

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.

MARCH 29, 2026 | PALM SUNDAY

READERS & EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

April 2 | Holy Thursday | 8pm

▸ D. Evans | L. Magnone | L. Miller | C. Frame

April 3 | Good Friday | 8pm

▸ L. Frohnapfel & D. Prado | L. Magnone | L. Miller | D. Rice

April 4 | Easter Vigil | 8pm

▸ Prado/Zachrel/Evans | L. Magnone | L. Miller | D. Prado

April 5 | Easter Sunday | 8am

▸ R. Hess | J. Hess | T. McDonald | M. Lohri

April 5 | Easter Sunday | 10am

▸ P. Whitwam | L. Yoho | D. Kosky | J. Fecat

Sacristy

▸ Linda Miller & Tania Cain

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses

Saturday | 4:00pm Vigil

Sunday | 8:00am & 10:00am

Weekday Masses

Monday | Communion Service

Tuesday | 8:00am

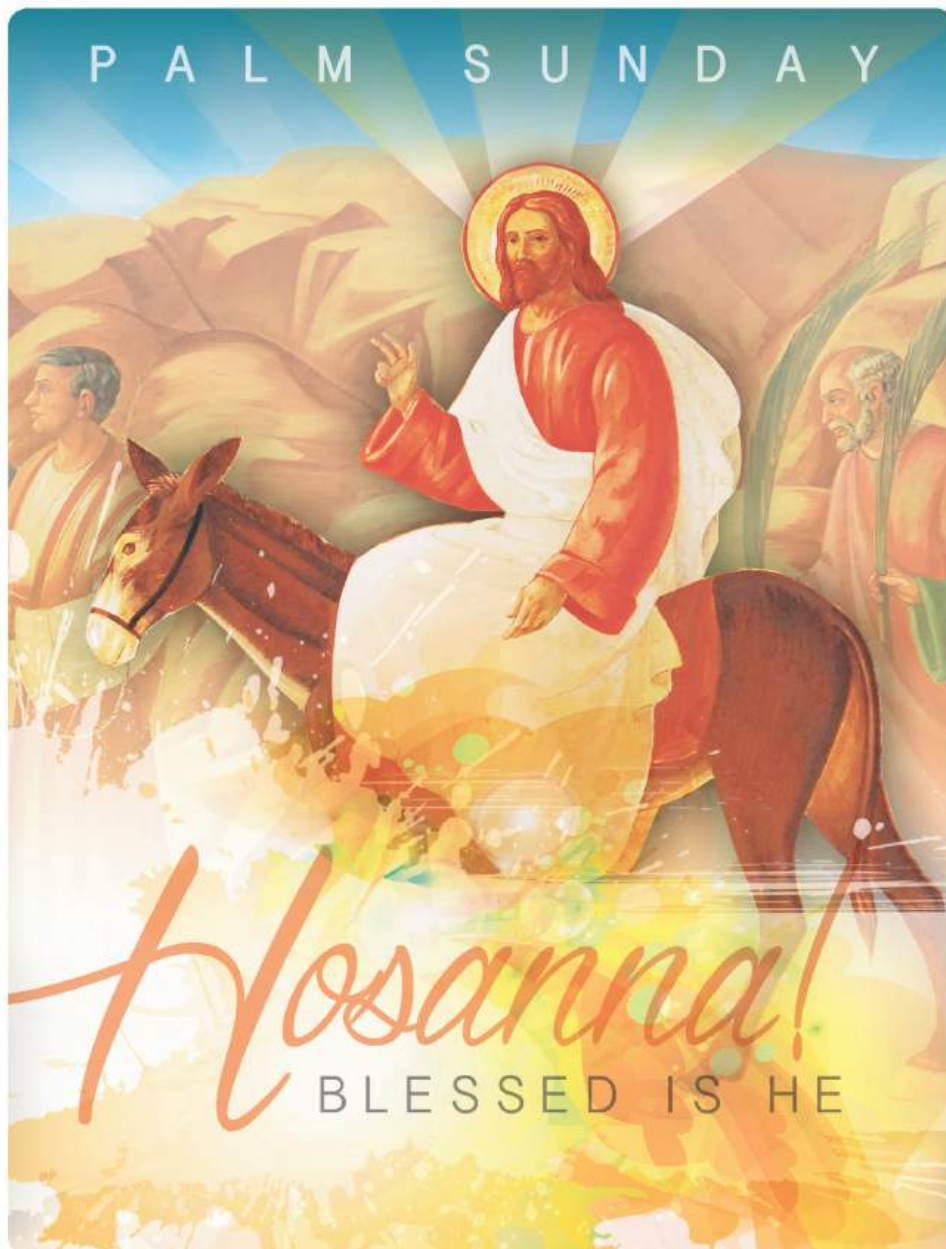
Wednesday | 8:00am

Thursday | 8:00am

Friday | 8:00am

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

Confession | Saturdays 3:00pm



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

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www.sfxmoundsville.org

St. Vincent de Paul Society:

• 304-650-5418

Gabriel Project: • 304-280-6701

facebook.com/StFrancisXavierMoundsville

Mass Intentions

MAR 28 **SATURDAY**
4:00pm **Semon & Phyllis Prado** †
↳ *Danny Prado*

MAR 29 **SUNDAY**
8:00am **Kathy Swift** †
↳ *Her Family*

10:00am **Pete Mysliwicz** †
↳ *Dave, Lynn, Nathaniel Frohnafel*

MAR 30 **MONDAY**
8:00am Communion Service

MAR 31 **TUESDAY**
8:00am **Earl Richards** †
↳ *John & Debbie Polley Family*

APRIL 1 **WEDNESDAY**
8:00am **Timothy Yoho** †
↳ *Joanne Ray*

APRIL 2 **HOLY THURSDAY**
8:00am **Elaine Vucelich** †
↳ *Jim & Diana Barker*

APRIL 3 **GOOD FRIDAY**
7:00pm **THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

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

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

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



FROM THE DESK OF FATHER SEBASTIAN

This Holy Week...Don't Miss Him

My dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

Let me be very real with you.

We are busy... tired... carrying our own problems. Family stress... health... money... worries... Life is not easy.

Now look at Jesus.

On the night before He died, He didn't run away. He didn't complain. He didn't prove His power.

He bent down... and washed feet.

Why?

Because real love is not big talk. It is small, humble, everyday service.

So this is the question. At home, in your family, do I serve? Or do I expect everyone to serve me?

Then look at His suffering.

He carried the Cross... just like you carry your struggles.

But He didn't carry it alone for nothing. He carried it to save you, to show you that your pain has meaning, that your life is not useless, that you are not alone.

So don't stay away this week.

Come to church. Not because it is a rule... but because you *need* Him.

Bring your tired heart. Bring your *real* life.

Stand near Him... and you will understand your own life better.

This Holy Week... don't miss Him.

- Fr Sebastian, MCBS - Your Pastor

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH



The collection on **Good Friday** is for the **Pontifical Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land.**

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 TROOPS

All-powerful and ever-living God,
 when Abraham left his native land
 and departed from his people
 you kept him safe through all his journeys.
 Protect these soldiers.
 Be their constant companion and their strength in
 battle,
 their refuge in every adversity.
 Guide them, O Lord, that they may return home in
 safety.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

BISHOP DONAHUE HIGH SCHOOL MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

Friday, April 10th at 5PM



The **Bishop Donahue High School class of 1971** invites all former students and teachers to a **Mass of Remembrance**, honoring all students and teachers, living and deceased. It will be held at St. James Catholic Church, McMechan, WV on Friday, April 10th at 5pm.
 After Mass everyone is invited to meet at Undos in Benwood. Come and join BDHS alumni by starting off the weekend reunion by going to Mass. For more information about the all class reunion, April 10-11th see the BDHS alumni Facebook page.

THIS WEEK IN **Hallow**

If you're just tuning in, this Lent, as a parish family, we've been following the **Pray40 Challenge** on the *Hallow* app. Along with the challenge, we've been reading the book *The Brothers Karamazov*, a novel set in 19th century Russia that is still very relevant to today's modern world. To the right you'll find questions for reflection to go along with the story. →

Also, It's not too late to join us in Hallow or join the **Pray40 Challenge**. To sign up for the Hallow App, visit hallow.com/parish, 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.

Week Six – Pray40 Reflection: The Gift of Mercy

Grab your journal or a piece of paper and take a few quiet moments to reflect:
 In *The Brothers Karamazov*, we see three brothers navigating deep spiritual highs and lows, each in their own way. This week's Hallow reflection invites us to consider the power of mercy—how both giving and receiving mercy can fill our hearts and draw us closer to love.

Reflection Questions:

- Is there someone in my life I am being called to show mercy toward right now?
- How does mercy soften my heart and bring me closer to love?
- In what ways might God be inviting me to receive His mercy more fully?

