



# NEWSLETTER



## Welcome, CFAC Families!

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Welcome CFAC Families

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April is a month of deep reflection and joyful celebration—a time when many receive the Sacraments for the first time and when we, as a Church, walk with Christ through His Passion into the triumph of Easter.

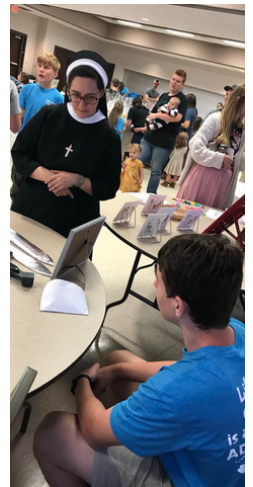
As we stand on the threshold of the Triduum, may we pause, pray, and enter fully into these sacred days, knowing that even the smallest step toward Christ has eternal meaning. And then comes Easter—glorious, triumphant Easter! Not just a day, but a whole season—50 days to rejoice in the truth that Christ is risen.

Throughout this month, our community will have many opportunities to pray, reflect, and rejoice together—may we embrace them with hearts full of gratitude and faith.

-Janae Spencer  
Newsletter Editor

# Reflecting on March

March was packed with fun, and a big highlight was our Youth Entrepreneur Fair. We also celebrated Mardi Gras with a festive breakfast-for-dinner potluck, enjoyed a cozy bonfire night for our teens, and honored St. Joseph with a hands-on feast day celebration. Each event brought our community closer together, and we can't wait for the fun that is in store for next month.



## Upcoming CFAC Events

Check out the exciting events planned for April!

**First Friday Mass:** Start the month with Mass at the Chapel of Sts. Peter and Paul, then head to Southside Park for some playtime and fellowship. Pack a lunch, wear your group shirt, and enjoy the afternoon with friends!

**Community Business Meeting:** Stay in the loop and have your voice heard! Join us as we discuss upcoming events, updates, and ways to keep our community thriving.

**Tyler State Park Field Trip:** Get ready for an adventure! Ranger Rodriguez will guide us on an interactive exploration of Tyler State Park, where we'll discover the beauty of nature up close. Pack a picnic lunch and plan to stick around afterward for a relaxing afternoon with friends.

**Stations of the Cross:** Our Quest and Voyage groups (ages 10-18) will come together for a powerful Lenten experience, walking the Stations of the Cross with Father Cortes. This is a unique opportunity to journey with Jesus in a meaningful and prayerful way. Afterward, bring the family and enjoy a delicious Fish Fry hosted by the Knights of Columbus!

**Annual Business and Planning Retreat:** Calling all CFAC moms! Join us for a day of collaboration, planning, and community as we map out the 2025-2026 programming year. This relaxed retreat includes lunch, snacks, and plenty of time to connect.

**Tiny Tot Tuesday:** Join other moms with young children on the 3rd Tuesday of every month!

**Children's Stations of the Cross:** Praying the Stations of the Cross with children is an excellent way to introduce them to the story of Jesus' Passion, but the Stations are more than the re-telling of a story. It is a prayerful participation in the event that lies at the heart of Christianity.

**Divine Mercy Sunday Family Picnic:** Bring a picnic dinner and enjoy some time together with other CFAC families on Divine Mercy Sunday. This will be a relaxed, low-key event where we can enjoy one another's company and let the kiddos run around on what will hopefully be a beautiful Sunday afternoon.

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



# Annual Vision and Planning Retreat

Saturday, April 12th  
10:00AM - 4:00PM  
St. Mary Magdalene  
(Lunch will be provided.)

Open to all current CFAC Members who plan to participate next year.

*A community needs a soul if it is to become a  
true home for human beings. You...the people  
must give it this soul.*

St. Pope John Paul II



3rd Annual

## Used Book Sale

Homeschool Curriculum, Books & Materials



Saturday • May 10th • 10 am - 1 pm

**St. Mary Magdalene**

18221 FM 2493  
Flint, TX 75762

### Sellers

Register by April 28th  
Spots are limited

Seller Fee  
\$10 for members  
\$15 for non-members



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

# Year in Review: Our Wins + Milestones

by Melissa Reaves, Director

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I never would have guessed back when we all met for the first time in August how quickly our community could grow and flourish. Since the membership meeting to now, I have seen first-hand friendships grow and blossom between children, moms, and entire families, and it has been such a blessing to be a part of that journey with all of you.

