

# SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH

We are the family of God sharing our LOVE, JOY, FAITH, and SORROWS, while supporting and ministering to our community in times of need through our LORD JESUS CHRIST.

APRIL 5, 2026 | EASTER SUNDAY

## EASTER MASSES

✦ HOLY SATURDAY VIGIL MASS  
April 4 | 8:00pm

✦ EASTER SUNDAY  
April 5 | 8 & 10am

## MASS SCHEDULE

### Weekend Masses

Saturday | 4:00pm Vigil

Sunday | 8:00am & 10:00am

### Weekday Masses

Monday | Communion Service

Tuesday | 8:00am

Wednesday | 8:00am

Thursday | 8:00am

Friday | 8:00am

Holy Days | 8:00am & 7:00pm

Confession | Saturdays 3:00pm

## READERS & EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

April 11 | Saturday Vigil | 4pm

▸ D. Rice | L. Magnone | R. Rice | B. Yost

April 12 | Sunday | 8am

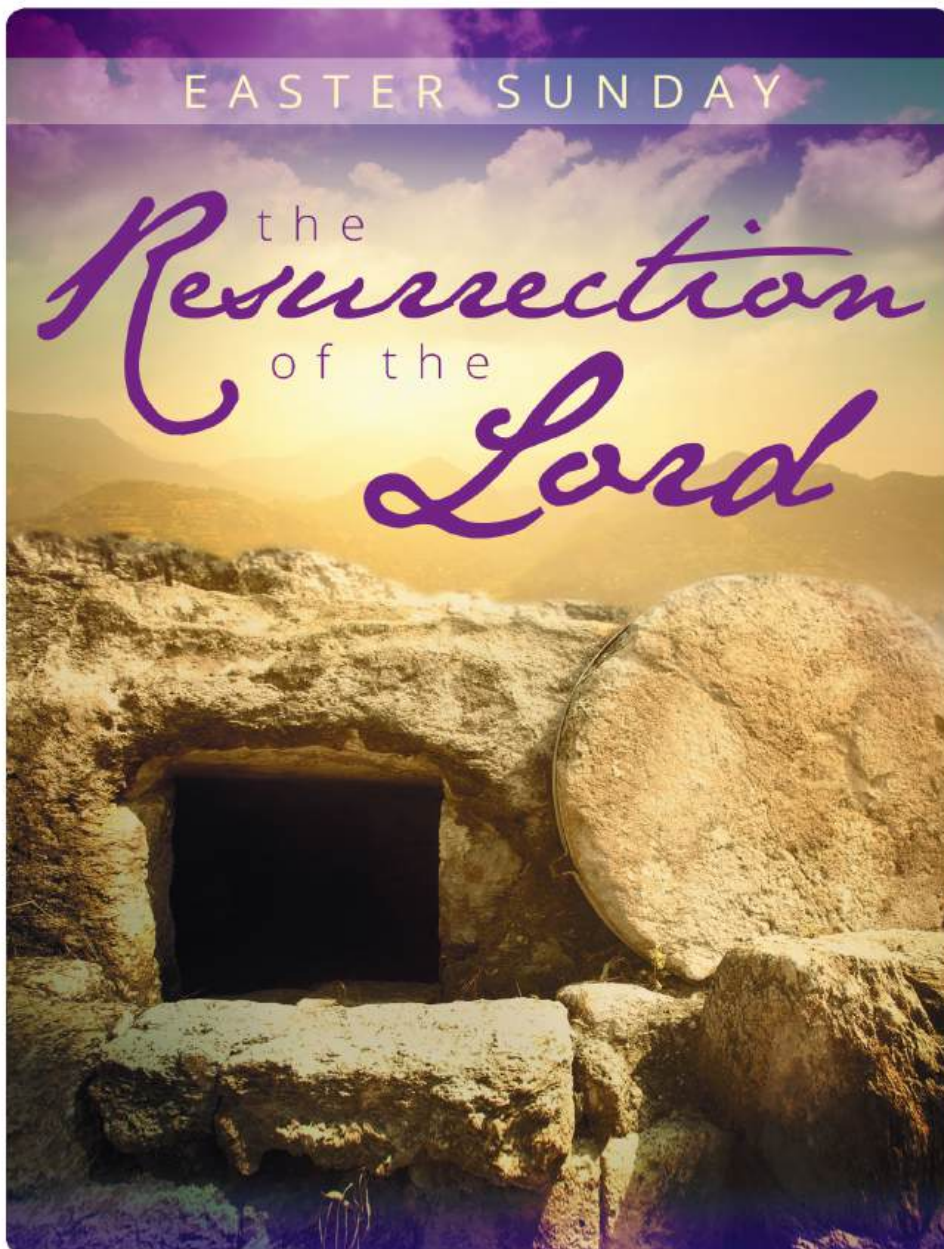
▸ R. Hess | J. Hess | J. Fedorke | D. Manning