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC – RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Humanity of Holy Week

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman



We have all sold Jesus out, at one point or another. Some of us have done it more than once, and we've done it for a lot less than 30 pieces of silver. We have all denied Christ, and we have done it more than three times and under much less pressure than Peter, who feared for his life when he shouted, "I do not know the man!" We have all struck the face of God — out of anger? Fear? Confusion? All of the above? — screaming, in agony, "Prophesy for me!"

At one point or another, we have all looked at our Lord beaten and betrayed, and we have all said, as

Pilate did: "What shall I do with Jesus called Christ?"

And we have all hung on the cross chosen for us, crying out in bewilderment: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Holy Week is a week where we see humanity, in all its vulnerability and ignorance.

We see it in the "villains" of the piece, like Judas, and in the morally neutral characters like Pilate and the Jews who have been misled about Jesus. We even see it in the "good guys" like Peter.

In this, the holiest week of the year, we see ourselves at our very worst. The chasm between man and his Creator is an ancient one, and it is driven deep and wide — by the pridefulness of Adam and Eve, yes, but also by every poor choice you and I have ever made. Every "I don't know the man!" Every "Prophesy!" Every "What shall I do with Jesus?" These cries echo forth from the depths of this chasm.

But this week — this Holy Week — a bridge is built across the chasm. And God reaches out His hand.

Palm Sunday



MORE THAN PALMS

It was during the fourth century in Jerusalem that Christians first started using palm branches in commemoration of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem.

Today, we continue to use palms in most churches on this Sunday, Catholic and Protestant alike. It is one of those traditions of worship that, no matter how far apart we may seem at times, we continue to share due to our common heritage.

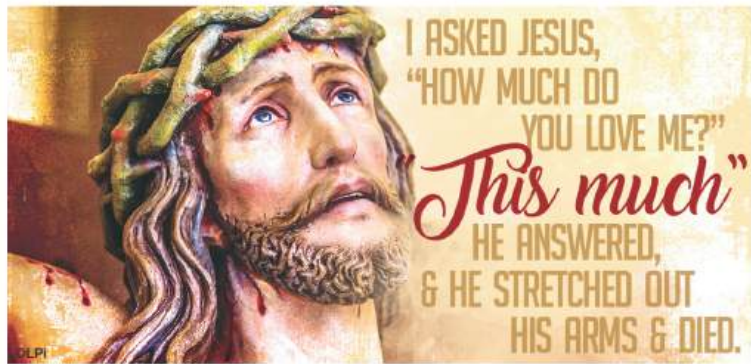
But Palm Sunday is also known as Passion Sunday, because we hear an account of the passion of Jesus Christ during the liturgy.

Most churches also share this reading in common. Many Catholic parishes use multiple lectors to proclaim the Gospel, while it is not uncommon for a similar reading or even a performance in many mainstream Protestant churches.

The commonality found in the worship on this particular Sunday seems to highlight the fundamental truth in the observance: Jesus Christ died for everyone.

He did not die on a cross for just Catholics, or just Orthodox, or just Protestants. Whether one acknowledges it or not, he was crucified for all those who are born of man.

Today, we rejoice not just for what he has done for us but also for what he has done for all of creation.



A PRAYER FOR HOLY WEEK

Dear Lord,
I open my heart to You, offering every day and night to You in sacred surrender. I pray for the grace to accompany You in a special way this Holy Week, joining and offering the trials I encounter on our shared journey to the cross...and to victorious hope.
Amen



WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

We are excited to welcome the following members into our parish family this Easter season:

- **Justin Mullet** – Candidate (Sponsor: Lisa Yoho)
- **Jeffrey Wetherell** – Candidate (Sponsor: John Harrigan)
- **Johnathan Moran** – Catechumen (Godparent: Christina Frizzell)

HE'S ALIVE 2026

The Passion of the Lord Play at the Capitol Theatre on Palm Sunday Weekend

- Friday, March 27 – 7:30p
- Saturday, March 28 – 7:30p
- Sunday, March 29 – 3:30p

CATHOLIC TRIVA

Question: According to tradition, what event took place in the home of the Apostle Mark's mother?

Answer: The Last Supper

WASHING OF THE FEET: A SACRED TRADITION

Volunteers are needed for the **Washing of the Feet** on **Holy Thursday**.

If you would like to take part in this beautiful and humble tradition on one of the holiest days of the year, please contact Father or Sister Marita.