As a growing community made up of faithful Catholics, we are being challenged to live in this world and not be of this world all while supporting one another in our vocation as homeschoolers. This is no easy feat, and I am so grateful to see so many families with their own preferences for how to accomplish that come together in support of one another. My own faith has been bolstered by the incredible witness of so many of you as you've shared your stories, experiences, and your families with me and my family.

As we look forward to the summer and begin preparing for the next programming year, I humbly ask all of our families to prayerfully consider how they might contribute to our community next year. Consider attending the planning retreat on April 12th so that you might provide insight into the needs of your family as well as assist our dedicated Community Collaborators in carrying out at least one of the many programs that will be on our calendar.



# 2024–2025 Overview

## Membership

by Chelsea Lockman, Membership Coordinator

CFAC has continued to grow and flourish this past year, not only in membership but in the relationships that have been cultivated. As of April 2024, CFAC comprised of 39 families and hoped to see a small growth the following year. Much to our surprise, as of April 2025, CFAC has grown by 33%, bringing our membership up to 51 families with over 185 children!



As with any new organization, our retention rate is at 62%. We look forward to seeing this increase through our onboarding process, continued surveys and volunteer engagement. Our volunteer rate is at 80% and will only increase as our members find where they can best share their skills and experience.

CFAC has impacted not only our community but also the surrounding areas and our scope continues to grow. With members from more than 11 parishes ranging as north as St. Peter the Apostle in Mineola and as south as Sacred Heart of Jesus in Rusk, we are truly strengthening the Domestic Church and building up the Kingdom of God.

## Member Feedback

by Brynn Turner, Assistant Director

Thank you to all our families who completed the annual survey! We had a 16/42 completion rate, or 38%. Next time, we would love to hear from everyone!

Your feedback helps us to use our volunteer time wisely because we can tailor our programming, communication tools and other community benefits to meet the needs of our families- thereby meeting our mission! Details about survey results will be presented at our upcoming mom's annual vision and retreat planning meeting, so be sure to sign up!



# Finance

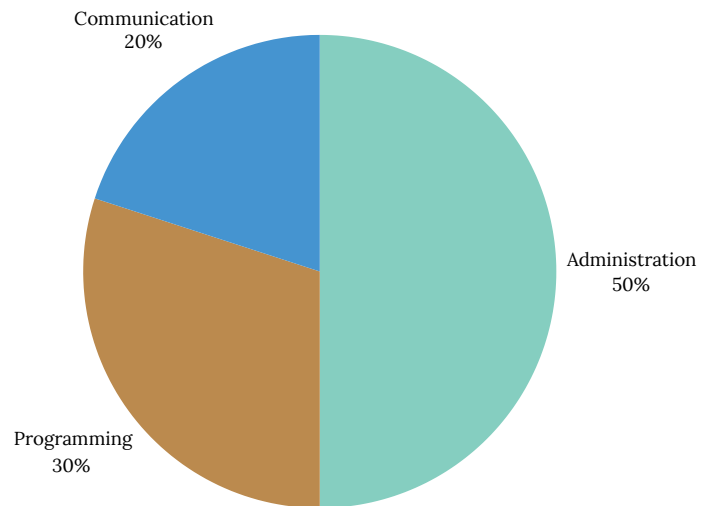
by Kristina Christian, Finance Coordinator



Our major financial milestone this year was achieving 501(c)3 status. This has allowed us to take advantage of opportunities that would have been otherwise out of our reach, and it has subsequently allowed us to lower some of our administrative overhead.

Our goal is to continue developing financial systems and structure that will allow our community to grow and flourish. This will also include the ability to accept donations via our website to help us support our programming efforts. As always, financial statements can be made available to member families by sending a request to [finance@catholicfamilyadventureclub.com](mailto:finance@catholicfamilyadventureclub.com).

## Where do your annual dues go?



**Administration:** Insurance, banking & credit card fees, supplies like stamps. Administrative requirements may be pricey, but they allow for *quality, safety, and longevity*.

**Communication:** Our *secure* website and texting fees allow for *convenient* community communication and *easy-to-access* calendars and similar tools.

**Programming:** Educational supplies for all events for our Saints-in-Training and facility donations to our welcoming parishes.