April 12 | Sunday | 10am

▸ J. Taylor | D. Kosky | R. Patrone | L. Miller

### Sacristy

▸ Helen & Doug Zacherl



## PARISH STAFF

**Pastor:** Rev. Priyesh Sebastian, MCBS

**Secretary:** Sr. Agatha Munyanyi, SJI

**Faith Formation:** Sr. Marita Sithole, SJI

**Bookkeeper:** Susan Board

**Bulletin Editor:** Emily Daugherty, RN

**DRE:** Mary Helen Marling

## LET'S STAY CONNECTED

### Saint Francis Xavier Parish

912 Seventh Street

Moundsville, WV 26041

**Office:** 304-845-1593

**Fr. Sebastian:** 304-604-3875

[www.sfxmoundsville.org](http://www.sfxmoundsville.org)

**St. Vincent de Paul Society:**

• 304-650-5418

**Gabriel Project:** • 304-280-6701

[facebook.com/StFrancisXavierMoundsville](https://facebook.com/StFrancisXavierMoundsville)

# Mass Intentions

**APRIL 4**  
**8:00pm**     **HOLY SATURDAY**  
**Earl Richards †**  
‣ Lewis & Kathy Bee

**APRIL 5**  
**8:00am**     **EASTER SUNDAY**  
**Gene Estep †**  
‣ Stan & Kitty Pazyk

**10:00am**     **Pete Mysliwicz †**  
‣ Barb & Butch Key

**APRIL 6**  
**8:00am**     **MONDAY**  
Communion Service

**APRIL 7**  
**8:00am**     **TUESDAY**  
**Mark Joseph Novel †**  
‣ Robert & Theresa  
(Novel) Baker

**APRIL 8**  
**8:00am**     **WEDNESDAY**  
**Don McCormick †**  
**Mark McCormick**  
‣ Ellen McCormick

**APRIL 9**  
**8:00am**     **THURSDAY**  
**Lee Wan Hee †**  
‣ Yong Potts

**APRIL 10**  
**8:00am**     **FRIDAY**  
**Bonnie Davis †**  
‣ Ellen McCormick

**APRIL 11**  
**8:00pm**     **SATURDAY**  
**Opal Romanoski †**

**APRIL 12**  
**8:00am**     **SUNDAY**  
**John Lavender Jr. †**  
‣ Stan & Kitty Pazyk

**10:00am**  
**Zachary**  
**Materkoski †**  
‣ Curia Family



## FROM THE DESK OF FR. SEBASTIAN

### You're always in my prayers

My dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

Happy Easter to you and your families.

I just wanted to write to you in a simple way from my heart. Easter is a time of new beginning. After the suffering and death of Jesus, there is new life. That gives us hope for our own lives too. Whatever we are going through, God can make something new.

Today, I also want to say this: Please take your faith seriously in a simple, practical way.

Come to church. Stay close to the sacraments. Make time for prayer in your family. Even a few minutes together every day makes a difference. That is how we become strong, not by big things, but by small faithful steps.

I have prepared a small prayer book for you. Please use it at home. Don't just keep it. Pray with it. If possible, pray as a family. This is very important today, especially when the world around us is not peaceful.



We also remember those who cannot come to church, the sick, the elderly, and the homebound. You are always in my prayers. You were once very active, strong pillars of this parish, and even now you continue to support us through your prayers.

We have already shared Easter flowers with you. It is a small sign, but it comes with a big message, we remember you, we care for you, and you are still very much part of our parish family. I hope our parish also continues to remember you and pray for you. This is the true spirit of Easter.

And to those who are coming regularly, I gently ask you, bring someone with you. Encourage your family members, your children, your friends. Help them come back to church. Sometimes they are just waiting for a simple invitation. Let this Easter not be just a celebration, but a small step forward in our faith. Be close to God. Stay united as families. Keep praying.

I remember all of you in my prayers.  
With prayers and blessings,  
Fr Sebastian, MCBS - Your Pastor

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

## WELCOME TO OUR PARISH



We are excited to welcome the following members into our parish family this Easter season: **Justin Mullet, Jeffrey Wetherell, & Johnathan Moran**

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Homebound:** Judy Seidel, Kathryn Helfer, Phyllis Prado, Jim Brown, Katie Melchiori, John Bierce, Sandina Leonard

**Nursing Home:** Sally Gast, Tim Gast, Carol Riggie, Rachel Kerekes, Kathryn Ferrera, Angeline Sellers, Fay Melchiori, Dwight Furbee, Katie Renshaw, Ron Flading, Barb Meyer, Raymond Pennybaker, Donna Lagos

**Recently Sick:** Mary Marsh, Butch Miller, Jerry Durbin, Sister Marita's Mother, Eric Gordon, Joanne Potts, Don Gray, Denise Deroy, Barbara Birch, Suzy Lunau, Eleanor Smith, Roger Frame, Mike Pavilkey, Phil Remke, Jenny Ingram, Maggie Yeater, Carlene Crow, Kimberly Peffley, Scott Peffley, Karen Swierkos-Wayne, David Yeater, John Kirchner, Ted Scarbin, Nash Casto, Catherine Pellerin, Deanne Ferraro

**A PRAYER FOR PEACE AND PROTECTION**

As conflict continues overseas, we lift in prayer our troops, their families, and all those affected by war.

