



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.

FEBRUARY 22, 2026 | FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Welcome

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

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION



Wednesday, Feb. 25

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

- Neiswonger
- Niemiec
- Novel
- O'Neal
- O'Neil
- Oakland

READERS & EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Feb 28 | Saturday Vigil | 4pm

• D. Evans | D. Prado | D. Rice | G. Rice

March 1 | Sunday | 8am

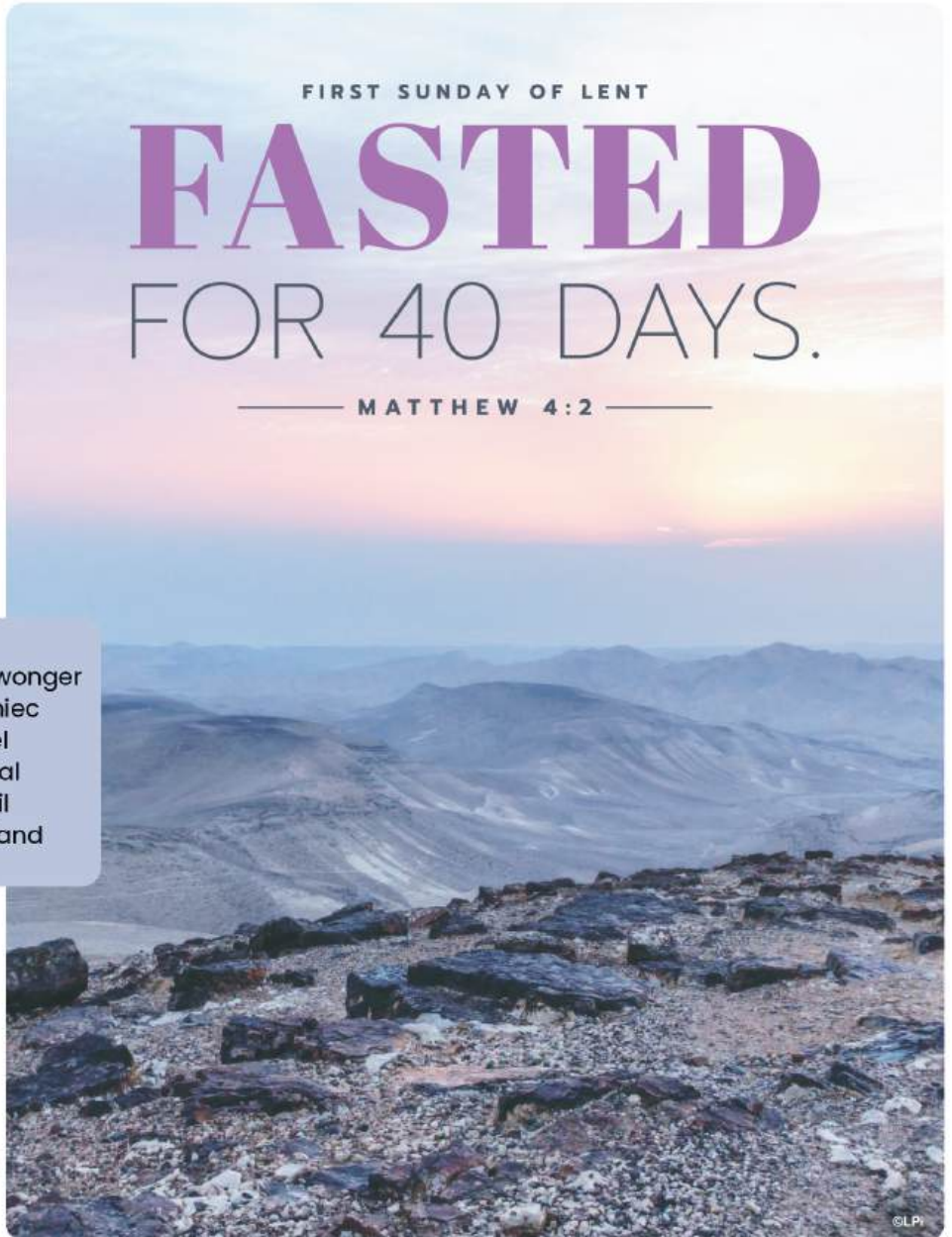
• R. Hess | J. Hess | D. Manning | S. Kent

March 2 | 10am

• P. Whitwam | L. Yoho | C. McDonald | J. Fecat

Sacristy

• Helen & Doug Zacherl



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FASTED FOR 40 DAYS.