*As a 501(c)3 organization, CFAC is now able to accept tax-deductible donations in support of liturgical programming and activities.*

*CFAC Leadership Team and Board of Directors members are not compensated for their roles; CFAC is an entirely volunteer-run organization.*

# Programming

by Jennifer Pacheco, Programming Coordinator

As a homeschool social community, the core of what we do for one another is provide opportunities for social connection. The most fundamental way we do that is through our programmatic efforts, and to date, CFAC has provided more than 60 programming opportunities to our member families.



The programming chairs have focused on providing a wide range of activities all throughout the Tyler area; as a community we've traveled as far south as Lufkin and as far north as Lindale. In fact, we're headed even farther north to Holly Lake here in a few weeks. We've been as far east as Kilgore and as far west as Chandler. They chairs have also made sure that there are a variety of different price points and interest areas reflected in the many options for field trips and social outings.

Knowing that they can't make everyone happy 100% of the time hasn't stopped the programming chairs from trying to do their best to offer opportunities that reflect the diversity of our large community. Meeting the needs of such a diverse group of people is not easy, and we ask that all member families consider how they might aid our programming chairs next year.



# Communications

by Janae Spencer, Communications Coordinator

We have several methods of communication available to our members. Our primary remains the Catholic Family Adventure Club member portal, which is our safest method of communicating about upcoming events (via text messaging and the website calendar) and holds our photo albums, multiple forums for information of interest, and more! Remember, the benefit of the website is that it is password-protected, so you can safely upload photos from our events and we will ensure photo permissions before we include them in any outward-facing materials. Please help us fill our albums with fun memories!



Next, the newsletter is a monthly product, which serves as a tool for both our members and those broader community members who like to support our organization, but may not belong to it. Newsletter topics this past year have included: how to make the most of your membership, highlighting CFAC families, meal resources, CFAC Family Businesses, Advent & Christmas Traditions, Beating the January Blues, Homesteading, and homeschool planning. We have loved including our members' input on these topics!

One of the methods that our survey-completing families indicate they find most valuable are the weekly updates. Put together by our hardworking Director, Melissa, these updates help ensure all our families are made aware of upcoming events, their deadlines, and other important information for our families to get the most out of their membership. Another family favorite is new this year, the Signal Group. This is a casual, unmoderated and entirely optional communication method for those who enjoy a little conversation with fellow moms throughout the day.

We are proud to bring our families this variety of communication tools and hope that each of you has found something that enhances your relationships with our community and our Lord!

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## Liturgical Programming - Alma Elizondo

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Observance of the yearly liturgical calendar is just one of the many beautiful traditions of our faith, but for many families it can be difficult to incorporate into the life of their domestic church. There are also many liturgical celebrations that are also more fun when done in community with other Catholic families. This year we joyfully celebrated together the following: The Assumption of Mary, All Saint's Day, Epiphany, and Shrove Tuesday. We also celebrated the feast days of St. John Paul II, St. Nicholas, St. Valentine, and St. Joseph.



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## Community Service- Jessica Sczepaniak

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Our goal with service projects this year has been to instill in every family member a heart for service. We have tried to be intentional about providing opportunities for children and youth to connect the act of service to the person being served. In addition to assisting the St. Mary Magdalene Food Pantry with hygiene bag distribution, we participated in the Veteran's Parade at Watkin Logans, went Christmas Caroling at a local nursing home, and delivered cookies to first responders.



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## Mom Support- Valerie Baughman

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It can be difficult for moms to get to know one another at events that require their participation as well as supervision of children. Our mom socials focus on providing simple, affordable opportunities for moms to come together and get to know one another better, share stories, and most of all, have fun!



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## Field Trips- Michelle Jones

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East Texas has such a wealth of wonderful opportunities for learning and exploration. This past year we've been able to learn more about our local post office, visit the pumpkin patch, feed hippos at the zoo, explore the solar system at the planetarium, live like a pioneer for a day, and even ride a train. In the next few weeks, we'll go on an adventure at Tyler State Park, have fun at the children's museum, and learn what it was like to live during the Civil War.



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## Youth Ministry- Angela Toohey & Melissa Reaves

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The aim of our Matthew 28 Youth Ministry is to provide our youth, ages 10-18, unique social experiences and opportunities so that they might be better equipped for their *Quest* to learn more about our faith so that they can eventually *Voyage* out into the world as apostles.

