it.

Most of us belong to other groups and organizations in the area. If you know of an event or activity taking place in the greater Catholic or homeschool community, share it as appropriate with the rest of our community.

Share your resources and knowledge freely with the community. If you have a skill or resource that can be used to support the administrative needs of our community or the programming committees, reach out to the Leadership Team so we can get you involved.



# Liturgical Living Corner: August

## Liturgical Living Resource



**IMMACULATE HEART VEGGIE AND FRUIT PLATTERS**  
from Catholic All Year

**INGREDIENTS**

- Red Fruits and Veggies (for the hearts):
  - Strawberry halves, watermelon cubes, raspberries, cherries, red bell pepper slices, radish halves, tomato slices, cherry tomatoes
- Yellow and Orange Fruits and Veggies (for the fire):
  - Orange wedges, cantaloupe slices, peach slices, mango slices, pineapple spears or chunks, baby carrots, yellow and orange bell pepper slices, yellow tomato slices, yellow cherry tomatoes
- Immaculate Heart Decoration (flowers and leaves):
  - Mini marshmallows, large marshmallows cut into rounds, mint leaves, fresh mozzarella balls in ciliengine or pearl size, basil leaves

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Select your red fruits or vegetables as a base and form them into a heart shape on a plain clear or white platter. It's best to get the pieces close together and mounded up a bit. If you'd like to use different options on the same platter, they can be mixed or arranged in stripes or concentric hearts. Select a yellow and/or orange fruit or veggie for fire. These can be arranged just coming out of the top, or also as a radiating border going all the way around the heart. Then add the cross at the top and the thorns across the middle of the Sacred Heart, and the flowers and leaves across the middle of the Immaculate Heart. Toothpicks or sword-shaped skewers can be used to serve.

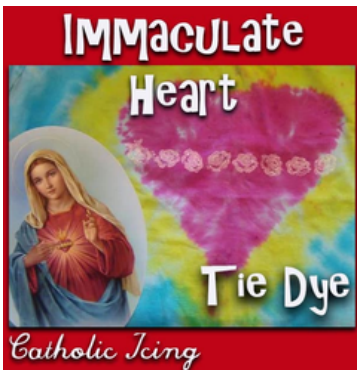
**Mint Watermelon Immaculate Heart**

- A mound of watermelon cubes with orange wedge fire, and large marshmallows cut into rounds with mint leaves for the flowers. Optional: drizzle with lime juice and sprinkle with a bit of salt and/or cayenne pepper.

**Caprese Salad Immaculate Heart**

- A heart-shaped mound of cherry tomatoes, with a line of ciliengine-size fresh mozzarella ball and basil leaf flowers across the middle. On a larger platter, you can create a border of mozzarella and basil to include more. Drizzle with olive oil and balsamic vinegar.

### Web Links to more!



Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

# August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- 6 Transfiguration of the Lord
- 8 St Dominic, Priest
- 14 St Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr
- 15 Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 23 St Rose of Lima, Virgin
- 24 St Bartholomew, Apostle
- 28 St Augustine, Bishop and Church Doctor
- 29 Passion of St John the Baptist

**Catholic Family ADVENTURE CLUB**

[Download phone wallpaper](#)



# AUGUST

## The Immaculate Heart of Mary



O Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
full of goodness,  
show your love towards us.  
Let the flame of your heart,  
O Mary, descend on all people.  
We love you immensely.  
Impress true love in our hearts  
so that we have a continuous desire for you.  
O Mary, gentle and humble of heart, remember us when we are in  
sin.  
You know that all men sin.  
Give us, by means of your Immaculate Heart, spiritual health.  
Let us always see the goodness of your motherly heart  
and may we be converted by means of the flame of your heart.  
Amen.



Flames symbolize Mary's burning love for both her Son and for all of us!

Roses symbolize Mary's Immaculate Conception, her sinlessness and perpetual virginity.

The sword symbolizes Mary's sorrow at Jesus' suffering.

*And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. (Luke 2:19)*

# Around the Diocese



## Homeschool Community Mass

SEPTEMBER 6TH @ 11 AM  
WITH POTLUCK TO FOLLOW

Organized by:



**Catholic Family  
ADVENTURE CLUB**

A HOMESCHOOL COMMUNITY

Register Here  
[www.catholicfamilyadventureclub.com](http://www.catholicfamilyadventureclub.com)

## EUCCHARISTIC YOUTH RALLY



**with first class relic of  
Blessed Carlo Acutis**

Teens ages 13-18 are invited to join us as we discover over 130 Eucharistic Miracles with Blessed Carlo Acutis who cataloged them online while a young teen!

Evening led by Michael Edwards, director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry in Salt Lake City, Utah

Parents and families welcome.  
Please bring a snack to share.

**August 17, 2024**  
6:30pm - 8pm  
St Gregory School Gym  
Broadway St Entrance

## Josh Blakesley

***Praise & Worship Night!***  
**Saturday, August 10**  
**7:00 - 8:30 p.m.**  
**St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church**  
18221 FM 2493, Flint, TX 75762



Josh Blakesley has acknowledged a simple calling: To make music that moves people into prayer and action. Please join us for an evening of Praise & Worship.

**FREE ENTRANCE**  
Donations appreciated!  
Reserve your seats **HERE**



FOOD TRUCKS WILL BE ON SITE!





# THREE TO STAY MARRIED



28  
**SEPTEMBER**  
9:30AM-2:00PM



SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH  
503 N QUEEN ST. PALESTINE, TX 75801



**REGISTER NOW**



[WWW.DIOCESEOF TYLER.ORG/EVENTS](http://WWW.DIOCESEOF TYLER.ORG/EVENTS)



(903) 534-1077 x137



PRESENTER:  
MARIBEL LAGUNA MA, LPC-S

The acclaimed exhibit of Blessed Carlo Acutis

## *Miracles of the Eucharist*

an exhibition of Eucharistic miracles from around the world



### Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Cathedral Center, 423 S. Broadway, Tyler, Texas

Friday, August 16, 2024

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Saturday, August 17

12:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Sunday, August 18

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Relic of Blessed Carlo to be present for veneration

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/8050F49A4AC2DA57-FEED#./](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050f49a4ac2da57-feed#/)

PAINTING WITH OUR LADY AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

*A Women's Retreat of Painting, Prayer, and Reflection*

SEPTEMBER 14

STAFFORD'S MEADOW FARM

## PAINTING WITH OUR LADY

### *At the Foot of the Cross*

Will include Rosary, demonstration and painting with Catholic artist Robert Puschautz, and talk by a priest. Lunch will be provided.

More details to come! Questions? Email [Robert@StabatMater.org](mailto:Robert@StabatMater.org)

FALL ART WORKSHOP FOR ADULTS

OCTOBER 12

STAFFORD'S MEADOW FARM



Enjoy a day of painting at the Stabat Mater Foundation's headquarters on beautiful Stafford's Meadow Farm. Gain key insights into naturalistic painting. And meet other folks who love art

More details to come! Questions? Email [Robert@StabatMater.org](mailto:Robert@StabatMater.org)