Catholic Q&A

Holy Thursday Question: What is the significance of foot washing on Holy Thursday?

Answer: Foot washing is an ancient practice of hospitality. In Israel in Jesus' day, with its deserts and dusty roads, washing of feet was an act of honor on the part of the host.



However, the host himself would not do the washing. That was the role of the servant. The Apostles would have been accustomed to this tradition. At the Last Supper, Jesus takes on the role of the servant, washing the feet of his

followers and friends. He models the humble, loving service to which the Apostles would soon be called.

Holy Thursday is the commemoration of the Last Supper. We celebrate many things, including the institution of both the Eucharist and the priesthood – "This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me." (Luke 22:19B).

When the priest washes the feet of his parishioners, he is modeling the service of Christ. While foot washing is no longer a common practice in our society, we too are invited to imitate Christ's sacrificial service to others. ©LPI

HOLY WEEK MASSES & SERVICES

DON'T MISS THIS

Some moments in life... you don't get to repeat.
This is one of them.

✠ **HOLY THURSDAY - April 2 | 7:00pm**
He knew He would be betrayed... and still He chose to love.
He knelt down... and washed feet.
Come. Sit close to Jesus.

✠ **GOOD FRIDAY - April 3 | 2:30pm**
Stations of the Cross

✠ **GOOD FRIDAY - April 3 | 7:00pm**
He carried the Cross... slowly... painfully...
Not for a crowd. For you.

Walk with Him. Step by step.
Don't stay away today.

✠ EASTER

✠ **HOLY SATURDAY - April 4 | 8:00pm**
Vigil Mass
In the darkness... a light is lit.
And nothing is the same again.

✠ **SUNDAY - April 5 | 8 & 10am**
The tomb is empty.
Hope is alive.
Life wins.
Come and begin again.

HONESTLY...

If you miss these days, you miss the heart of everything.
Come as you are.
Tired... busy... even unsure...
Just come.
He is waiting for you.

THANK YOU!

Thank you Danny Prado, Bill Yurisko, and Rich Hitt for kicking off this year's Catholic Sharing Appeal from the pulpit last weekend!

A LIGHT THAT CONTINUES TO SHINE

The Sanctuary Candle burns in memory of **Stephanie Phillips-Eddy**, a cherished daughter, loving mother, compassionate nurse, and a true friend to all.

LENT & HOLY WEEK CALENDAR

Fridays 11-5pm FISH FRIES
Xavier Hall

Monday, March 30 EASTER ALTAR FLOWER forms due

Friday, April 6 GOOD FRIDAY CROSS WALK & ECUMENICAL SERVICE
Begins at 11am at Calvary UMC and ends at SFX with service

PARISH GIVING MARCH 21-22

Envelope	\$2,770.00
Loose Offering.....	\$618.55
Church Repair	\$25.00
Xavier Hall	\$110.00
Memorial Gifts	\$75.00
Easter Flowers	\$610.00
St. Joseph Candles	\$114.00
Shut-Ins	\$20.00
Candles	\$10.00
Online Giving	\$237.00

Attendance 242

ADOPT A PLANTER

Help keep our church beautiful by adopting one of our outdoor planters.
Choose your own flowers and care for them throughout the season.
Sign up at the back of church or contact the office or Helen Zacherl (304-312-1450).



COMMUNITY EVENTS

• Tuesdays | 10am
Chair Yoga with Emily (room 104 school)

• Wednesdays | 11:30am & 1:30pm
Line Dancing with Lottie in Xavier Hall (On hold during Holy Week)

• **Thursdays | 12-3pm**
St. Vincent de Paul assistance in the church basement

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

• Fridays | 11-5pm | **Knights of Columbus Fish Fry** in Xavier Hall

• Fridays | 6:30pm
Stations of the Cross

• Fridays | 6pm
BINGO in Xavier Hall

• **No Bible Study** during Holy Week

• **April 22 | Parish Council Meeting** | church basement | 6:30pm

EUCCHARISTIC EXPOSITION Wednesday, April 1

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

- Reynolds
- Ricardo
- Rice
- Richmond
- Riding
- Riffle



EASTER VIGIL PROCESSION

Before Mass on Holy Saturday, the Easter Vigil begins outside the church, where Fr. Sebastian will light the Paschal

Candle, symbolizing the risen Christ. Parishioners will then light their own candles from it, representing the spreading of Christ's light over darkness. We will follow Father into the church, and upon reaching the altar, the lights will come on and the Exsultet (Easter Proclamation) will be chanted.