Over the past few months, *Quest*, youth 10-14 years old, have met monthly to learn more about the sacraments. In December they joined *Voyages* to learn more about and create their own icon and in the month of April, the two groups will meet for Stations of the Cross.

*Voyages*, youth 14-18 years old, have been learning more about Catholic social teaching in their monthly meetings. They have also had the opportunity to hear from a variety of guest speakers who have shared their personal conversion stories. *Voyages* also meets for social events and activities ranging from game and movie nights to outdoor games and bonfires. We look forward to continuing to grow and nurture both of these programs over the next few months.



# THANK YOU!

Jennifer Pacheco  
Programming Coordinator  
2023-2025



*Thank you so much* for 2 years of dedication to the Catholic Family Adventure Club mission and an immeasurable positive impact on our community.

Please pray for Jennifer as she pursues her life-long goal of continuing to serve our community in the medical field.

Jennifer, you set the bar high for quality programming and you and your family will be missed!

# Liturgical Living Corner: April

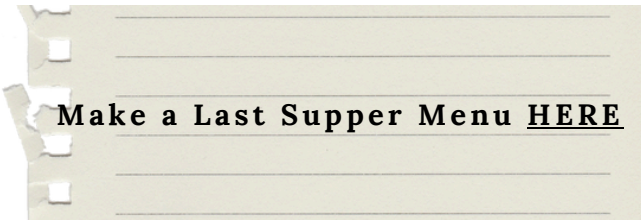
April is the month of the Holy Eucharist. Honoring Jesus' Real Presence in our tabernacles is easy to weave into our liturgical living, with the Triduum falling toward the end of this month. Holy Thursday specifically commemorates the establishment of this beautiful Sacrament. Here are a few fun ways to combine learning and faith this month!

## CREATE YOUR OWN LAST SUPPER

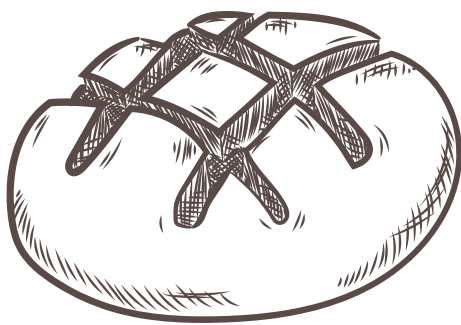
CHOOSE 1 OR 2 ITEMS TO SERVE FOR DINNER

THURSDAY

- Lamb ( Passover food)
- Pomegranate Juice (promised in Scripture)
- Salted water ( tears of the Israelites)
- Salad of bitter herbs and lettuce
  - ( plight of the Israelites)
- Hard-boiled egg (new life as Christians)



## MAKE YOUR OWN UNLEAVENED BREAD



Month of

# The Holy Eucharist

## APRIL 2025

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
		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			

13 Palm Sunday

17 Holy Thursday

18 Good Friday

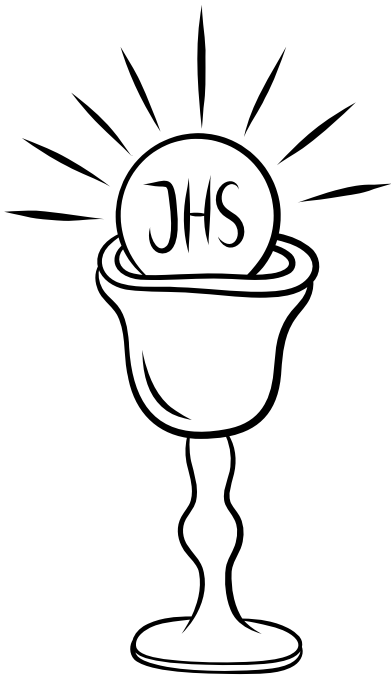
19 Holy Saturday

20 Pascha/Easter Sunday

29 St Catherine of Siena

**Catholic Family**  
ADVENTURE CLUB

[Download phone wallpaper](#)



# APRIL

## The Holy Eucharist

### **April 13: Palm Sunday**

Get palms at Mass.

Read portions of the Passion with your family.

Make palm crosses.

### **April 17: Holy Thursday**

Eat traditional Last Supper meal

Attend Mass, watch priest strip the altars and dim the church for Good Friday

Visit 7 churches, to correspond with the 7 stops Jesus made on His way to Calvary.

