



NEWSLETTER



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Welcome CFAC Families

As we get into the rhythm of a new school year, I find myself reflecting on the blessings and challenges that this year will hold. In these moments, I often recall a verse my dad prayed over me every day before school:

"May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; may the Lord lift His countenance upon you and give you peace." – Numbers 6:24-26

These words serve as a gentle reminder that no matter how busy or overwhelming our days may get, God's love and grace are ever-present, guiding us through each moment. As we step into this new season, I pray that this blessing resonates with you and your family as well, bringing you peace and confidence in the path you've chosen.

In this edition of our newsletter, we reflect on the summer, share some wonderful back-to-school photos and stories from our community, and offer some tips to help you make the most of the upcoming school year.

Thank you for being a part of our Catholic Family Adventure Club!

- Janae Spencer
Newsletter Editor

Back-to-School Spotlight: Celebrating Our CFAC Families

As we kick off a new school year, we're excited to highlight some incredible CFAC members. From seasoned homeschool veterans to those just starting out, our families bring a wealth of experience, creativity, and love to their homeschooling journeys. Here's a peek into the lives of three families who are navigating the joys and challenges of homeschooling!

The Pizzolatto Family: 30 Years of Homeschooling Wisdom

Who's homeschooling?

- 1 kid, age 16

Homeschooling since?

- 1994

Their story:

Marie and her family have been homeschooling for 30 years. She started homeschooling her oldest in 1994 and is currently homeschooling her youngest who will finish next June!

Even before she was married, Marie knew she wanted to homeschool her children. Marie recalls, "Close friends in South Louisiana started homeschooling their daughter to help catch up on reading skills. Soon, all of the young Catholic families I knew were homeschooling their children, and I knew it was the path we wanted to take."

Discussions with Marie's grandmother, who was a teacher for 33 years, further solidified her commitment to providing a high-quality, well-rounded, and devoutly Catholic education. "I had many discussions with my grandmother about what it means to raise virtuous children," she shares. "Our goal has always been to raise our children in virtue, allowing them to learn at their own pace within the discipline of timeliness and effort, keeping learning fun, and encouraging their God-given talents and interests."

Guided by this philosophy, the family has embraced the adventure of homeschooling through the years.

We're so grateful for the wisdom and experience they add to our community!

The Rodriguez Family: New to Homeschooling and Loving It

Who's homeschooling?

- 3 kids, ages 10, 7, 6

Homeschooling since?

- 2024



Their story:

The Rodriguez family is embarking on their first year of homeschooling! They have 3 kids and their story is one of faith, love, and a deep desire to spend more time together.

“Our inspiration for homeschooling was being able to spend more quality time together as a family unit,” they shared. “When our kids were in school, we would hardly get to spend any time together after completing homework and extracurricular activities. We spent maybe an hour together if we were lucky.”

As educators themselves—Frank as a teacher and Lorena as a school psychologist—the Rodriguezes have seen firsthand the challenges many children face in the traditional school system. “We have seen how hard it can be for kids to excel, and they are often left feeling insecure and with low self-esteem if they don’t progress at a certain level. When this started happening to our children, we knew we had to make a change.”

After months of prayer and discernment, the Rodriguez family took a leap of faith and began their homeschooling journey. “It has been an adventure so far, and we are learning more each day about what our family needs. It has been an adjustment, and we are praying that this new adventure will be amazing and that our children will love it.”

Joining CFAC has been a crucial part of their transition, providing them with the support and community they were seeking. “Joining CFAC has been so helpful in meeting people like us with similar beliefs. It’s so nice meeting everyone and getting ideas from other, more experienced parents. We really appreciate the support.”

Way to go, Rodriguez family! We’re excited to have you here.

The Hendrix Family: Balancing Homeschooling with a Full House

Who's homeschooling?

- 6 kids, ages 6-14

Homeschooling since?

- 2022

Their story:



The Hendrixes are balancing six kids and multiple needs in their unexpected homeschooling journey. Although they never planned to homeschool, their homeschooling journey began two years ago when they pulled their children out of private school. With three kids with special learning needs and a conversion to Catholicism on the horizon, they felt God nudging them towards homeschooling.

Liz shares, “To be honest, homeschooling wasn’t something we planned for. It felt more like God thrust us into it—a surprise, but a wonderful one! And let me tell you, we have absolutely zero regrets!”

The shift to homeschooling has been both rewarding and challenging. “Balancing six kids, all with different needs, abilities, and grades? It’s not a walk in the park,” Liz admits.

