



NEWSLETTER



Happy New Year, CFAC Families!

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Let's kick off 2024 with faith, fun, and community. We're so glad you're part of this amazing group of families dedicated to growing in faith and friendship.

This month's newsletter has a little something for everyone:

- A quick recap of our December highlights
- Fun upcoming events to mark on your calendar
- Tips to beat the January blues
- Creative ways to celebrate January's feast days

Let's keep building memories, supporting one another, and celebrating all the beauty our faith and homeschooling journeys bring.

Cheers to a wonderful start to the year!

Janae Spencer

Newsletter Editor

Reflecting on December

What a December to remember! Our community members came together to kick off the holiday season with joy (and plenty of hot chocolate). We enjoyed sweet treats and fun crafts with our St. Nicholas Day celebration and our Christmas Caroling and Cocoa event warmed hearts and brought joy to the elderly. The tweens and teens also got their creative juices flowing with an Icon painting workshop.

Thank you for making December so memorable. 2025, we're ready for you!



Upcoming CFAC Events

Check out the exciting events planned for January and celebrate the new year with CFAC!!

First Friday Mass + Epiphany Celebration : Celebrate Epiphany with us! We'll have Mass, crafts, games, and a delicious Rosca de Reyes to share. Don't forget your lunch and group shirts—who will find the baby this year?

Tiny Tot Tuesday: Bring your littles for a fun morning at the park—friends, fresh air, and plenty of playtime.

New Member Meeting: New to CFAC? Join our online meeting to get all the tips on making the most of your membership and a quick intro to The Atlas- The CFAC Member Handbook.

Quest and Voyages: The two groups will still meet separately this month, but both will have the same opportunity to hear our guest speaker Dee Wrona, also known as the Relic Lady. She will bring along her collection of First Class Relics for veneration.

Planetarium Field Trip: Get ready for an out-of-this-world adventure. We will watch the movie "Super Massive Blackholes" and there will be classroom activities based on age.

Teen Movie Night: An evening with friends to hang-out, eat dinner, and watch a movie...a casual event for those in Voyages (14-18).

Service Project: This month we will be assisting the St. Mary Magdalene Food Pantry by creating hygiene packets for their clients.

Mom's Night Out: Let's help one another avoid the mid-semester slump. Our theme will be staying motivated, and all participants are encouraged to bring their questions and ideas about how to beat the mid-year homeschooling blues.

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

Overcoming the January Blues



by Emily Harris

As the anticipation and joy fade from the Christmas Day festivities and the last bow and roll of wrapping paper is set aside for next year, most people feel a sense of loss or melancholy to see the Season of Giving go. January can often feel empty and dreary, especially with wet and cold weather. Rest assured that although the holiday season is over, it can still be a month of refreshment, love, learning and liveliness.

Upcoming Catholic Celebrations

Starting off with Catholic holidays, a glance at the calendar brings us to January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany.

Families can celebrate the day by baking a King Cake, complete with a plastic baby or a bean, for the Christ Child, blessing the house with chalk from your parish church, and re-enacting the Magi's visit to Our Lord. Many families even save a few gifts for this day, to honor the 12th day of Christmas.



Outside Play

Outside play is a staple in nearly every family, and despite the cold, there are ways to get involved as a family outdoors. At the top of the list is taking care of our feathered friends, the birds.. Paper towel rolls, peanut butter and bird seed make a simple homemade feeder and even young kiddos can have fun with this project.



Gardening

If anyone in your family has a green thumb, it's not too early to start staking out your garden and preparing your soil for early spring sprouting.

Ice Skating

Snow is not in the forecast for many winters in East Texas. However, if you have kiddos who want to test out the ice, you can give it a shot at the several Children's Health StarCenters in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

The Discovery Science Place in Tyler also just opened a synthetic ice rink!