Watch The Prince of Egypt, to understand the Passover

### **April 18: Good Friday**

Day of Fast and abstinence

Make Hot Cross Buns for breakfast

Attend Children's Stations of the Cross at St Mary Magdalene Church

Attend Good Friday service

### **April 19: Holy Saturday**


Dye Easter Eggs.

Get Easter baskets blessed.

# Around the Diocese

All teens and tweens are invited!

New Documentary Film



**ROADMAP TO REALITY**

Bl. Carlo Acutis  
 Canonization date  
 April 27, 2025

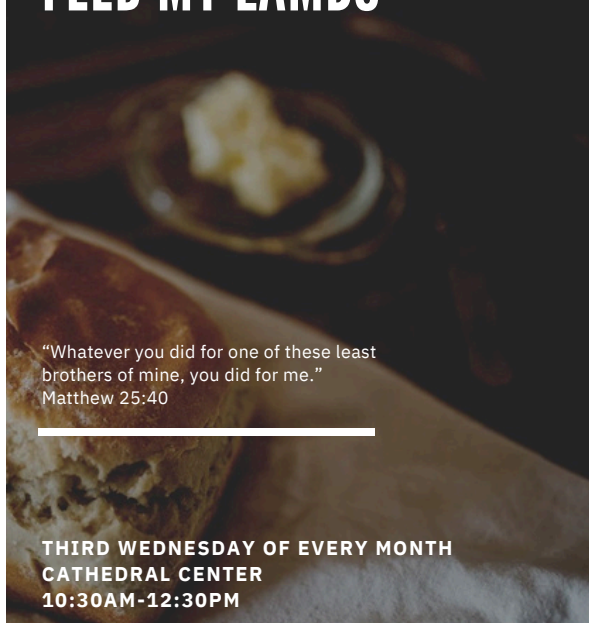
**April 28, 2025**

**Holy Hour**  
 Chapel of Sts. Peter and Paul  
 1435 E SE Loop 323, Tyler, TX 75701  
 Time: 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
 Enter the adoration room through the left side of the Chapel:

**AMC**  
 7415 S. Broadway Ave Tyler 75703  
 7:00 p.m.

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.SIGNIURGENTIUS.COM/\\_/GO/8050FE49A4AC2DA57-50699369-HOMESCHOOL#/](https://www.signiurgentius.com/_/GO/8050FE49A4AC2DA57-50699369-HOMESCHOOL#/)

+ **Mysterium Fidei** +  
 + **The Mystery of Faith** +

A Theological Exposition



**Mondays of Lent 6pm at the Chapel**  
 Sessions begin on March 10th  
 (no class on the 17th due to Penance Service)  
 The final class on April 14th will concentrate on Holy Week





## STABAT MATER FOUNDATION

*Advancing the Culture of Life Through Prayer and Art*

### TEEN BOTANICAL PAINTING WORKSHOP & FAMILY DAY

*Join Other Families for a Day on the Farm!*

**May 17**

Stafford's Meadow Farm

1500 Anderson CR 2418, Montalba, TX 75853



Bring the whole family for a day of art and fun on the farm! Your middle and high school students can participate in a botanical painting workshop while you and your little ones enjoy a day of outdoor games and fellowship.



# Be Light



[witnesslove.org/belight](https://witnesslove.org/belight)  
A MARRIAGE MOVEMENT

Join us for five special evenings in deepening your relationship with your beloved and building community with other married couples in our parish  
**[Sign Up and Learn More Here](#)**

*Upcoming Dates:*

Mar 22, 2025 6:30pm- 8:30pm

May 24, 2025 6:30pm- 8:30pm

June 28, 2025 6:30pm- 8:30pm

July 26, 2025 6:30pm- 8:30pm

# WELLSPRING

*Fransalian Center for Spirituality*

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## RETREATS

JOIN US FOR OUR RETREAT  
IN PREPARATION FOR HOLY WEEK

Saturday, April 12 , 2025  
9:30 am - 12:30 pm

The journey through Holy Week is a call to walk with Jesus. The journey we began in ashes will take us to the cross. Take this opportunity to reflect on the merciful and spiritual significance of Holy Week.

Fr. Gus Tharappel will  
guide the retreat.

To register, please email us at  
[retreatsatwellspring@gmail.com](mailto:retreatsatwellspring@gmail.com)