Yet, the rewards have been immense, particularly in the bond it has fostered within their family. “Our family has truly grown closer since we started homeschooling. The challenges are plenty, but God’s blessings flow even more”.

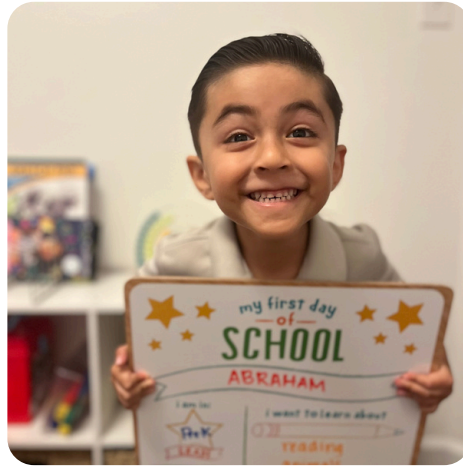
Their involvement in Catholic Family Adventure Club has been a vital part of their journey. “Being part of CFAC this past year has made such a difference for us. It was the first Catholic community where we felt truly welcomed and loved, even when we were still finding our way into the Church. We haven’t found anything else like it,” Liz shares.

This sense of community has shown them the beauty of the universal Church—Catholic families coming together from all corners of the diocese.

We’re so glad to have the Hendrix family as part of CFAC!

First Day of School Photos

We asked our CFAC families to share their first day of school photos, and the responses were heartwarming! Check out these excited and smiling faces.



Reflecting on August

August was a month full of fellowship, celebrations, and meeting our new CFAC families! We kicked off the month with our annual member meeting, celebrated the Feast of the Assumption, and explored the Broadcast Museum on a fun field trip. The Tween and Teen Socials and our “Sundaes on Sunday” event were perfect ways to end the month and get to know each other better.

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

Get ready for a busy September with exciting events for everyone!

Homeschool Blessing Mass-Join us as we welcome the entire Catholic community to the Annual Homeschool Community Mass + potluck.

Quest Meeting- Calling all 10-14yr olds. Join us for a short discussion on how to be virtuous, living out the Gifts of the Spirit and the Fruit of the Spirit as well as games and snacks.

Monthly Mass- Don't miss our monthly mass followed by a picnic at the park.

Voyages Meeting- 14-18 year olds join us for fun, food, and fellowship to be followed by guest speaker Father Steven Chabarria, who will provide an introduction to our theme for the year.

Mom's Morning Out-Come enjoy delicious treats, good coffee and stimulating conversation, while taking a break from everyday life.

Cookie Baking- Tweens & Teens, come bake cookies for the local Fire & Police Department. Try to not eat one!

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

Liturgical Living Corner: September

St. Teresa of Calcutta



Image courtesy of [St. Margaret Mary](#).

The feast of Saint Teresa of Calcutta is celebrated each year on September 5th. Formerly referred to as Mother Teresa, Saint Teresa of Calcutta is most known for her selfless acts of kindness and her dedication to helping the poor.

SIMPLE WAY TO CELEBRATE:

Make Blessing Bags

- Bags for someone in need. Use a gallon-size bag to include things like socks, bandages, toothbrushes, tooth paste, individual snacks, water bottles, sunscreen, and other travel size toiletries.
- Keep them in your car to spontaneously hand out when you see a need

Decorate Pencils

- Saint Teresa of Calcutta once said, "I am like a little pencil in his hand. He does the thinking. He does the writing. The pencil has nothing to do with it."
- Use this as inspiration to decorate pencils using washi tape and/or stickers. Discuss the meaning of the quote above with your kids!



Ideas from [Be A Heart Design](#)



Web Links to more!

Month of the Our Lady of Sorrows

September

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					

- 5 St. Teresa of Calcutta
- 8 The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 9 St. Peter Claver
- 12 The Most Holy Name of Mary
- 14 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- 15 Our Lady of Sorrows
- 21 St. Matthew
- 23 St. Padre Pio
- 29 Sts. Michael, Rafael, Gabriel

Catholic Family
ADVENTURE CLUB

[Download phone wallpaper](#)



SEPTEMBER

The Seven Sorrows of Mary

- ✠ The Prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:34-35)
- ✠ The Flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-21)
- ✠ The Loss of Jesus for Three Days (Luke 2:41-50)
- ✠ The Carrying of the Cross (John 19:17)
- ✠ The Crucifixion of Jesus (John 19:18-30)
- ✠ Jesus Taken Down from the Cross (John 19:39-40)
- ✠ Jesus Laid in the Tomb (John 19:39-42)

