



NEWSLETTER



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Welcome, CFAC Families!

Lent begins this Wednesday. Some years, I find myself saying, “Already?” but this time, it’s more like “Finally!” It’s about as late as it can get in the year. Instead of dreading Lent this year, I want to embrace it—not as a test of endurance but as an invitation to deeper love. I hope you do too!

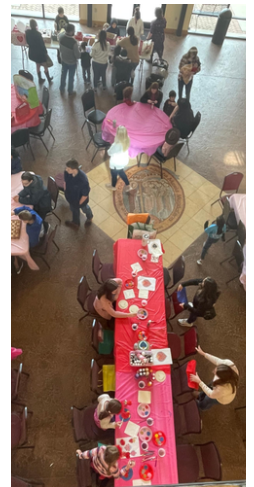
This newsletter is has ideas for your family to live out this liturgical season along with reflections from last month, what’s coming up this month, and an extensive look at homeschool planning from one of our seasoned homeschool moms.

Let’s walk into this month with hearts ready to be shaped. I’m praying for you on your journey.

-Janae Spencer
Newsletter Editor

Reflecting on February

February was full of fun, faith, and friendship! We shared the love at our St. Valentine's Day potluck and card exchange. The teens and tweens dove into Quest and Voyage groups, the teens feasted on BBQ with Father Smith, and we all took a trip back in time with hands-on history fun at Camp Tyler. What a month!



Upcoming CFAC Events

Check out the exciting events planned for March!

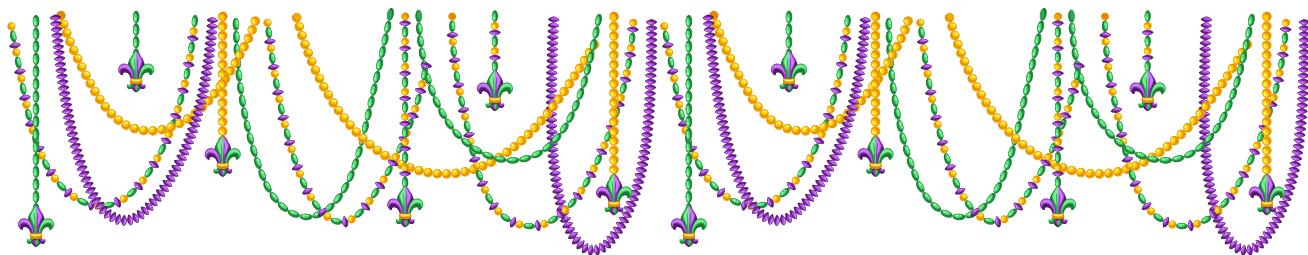
Mom's Luncheon: Treat yourself to a well-deserved Mom's Day Out at The Potpourri House! Enjoy a delicious lunch, great company, and maybe even a little boutique shopping on the side.

Mardi Gras Breakfast for Dinner Potluck: Break out the purple, gold, and green—it's time for our annual Mardi Gras party! We'll feast on breakfast favorites, get creative with mask-making, and battle it out in musical chairs.

First Friday Mass: Start the month with Mass at Chapel of Sts. Peter and Paul, then head to the park for food, fun, and fellowship. Don't forget your group shirt and lunch!

Teen Outdoor Games + Bonfire: An evening of classic outdoor games, followed by a bonfire and hot dogs—what's not to love? Bring s'mores supplies or drinks to share and get ready for a night of fun!

Tiny Tot Tuesday: Little ones, big fun! Meet up for a morning of play and connection at the park—older siblings welcome. Pack a snack or grab something from Fresh and wear your group shirt!



Quest Meeting- Our 10 to 14 year old's will dive deeper into their faith this month with games, discussions, and activities centered on the Sacraments.

St. Joseph Feast Day Italian Potluck- We're celebrating St. Joseph with a delicious Italian feast! Kids can decorate the altar with paper lilies and enjoy festive coloring activities. Wear red and get ready to eat with your hands!

Young Entrepreneur Fair- Calling all young business owners! Students in 1st to 12th grade can showcase and sell their creations at our annual fair. Easter and Mother's Day are coming, so get those gift ideas ready!

Register by March 7th to secure your spot.

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



Homeschool Planning

by Melissa Reaves

I see you. Sitting there with your stack of curriculum catalogues and plans for next year's homeschool. It can be very exciting as we look forward to the next year, but it can also be stressful as we navigate the many beautiful options available to Catholic Homeschooling Parents.

But before I get too excited or overwhelmed by the options, I find it helpful to answer these three questions:

What is our family's goal for homeschooling?

What season are we in as a family?

What worked well and what didn't work well for us in the past?

Family Goal

It is crucial that both parents are on the same page about homeschooling, and this begins with a stated goal for your family. But first, you will probably find it helpful to determine why homeschooling is the right choice for your family. Common reasons why might include:

- Looking for an academically rigorous program
- Shielding children from problematic social influences
- Wanting their children's education to be influenced by the rich traditions, history, and teachings of our Catholic Faith.