— MATTHEW 4:2 —

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

St. Vincent de Paul Society:

• 304-650-5418

Gabriel Project: • 304-280-6701

facebook.com/StFrancisXavierMoundsville

Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church

Mass Intentions

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| FEB 21 4:00pm | SATURDAY Paul Aquaro † •Cindy & Joe Wieth |
| FEB 22 8:00am | SUNDAY Ray Yocum † •Yocum Family |
| 10:00am | Vicki DeTemple Novick & Christine DeTemple Norris †† •Mom & Dad |
| FEB 23 8:00am | MONDAY Communion Service |
| FEB 24 8:00am | TUESDAY Urban Klug † •Jane Klug |
| FEB 25 8:00am | WEDNESDAY Nell Jones † •A. Farley |
| FEB 26 8:00am | THURSDAY Robert Kleinedler † •Mr. & Mrs. Taskalines |
| FEB 27 8:00am | FRIDAY Pete Mysliwicz † •Maria & Bryan Minor |
| FEB 28 4:00pm | SATURDAY Pete Mysliwicz † •Duane & Daunel Gump |
| MAR 1 8:00am | SUNDAY The Deceased Members of the L.R. & Betty Lewis Family † •Teresa Lewis Vermeulen |
| 10:00am | Joe Church † •Sue Church |

Prayer Requests

Homebound: Judy Seidel, Kathryn Helfer, Phyllis Prado, Jim Brown, Katie Melchiori, John Bierce, Sandina Leonard
Nursing Home: Carol Riggle, Rachel Kerekes, Kathryn Ferrera, Angeline Sellers, Fay Melchiori, Dwight Furbee, Katie Renshaw, Ron Flading, Barb Meyer, Raymond Pennybaker, Donna Lagos

Recently Sick: Butch Miller, Sally Gast, 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



40 DAY OF LENT

Celebrate Lent with Your Parish Family & Hallow

This Lenten season, we invite our parish family to connect in a special way by joining **Hallow, the #1 Catholic prayer app**. Rooted in the Catholic faith, Hallow helps people grow closer to God and find peace in daily life.

Fifty-three parishioners at St. Francis have already been using Hallow – and now you're invited to join for **free!** Parishioner Helen Zacherl, who's been using Hallow to support her spiritual practice for years, writes:

"I enjoy the Hallow app because it helps me build a daily habit of prayer in a way that feels calm and intentional. The variety of sessions – from guided prayer to Bible reflections and sleep meditations – makes it easy to choose what I need each day. It creates a peaceful space to pause, reflect, and reconnect with my faith, even when life feels busy. It's become a meaningful part of my routine."

This Lent, join us for the **Pray40 Challenge: The Return**, featuring reflections inspired by *The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoevsky – one of the most revered spiritual novels of all time. A limited number of books are available at the parish for a freewill donation.

To get started with Hallow, please see page 3.

LENTEN REFLECTIONS

As we begin this Lenten season, Hallow invites us to pause and reflect through the Pray40 Challenge. Set a timer for 10 minutes, open your journal, and prayerfully consider the questions below:

- What specific daily practice can you commit to that will draw you closer to God this Lent?
- What area of your life most needs renewal this season?
- What may be holding you back from coming to God with a sincere and open heart?
- In this week's readings, what stood out to you most – and why?

May this season strengthen our hearts, deepen our faith, and unite us as a parish community seeking Christ together.



Stations of the Cross:

▸ 6:30 PM Fridays during Lent

Catholic Q&A

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Question: Who invented the Stations of the Cross?

Answer: The first Stations of the Cross were walked by Jesus himself on the way to Calvary. Known as the "Via Dolorosa" ("The Way of Suffering") or the "Via Crucis" ("The Way of the Cross"), it was marked out from the earliest times and was a traditional walk for pilgrims who came to Jerusalem.

The early Christians in Jerusalem would walk the same pathway that Jesus walked, pausing for reflection and prayer. Later, when Christians could not travel to the Holy Land, artistic depictions of "The Way of the Cross" were set up in churches, or outside and Christians would walk from station to station, reading the Gospel account of the Passion, or simply praying and reflecting on each event.

While the content or place of each station had changed, the intention was to make a mini-pilgrimage and follow--literally--in the footsteps of Jesus. This devotion became better known in the Middle Ages, and the Franciscans are credited with its spread.