“Turn your eyes incessantly to the Blessed Virgin; she, who is the Mother of Sorrows and also the Mother of Consolation, can understand you completely and help you. Looking to her, praying to her, you will obtain that your tedium will become serenity, your anguish change into hope, and your grief into love.”- St.Pope JPII

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




Sanctity of Life

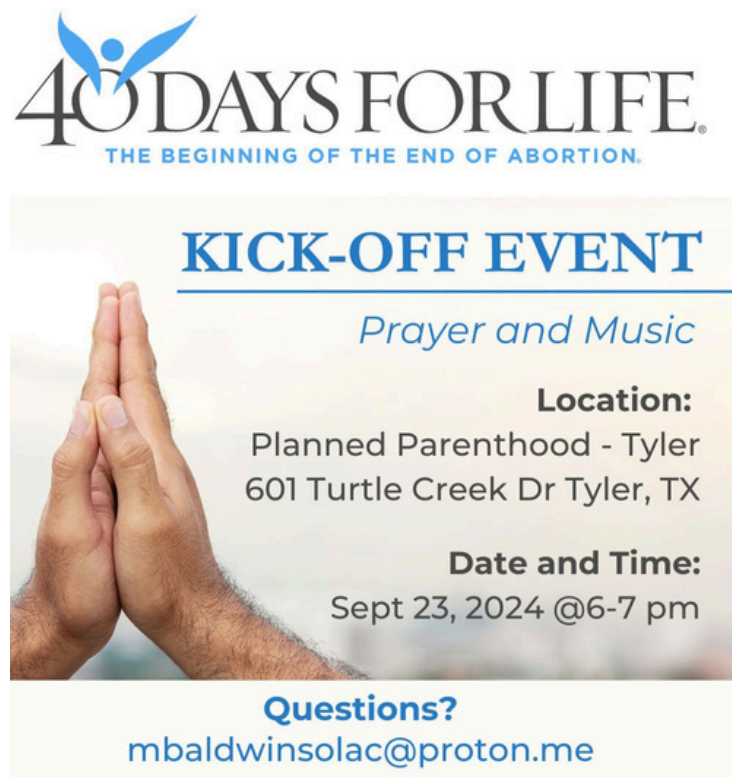
5 CME HOURS OFFERED
3RD ANNUAL
BIOETHICS
Conference

Ticket Prices
GENERAL: \$75
CME: \$125
CLERGY: FREE

Health Care Professionals
of North East Texas
A CHARTERED GUILD of the Catholic Medical Association

Holiday Inn and Conference Center,
Tyler, TX
SEPT | 14TH | 2024
8:00 AM - 2:30 PM

LEARN MORE
www.sanctityoflifetyler.org/2024-bioethics



40 DAYS FOR LIFE.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION.

KICK-OFF EVENT

Prayer and Music

Location:
Planned Parenthood - Tyler
601 Turtle Creek Dr Tyler, TX

Date and Time:
Sept 23, 2024 @6-7 pm

Questions?
mbaldwinsolac@proton.me



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



(903) 534-1077 x137



PRESENTER:
MARIBEL LAGUNA MA, LPC-S

Save the Date! October 28, 2024



SANCTITY OF LIFE

BISHOP'S ANNUAL *Dinner*

www.sanctityoflifetyler.org

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.SIGNIFICENTIUS.COM
/GO/8050E49A4AC2DA57-
50699369-HOMESCHOOL/](https://www.significentius.com/go/8050e49a4ac2da57-50699369-homeschool/)

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

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



September 25 - November 3
40 DAYS FOR LIFE®

HELP SAVE LIVES IN **Tyler!**

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers!

With God's help, here are the proven results in 30 coordinated campaigns:

- Over 20,000 babies saved from abortion
- Over 200 abortion workers converted
- Over 100 abortion centers closed

Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

Vigil location: Across the street from Planned Parenthood located at 601 Turtle Creek Dr. in Tyler, Tx. 75701

Vigil hours: (7 am to 7 pm daily)

Local contact: Lars Gustafson,
Tyler40DaysForLife@gmail.com,

281-782-6292

Learn more ... get involved ... and sign up for prayer times by visiting our campaign at the web address shown below!

40daysforlife.com/Tyler