Family Projects

Family projects are a great way to kickstart the New Year. Cleaning those dusty kitchen cabinets, organizing closets, donating and decluttering or re-inventing ways to use space in your homeschool house is a way to get everyone on board, teach teamwork and feel like your family has a head start for the year.

Local Field Trips

Sometimes a rest and a reset is in order, a few days away from the schedule of school and post-holiday exhaustion.

- Visit the Art Museum in Tyler: A fun outing, especially if art is part of your curriculum.
- Explore the Mineola Nature Preserve:
 - Off the beaten path and filled with wildlife like birds, deer, and small critters.
 - Bonus: Admission is free.
- Discover local museums:
 - Henderson Depot Museum
 - Goodman-Legrand House and Museum (Tyler)
 - Old Mill Pond Museum



January can seem like an extraordinarily long month, especially after such a busy holiday season. But despite the New Year's blues, a touch of resourcefulness can help families stay on the course of living out the Catholic Faith and maintaining a learning spirit for the remainder of the school year.

Liturgical Living Corner: January

The Holy Name of Jesus

Mary, Mother of God January 1

This solemnity is dedicated to Mary’s motherhood, to Jesus and to each of us. The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is a holy day of obligation.

We can ring in the new year with Mary. Because the solemnity lands on New Year’s Day, many people choose to go to Mass the night before, on New Year’s Eve.

Marian Themed Food Idea:
Strawberry Angel Food Cake-strawberries symbolize the fruitfulness of Mary

Liturgical Living Craft Idea:
Mary’s Star Crown



Month of the Holy Name of Jesus

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	R	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	27	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- 1 SOLEMNITY OF THEOTOKOS
- 4 ST ELIZABETH ANN SETON
- 7 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
- 8 BAPTISM OF THE LORD
- 17 ST ANTHONY
- 22 DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN
- 26 ST TIMOTHY & ST TITUS

[Download phone wallpaper](#)



JANUARY

The Holy Name of Jesus

Jesus. We hear His Name so often that we hardly ever stop to think about It. But if the Church spends the entire month of January on It, It must be significant. Take some time this month to reflect on His Holy Name. Let It become a simple prayer for you as you go about your day. Bring Him into each moment with a single word: "Jesus."

January 5: The Epiphany of Our Lord

The revelation of Jesus as the Son of God. The celebration of the adoration of Jesus by the 3 wise men.

- Read a book about The Epiphany with the kids
- Make your own crowns
- Enjoy a King's Cake or a Rosca (Mexican)
- Bless your home

January 12: The Baptism of The Lord

The end of the Christmas season and a time to celebrate and reflect on Jesus' baptism.

- Go to confession
- Light your kids/your own baptismal candle for dinner
- Renew your baptismal promises as a family

Around the Diocese

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/_/60/8050E49A4AC2DA57-50699369-HOMESCHOOL#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/_/60/8050E49A4AC2DA57-50699369-HOMESCHOOL#/)



In joyous celebration of our Infant King and His most holy Mother,
ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER PARISH
INVITES YOU TO OUR SECOND ANNUAL

Candlemas Ball

An elegant evening of *dinner and dancing*,
enjoyed with *good company, good wine*, and a chance
to support the church building campaign at a *silent auction*
Formal Evening Attire * Ages 18+

Saturday, 1 February 2025
5:00 - 10:00 pm
Bella Vista Lake Palestine

Scan to purchase tickets  Early Bird Special: \$55 until Thanksgiving
Admission: \$65
Purchase Deadline: 20 January 2025

Rest ON US

A WOMEN'S RETREAT 2025

The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. (Luke 1:35)





LAUREN MOORE
Worship Leader



SISTER JOSEPHINE GARRETT
Speaker



MARI PABLO
Speaker



KATIE PREJEAN MCGRADY
Speaker

HOW TO REGISTER

Early Bird Tickets (October 13-January 14): **\$50**
General Admission (beginning January 15): **\$60**
Visit www.dioceseoftyler.org/womensretreat or scan the QR code!
Scholarships are available for those in need.