Lent is a time when many people make the Stations and some churches present Passion plays or Living Stations. But anyone can pray the Stations at any time. It is a simple and personal reflection on the passion of Jesus and what it means to us. -LPI

THE GREAT JOURNEY

"The supreme adventure in a person's life is the journey back to their Creator"
-BKS Iyengar



Practicing Catholic:

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Into the Desert

When we first got married, I wanted to know everything my husband was thinking, exactly when he was thinking it.

Thirteen years later, I still want to know it all. But I want to know it after he's had a snack.

I think he still wants to know what I'm thinking, too. But he wants to know it after I've had 10 minutes without hearing the word, "Mommy!"

Life has taught us, you see, that it's hard to be a good person, a nice person, a gentle person, when your body doesn't feel good or nice or gentle. When you're hungry. When you're exhausted. When you're anxious.

It's not impossible, of course. It's just ... *hard*.

We're entering a penitential season, a time in which we purposefully deprive ourselves in certain ways. During Lent, we intentionally enter into the desert of physical hunger and weakness.

Why, in preparation for Easter and in an effort to spiritually purify ourselves, do we go to this place where it's so hard to be good? Why do we go to the desert?

Because Christ has shown us that the desert is where decisions are made.

There are many reasons why the Word became flesh to accomplish God's plan for our salvation. But I think one of the most important reasons must have been that God wanted to show us that He knows, intimately, how easily the devil exploits our physical experience of this world. We see it in today's Gospel: Jesus, hungry and weary. Jesus, taunted and tempted.

We see him. We recognize him. We are him.

And we hear his voice, even though it trembles with fatigue: "Get away, Satan!"

Today, we enter the desert. Because the desert is where decisions are made.

© LPI

HOW TO GET STARTED ON: **Hallow**

All parishioners – subscribers and those on the free version – are invited to be a part of our parish page.

There, you're able to create a profile, share prayer requests, and take part in prayer challenges together.

- **Already on Hallow?** Visit the Church tab in the app to create your profile and find our parish (search by parish zip code).
- **Not yet on Hallow?** Visit hallow.com/parish (QR code), search by parish zip code, and follow the prompts. You'll be given a special trial which gives access to all the app's premium content. If you'd like to forgo and remain on the free version, simply hit "Skip" and you'll have access to our parish page.

Questions about app access? Contact parishsupport@hallow.app.

Scan the QR Code



FEBRUARY BLACK HISTORY MONTH

©LPI

During **Black History Month**, we honor saints and holy people of color whose faith, perseverance, and witness helped challenge injustice and shape a brighter future for generations to come.



SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

Kidnapped into slavery as a child in Sudan, she endured great suffering before gaining her freedom and becoming a religious sister in Italy. Known for her gentleness and deep forgiveness, she witnessed to the healing power of Christ's love. She was canonized in 2000 and is a patron saint of victims of human trafficking.



SERVANT OF GOD JULIA GREELEY

Born into slavery, Julia Greeley became known as Denver's "Angel of Charity." She quietly delivered food, clothing, and firewood to struggling families—often at

night to protect their dignity. Her life reflected humble service and unwavering devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



SAINT CHARLES LWANGA

A leader among the Ugandan Martyrs, Charles Lwanga was executed in 1886 for refusing to renounce his Christian faith. He courageously protected younger believers and remained steadfast in Christ despite persecution. Canonized in 1964, he stands as a witness to faith and moral courage.



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

A Baptist minister and leader of the American Civil Rights Movement, Dr. King rooted his call for racial equality in Christian faith and nonviolent love. Through courage, prayer,

and peaceful protest, he challenged injustice and inspired lasting change. His life reminds us that faith must be lived through action.



NELSON MANDELA

Though not Catholic, Mandela's lifelong struggle against apartheid reflected Gospel values of justice and reconciliation. After spending 27 years in prison for opposing racial oppression, he emerged without bitterness and went on to become the first Black president of South Africa, leading his nation toward healing and unity.



SAINT MARTIN DE PORRES

Son of a freed slave in Peru, he became a Dominican brother known for caring for the poor and sick. Canonized in 1962, he is remembered for his humility and compassion.



Saint of the Week: MOTHER MARY ELIZABETH LANGE

Not yet a canonized saint, but is on her way to sainthood. Pope Francis declared her Venerable, recognizing her life of "heroic virtue."

Elizabeth Clarisse Lange was born between 1783 and 1794, likely in Santiago de Cuba, and received a strong Catholic education. She immigrated to Baltimore, Maryland in 1813 as a free woman, where she became part of a growing community of French-speaking, Afro-Caribbean Catholics.

In a time when Black children were barred from public schools, Lange opened a free school in her home to educate youth of color.