Once you know your family's "why," you can craft a stated goal and measuring your decision points against this goal. For example, our family goal is to *create lifelong learners and future Saints*. If I feel like a curriculum choice or activity won't help us meet that goal, it is automatically discounted as an option.



Family Season

Many factors can affect how we use our limited time and resources as a family: newborns, young children, health issues, financial constraints, spousal support and availability, etc. Being realistic about constraints will help you determine what options (curriculum, activities, etc.) that, while beautiful, might not be a good fit for your family.



For example, when my older kiddos were elementary-aged, I was so afraid of them missing out that we had a fairly busy schedule complete with activities and more subjects being studied than necessary for their ages. At the same time, I had a preschooler, toddler, and newborn at home. The schedule was unsustainable, and I felt like a failure. I eventually realized that a happy mom and positive sibling relationships was more important than making sure they didn't miss out on some opportunity.

I purchased a boxed curriculum that met our family's goal and we went back to the basics: math, writing, and reading. I began to see improvement in how they approached and felt about school, and the stress in our home decreased. We were able to enjoy more unstructured time with each other and with our friends, go on field trips, and I began to feel like for the first time I was on the right track as a homeschooling parent.

Being kind to yourself in particularly challenging seasons of family life is crucial, and seeing challenges as opportunities instead of obstacles can be a game changer.

Reflection

Spending time thinking about what has been successful and what could have gone better, and why, is crucial. Many times, things are not successful on their own merits; perhaps it was just a bad curriculum or it required too much parental involvement in a season where you didn't have the time to give. In other situations, something may not have worked because it was ultimately in conflict with your family's goal or the learning needs or style of one of the children.

One of the many blessings of homeschooling our children is the ability to tailor what we do and how we do it to the specific needs of our family. This freedom can sometimes feel like a burden, and I have found that focusing on our family goal and being conscientious about “our season” as a family has helped reduce some of the pressure that I have placed on myself.

Next Steps

- Think about your family situation and the needs of your learners
- Identify several approaches that might work for your family
- Explore curriculum or curriculums that will best meet your family goal and your current situation
- Pray with your husband and your children
- Share your triumphs, struggles, and questions with the CFAC Community



Prayer for Discernment

Lord I know that You love our family and that You have great plans for us. Show me how to walk forward one day at a time. As I explore the various educational options which lie before me, help me to listen openly to others, and to pay attention to what is in the depth of my own heart. In this way, may I hear Your call to the way of life which will allow us to know, love, and serve you only as we can, and allow me to best serve my family with the special gifts You have given me.

Amen.

Homeschool 101



Texas Homeschool Requirements

Instruction must be bona fide

The curriculum must be in a visual form

The curriculum must include: reading, spelling, grammar, mathematics, and good citizenship

Popular styles of education

Classical Education

Charlotte Mason

Unit Studies

Montessori

Unschooling

Relaxed or eclectic homeschoolers

Types of curriculum

Packages Curriculum

Online Curriculum

Mix and Match Curriculum

Hybrid/University Model

My Favorite Resources

Both of these Catholic, homeschool moms have a variety of resources to help families plan and prepare for homeschooling, and they both have online communities that you can join. The Homeschool Better Together website also has lesson plans for a variety of subject areas with a focus on activities that the entire family can do together.



Heart of a Mother

[Mega Curriculum List \(Catholic\)](#)

Homeschool Better Together
[Plan Your Year](#)

**CFAC Members can log in to the portal to receive a 15% off discount code for all of the Homeschool Better Together Catholic products.*

**Catholic
Family**
ADVENTURE
CLUB

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Save the Dates

March 22nd
2nd Annual Young
Entrepreneur Fair

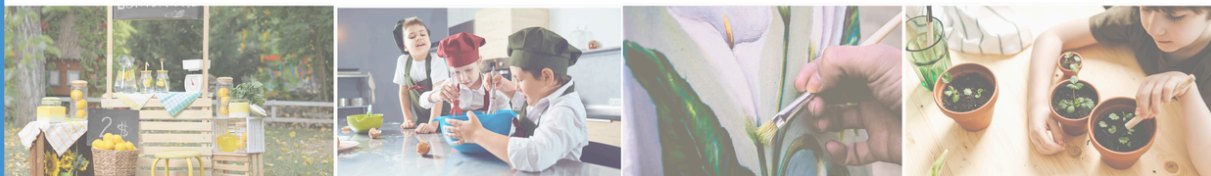
April 12th
Planning Retreat

May 10th
3rd Annual Used Book Sale

Young Entrepreneur Fair

2ND ANNUAL

March 22nd
10am - 1pm
Cathedral Center



Registration is open to all Catholic homeschoolers from January 22nd - March 8th
\$10 for CFAC Members * \$15 for non-CFAC Members

Sponsored by:



A Homeschool Social Community

To learn more and register:

www.catholicfamilyadventureclub.com

Liturgical Living Corner: Lent

Across the diocese, preparations are underway for the Lenten Season. Palms are being gathered to make ashes. And sermons have once again turned to holy reflection and abstinence. As busy families, sometimes we struggle to come up with the perfect Lenten ‘recipe’ for the season. Lent should feel separated from the rest of the year. It’s not a time of strict punishment, but rather of penance.