We especially remember the parents, spouses, children, and loved ones who carry the quiet burden of worry each day. In times of uncertainty, we turn to God for peace, strength, and protection.

This week, let us join together in praying the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel for the safety of those who serve and for peace in our world.

**PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL**

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.

Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

*Amen.*



**(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS**  
**What Would Mary Do?**

*By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*

This Easter morning, I am thinking of Mary Magdalene. I want to know her state of mind as she approached the tomb in the darkness.

Was she afraid? Was she thinking clearly? Was she tired? Had grief and trauma robbed her of her sleep the last two nights? What did she intend to do? Anoint Christ's body, yes — but what else? Kiss his hands, trace the markings where the lash had fallen upon his skin? Say goodbye? Weep? Despair?

What were the words she planned to whisper into the cold, empty darkness that morning, as she wept over God's body?

I don't know anything about her state of mind that Easter morning, except that I know she wanted to be with Christ. Perhaps that was all she knew, too.

Perhaps she had no other thought, no other desire, than nearness to him. She didn't need to understand everything, and she didn't expect answers — she didn't dare hope for that. But everything and everyone had fallen apart around her, and in Jesus' presence she knew her heart would be able to rest. If you have ever been in the midst of a crisis in your life and found yourself pacing the floors of your house when no

one else is awake, muttering the words to a prayer you know by heart, you know what Mary Magdalene felt.

In those moments, we do not always feel God's presence. Sometimes, when we look for Him, we only see an empty tomb. When these dark moments come, I pray you will remember the faithfulness of this great saint.

Be like Mary Magdalene.

Look for Jesus, always. You may not always find him, but he will always find you. "She ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, 'They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him.'" — John 20:2 ©LPI

**COMING UP: DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

We are excited to welcome one of the bright, young voices from Hallow, Lizzy Bagley, who will be joining us to celebrate this beautiful feast day. She will be speaking at all Masses next weekend.

Lizzy will also offer a "mini-retreat" following the **10:00 AM Mass on April 12** and will be available to answer questions about the Hallow app.

All are encouraged to attend for coffee, donuts, fellowship, and faith formation!

**PRAYER CHALLENGE INVITATION: "HE IS RISEN"**

St. Francis Xavier invites you to join our parish on Hallow for the **He Is Risen Easter prayer challenge** beginning **April 6**.

This daily experience includes Scripture read by Lauren Daigle and reflections from Fr. John Burns, helping you encounter the Risen Christ in a personal way.

Through our parish partnership with Hallow, you can pray together, share intentions, and grow in faith—no subscription required.

**To join:** Download the Hallow app, go to the Community tab, and search for our parish by name or zip code.

## YOU BELONG HERE

### Join Us Beyond Sunday Mass

Easter is a beautiful time in our parish—a time when many return home, visit with family, or walk through our doors again. However you found your way here, we're so glad you're with us.

At St. Francis Xavier, parish life extends far beyond Sunday Mass. We are a community, and here there is something for everyone. If you've been looking for a place to connect, serve, or simply feel a little more at home—you belong here.

#### Here are just a few ways to get involved:



**The Gabriel Project** – Meets Thursdays in the former school, providing support and baby essentials to young parents in need.

† **St. Vincent de Paul Society** – Assists local families with utility bills. Open Thursdays from 12–3pm in the church basement. Supported through donations and fundraising events.

**Prison Ministry** – Offers support, guidance, and hope to incarcerated individuals.

**Knights of Columbus #1907** – Supports parish events like our Lenten Fish Fries and serves our community in many ways. Pictured: KOC distributing pies to Moundsville Healthcare residents at Thanksgiving. –



**Bible Study** – Wednesdays at 9am or Thursdays at 6:30pm. Join us as we explore the foundations of our faith.

**Evangelization Team** – A growing ministry helping to share and strengthen our faith, including connecting our parish through the Hallow prayer app.

**Homebound Ministry** – Brings comfort and connection to parishioners unable to attend Mass, including special visits during Easter and Christmas.