With Fr. James Nicholas Joubert, she founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence in 1829 — the first Black religious congregation in the United States. She became the congregation's first superior, taking the name Sister Mary, and is recognized as the first Black superior general in the Americas.

Despite facing discrimination, the sisters faithfully served their community through schools, orphanages, and charitable works. Known for her deep faith and perseverance, Mother Lange inspired generations through her leadership and compassion.

She died on February 3, 1882, at age 88, and was declared Venerable by Pope Francis on June 22, 2023. She is remembered as a trailblazer whose faith helped break barriers for Black Catholics in the United States.



IMAGES OF MARY

Our mini-Bible study has finished up. Pictured above is our final class, where participants were invited to bring their favorite images of Mary, Mother of God.

A special thank you to our presenter, Shirley Carter, Director of Faith Formation for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, for sharing her guidance and wisdom. And thank you to all who participated!

PARISH GIVING February 15



| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Envelope | \$3,575.00 |
| Loose Offering | \$591.00 |
| Pennies for God | \$26.00 |
| Memorial Gifts | \$1,075.00 |
| Candles | \$44.00 |
| Online Giving | \$59.51 |
| Church Missions US | \$225.00 |
| Building Fund | \$75.00 |
| Attendance | 227 |

THE FOOD DRIVE IS OVER

Thank you to everyone who supported the St. Vincent de Paul Food Drive!

Year round donations can be made to the Feeding the Soul Soup Kitchen at Simpson Methodist Church.

FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT – WHEELING NAILERS

Wheeling Nailers invites you to join them on Sunday, March 1 at WesBanco Arena for Faith & Family Night. Puck drops at 4:10 PM. Discounted tickets are available for church members, and the evening will include player faith testimonials and post-game fellowship.



- Tickets may be purchased through the event flyer or by contacting Tyler Smith at 304-905-6337. Groups are welcome!

BIBLE STUDY: FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH Journey Through the Catechism of the Catholic Church

Beginning March 18, you're invited to join our new bible study program: *Foundations of Faith—A Journey Through the Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

Over the 20 sessions, you'll be invited to explore the core beliefs of the Catholic Faith, learn about biblical and historical sources of the Catechism, and discover how these teachings have developed since the time of the apostles.



Spring Sessions:

- **Wednesday, March 18** | 9-10:30 AM -OR-
- **Thursday, March 19** | 6:30-8 PM
- **Sign Up:** Forms available at the parish office, church entrances, online (on website under the FORMS tab,) or by email
- **Deadline to Register:** Wednesday, March 4
- **Workbook:** \$20
- **Questions:** Call or text Mary Britt at 716-207-9146

LENTEN LUNCHES

The **Moundville Ministerial Association** invites you to visit local churches this Lent as we gather to reflect on the 40 days of our Lord.

Services are held on Wednesdays during Lent at noon, followed by a freewill donation lunch.

- **February 25** – St. Jude Church
- **March 4** – Christian Church
- **March 11** – Calvary Church
- **March 18** – Trinity Episcopal Church
- **March 25** – Messiah Lutheran Church

All are welcome to attend.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Mondays | 12-3pm
St. Vincent de Paul assistance in the church basement
- Tuesdays | 10am
Chair Yoga with Emily (room 104 school)
- Wednesdays | 11:30am & 1:30pm
Line Dancing with Lottie in Xavier Hall
- Thursdays | 11-2pm
Gabriel Project-In the school
- Fridays | 6:30pm
Stations of the Cross
- Fridays | 6pm
BINGO in Xavier Hall
- **Wednesday Feb. 25 | Parish Council Meeting** at 6:30pm in church basement
- **Monday March 2 | Infant of Prague Novena** at Our Lady of Peace | 7pm
- **March 18 & 19 | Bible Study Begins** | Foundations of Faith

JERUSALEM CARVINGS

The Holy Land group will be selling handmade olive wood carvings from Bethlehem at weekend Masses on **February 21-22**.

Your support helps sustain more than 200 families in the Middle East. These carvings provide a vital source of income for Christian families in the Holy Land.

ST. FRANCIS FISH FRY IS IN FULL SWING!

The Knights of Columbus Fish Fry takes place every Friday during Lent, 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. in Xavier Hall.

We are in need of volunteers and donations of:

- Baked goods & desserts
- Pop & bottled water
- Foil
- Sandwich baggies
- Plastic & brown paper bags



Much of the profit comes from donated desserts and drinks. Thank you for your support!