Here are a few traditions to try this year that are easy to pencil in to your family’s calendar:

- 5 minute “mini” holy hour at the church
- Sacrifices on a string: Keep track of good deeds done daily by cheerios on a string or beans in a jar.
- Cover your statues and crucifixes with a purple cloth, starting on Passion Sunday
- Count to 40 before eating, after the blessing.
- Eat simple meals, with meat and veggies, fewer seasonings and no sugar
- “Fast” from social media during the day or on weekdays

Every family’s Lent will look a little different, but we are all working with the same goal in mind: a productive season of reflection, progress toward grace, and a deeper relationship with our Lord in His Passion.

Month of Saint Joseph

MARCH

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	31					

5 Ash Wednesday

7 Sts Perpetua & Felicity

17 St Patrick

18 St Cyril of Jerusalem

19 Solemnity of St Joseph

25 Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

Catholic Family
ADVENTURE CLUB

[Download phone wallpaper](#)



MARCH

St. Joseph, the husband of Mary and the foster-father of Jesus.

The month of March is dedicated to the devotion of St. Joseph and is also the beginning of Lent, the season of praying, fasting and almsgiving.

March 5th: Ash Wednesday

Day of fasting and abstinence

- Attends Mass and receive ashes
- Pray and reflect
- Fast and abstain from meat

March 17th: Saint Patrick's Day

- Attend Mass
- Wear green
- Make shamrocks with your kids and use it as an opportunity to teach about the Trinity, just as St. Patrick did.



March 19th: St. Joseph Feast Day

- Attend Mass
- Pray the Litany of St. Joseph
- Perform an act of charity
- Create a St. Joseph Altar decorated with traditional foods.

Around the Diocese



**LENTEN
RETREAT**
SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2025
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
As we journey through the season of Lent, you are invited to join us as we strive to learn what God is calling forth from us as we remember and celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.
Fr. Gus Tharappel will guide the retreat.
To register, please email us at retreatsatwellspring@gmail.com

**Bishop Gorman Catholic School
presents**

Annie
©Tribune Content Agency, LLC

MARCH 6-8, 2025




www.bishopgorman.net/annie

Presented through special arrangement with Musical Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are now supplied by MTI (mtishows.com)

**ONLY STOP IN OUR
DIOCESE**

**Relic of
Bl. Rev. Michael McGivney
March 13, 2025**
St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
18221 FM 2493, Flint, TX 75762

The relic will arrive mid-day, and the church will be open for veneration until 5:30 pm when the Knights will recite the Rosary. Mass will follow at 6 pm.



Bl. Rev. Michael J. McGivney
Founder of the Knights of Columbus

Mary and the Passion of Our Lord

A Theological Discourse



Fridays of Lent 7pm at the Chapel

Four sessions: March 14, 21, and April 4, 11

Featuring music from Pergolesi's Stabat Mater

+ **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

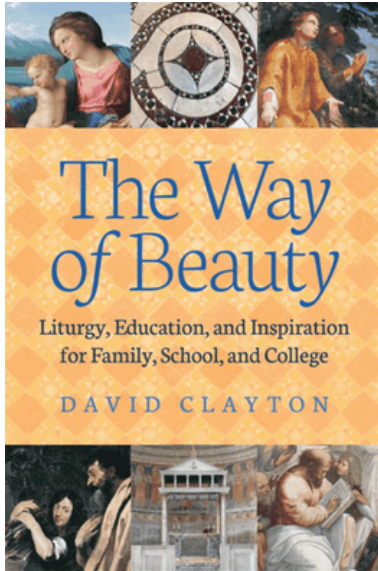
St. Patrick's TRIVIA NIGHT



Friday, March 7
6:00 -9:00 PM
Parish Hall
Tickets \$20/person
\$150/table (8)

Includes dinner and 4 rounds of Trivia

Tickets available after every Mass and in the parish office. All funds raised will help students attend Catholic Heart Work Camp and Steubenville Youth Conference.



March 11, 6pm Cathedral

*Spirituality for Creatives and
Creativity for All on a Spiritual Journey*

Afterwards, join Robert Puschutz
at the Stabat Mater Atelier
for a small reception.

This is a free event but donations are welcome.
Suggested donation is \$10

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.signurgenius.com/_/GO/8050E49A4AC2DA57-50699369-HOMESCHOOL-#/



Be Light



witnessloveto.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