**Bingo Nights** – Friday evenings at 6pm. Food, raffles, games, and great company—come early for a good seat!

**Parish Bus Trips** – Join us for fun outings, including an upcoming trip to *Sight & Sound Theatre* in Lancaster, PA.

**Line Dancing with Lottie** – Wednesdays in Xavier Hall (11:30am beginners, 1:30pm advanced). A fun way to stay active!

**Chair Yoga with Emily** – Tuesdays at 10am in Room 104. A gentle, welcoming way to move and relax. Pictured: Students take break to snap a photo. →



**Garden Crew** – Help keep our parish grounds beautiful this spring and beyond.

**Liturgical Ministries** – Eucharistic ministers and readers who serve during Mass—always welcoming new members.



**Choir** – “Hark thou hear the angels sing!” The choir is a beautiful part our parish and always welcoming new members!

**Sacristy Cleaners** – A dedicated group caring for our church each week.

**Parish & Finance Councils** – Supporting the growth and stewardship of our parish.



**Youth Events** – Activities throughout the year for children and families, including Fun Day and our Christmas Children's Mass. Pictured: Living Nativity at St. Jude Park - Dec. 2025

† **OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)** – Dedicated members offer guidance, support, and community for those exploring or entering the Church.

If something here speaks to you, we invite you to take that next step. Call the parish office to learn more and let's get connected.

No matter how long it's been, or how often you attend—there is a place for you here.



**Eucharistic Exposition takes place every Wednesday after Mass**

**EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION  
Wednesday, April 8**

Special intentions this week are for the families listed below. Eucharistic Exposition is every Wednesday after 8am Mass.

- Rine
- Roskovensky
- Robbins
- Roxby
- Robinson
- Ruckman

**ADOPT A PLANTER**

Help keep our church beautiful by adopting one of our outdoor planters. Sign up at the back of church or contact the office or Helen Zacherl (304-312-1450).

**PARISH GIVING  
MARCH 28-29**

Envelope .....	\$3,419.00
Loose Offering.....	\$646.00
Memorial Gifts .....	\$75.00
Easter Flowers .....	\$445.00
Holy Land .....	\$85.00
Candles .....	\$4.00
Online Giving .....	\$37.00

**Attendance ..... 297**

**HALL OF FAME**

**BIG NEWS:** That beautiful and strong voice we hear on Sunday mornings at 8am Mass belongs to **Kathy Fox**, the newest member of the West Virginia Music Educators Hall of Fame!

Kathy has been an educator for 26 years in the Marshall County School district.

We are so blessed to have her in our musical midst.

**Congratulations Kathy!!**

**CATHOLIC TRIVIA**

**Question:** What is the name of the patron saint of travelers and lost items?

**Answer:** St. Anthony of Padua - Feast Day April 2<sup>nd</sup>

**COMMUNITY  
EVENTS**

• Tuesdays | 10am  
**Chair Yoga with Emily** | Room 104 of the former school

• Wednesdays | 11:30am & 1:30pm  
**Line Dancing with Lottie** | Xavier Hall

• Thursdays | 12-3pm  
**St. Vincent de Paul** assistance | Church Basement

• Thursdays | 11-2pm  
**Gabriel Project** | In the school

• Fridays | 6pm  
**BINGO** | Xavier Hall

• **Bible Study** | Wednesdays at 9am or Thursdays at 6:30pm | Church Basement

• **April 10 | Bishop Donahue Class Reunion & Mass**

• **April 11- 12** | Lizzy from Hallow joining us for all Masses & mini-retreat after 10am Mass

• **April 22 | Parish Council Meeting** Church Basement | 6:30pm

EMBRACING OUR FAITHFUL COMMUNITY



**SAINT OF THE WEEK:**

**Saint Mary  
Magdalene**

**Feast Day:** July 22

**Patron Saint Of:** *Women, penitent sinners, converts, & hairdressers*

Saint Mary Magdalene is honored as the “Apostle to the Apostles.” She was from Magdala, a fishing town along the Sea of Galilee, and likely a young woman when she first encountered Jesus.

In the Gospel of Luke (8:1-3), we are told that Jesus cast “seven demons” from her—a phrase often understood as complete healing from deep suffering. Jesus not only healed her, but restored her dignity and called her into a new life as a devoted follower.

Mary Magdalene remained faithful even at the foot of the Cross alongside Mary, the Mother of God.

On Easter Sunday, she became the first to witness the risen Christ. In the Gospel of John (20:11-18), Jesus calls her by name—“Mary”—and she recognizes Him. He then entrusts her with sharing the news of His Resurrection with the disciples, giving rise to her title, “Apostle to the Apostles.”

For many centuries, she was mistakenly identified as a prostitute—a view popularized in 591 by Pope Gregory I, though not supported by Scripture. In 1969, the Church clarified her true role as a faithful disciple and first witness to the Resurrection.

Mary Magdalene’s story reminds us that God heals, restores, and calls each of us by name—and often chooses the unexpected to share His greatest news.