August 26, 2018 • Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

“This saying is hard; who can accept it?” Those who had been following Jesus found the teaching about eating his flesh and drinking his blood, words that we heard in last Sunday’s Gospel, puzzling and unbelievable. There are Catholics who innocently believe that our Eucharist is only symbolic of the Body and Blood of Christ. Yet Jesus did not command us to eat this symbol of his body and blood. He said, “This is my body” and “This is my blood.”

“Does this shock you?” In fact, it did seem to shock many of his followers, the disciples no less than anyone else. Referring to another future action which would be hard to believe, Jesus says, “What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?” Nothing more is said about the Ascension at this time, but he is teaching them gradually how to accept something that seems unbelievable.

DO NOT LEAVE

Jesus teaches that “no one can come to me unless it is granted [them] by my Father.” Jesus explains these difficult beliefs by telling them that “the spirit . . . gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life.” It is in the Spirit that we truly live, and if we believe only in the flesh, we will never understand or be able to believe what seems impossible. That takes faith, and faith is a gift from God.

Because they cannot grasp this, many leave him, and so Jesus asks the Twelve, “Do you also want to leave?” But the faith of the closest followers is strong enough to hold on to what is impossible to understand literally. Peter answers for the Twelve, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

The Apostles have come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, “the Holy One of God.” Can we accept the gift of faith enough to believe?

Today’s Readings: (Is: 24:1–2a, 15–17, 18b; Ps 34:2–3, 16–17, 18–19, 20–21; Eph 5:21–32 (2a, 25–32); Jn 6:60–69

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St. Francis Xavier Parish
7th and JEFFERSON STREETS, MOUNDSVILLE, W. VA. 26041
Rev. That Son Ngoc Nguyen

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS):
Sat. 3:30 p.m., or any other time upon request.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:
By appointment. Contact the Parish House at least six months before the date of the marriage. Pre-Cana is required.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:
By appointment. The Diocese requires instructions beforehand for the parents. Contact the parish office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (C.C.D.):
Sundays during the school term at 9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. for Grades 1-12.

REGISTRATION AND CHURCH SUPPORT:
Parishioners should be properly registered at the Parish Office.
Simon Peter answered Jesus,
“Master, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
We have come to believe and are convinced
that you are the Holy One of God.”

John 6:68-69
Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 26, 2018
As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.
— Joshua 24:15b

WEEKLY SCHEDULES

Lectors/ Eucharistic Ministers:
9/1 4:00 p.m. D. Evans / M. Klug
9/2 8:00 a.m. L. Whitelatch/ S. Kent
9/2 10:00 a.m. P. Whitwam/ S. Vargo

Altar Servers:
9/1 4:00 p.m. Volunteer
9/2 8:00 a.m. Kent Family
9/2 10:00 a.m. Targosky, Miller

Gift Bearers:
9/1 4:00 p.m. Kay Bosworth & Daunel Gump
9/2 8:00 a.m. John & Ruth Ann Harrigan
9/2 10:00 a.m. Georgia Petit

Sacristy Cleaners: Week of August 27, 2018
Ruth Ann Harrigan & Lori Laberde
dee

Greeters:
9/1 4:00 p.m. Dave Evans 7 Terri Porter
9/2 8:00 a.m. Phil 7 Loretta Remke
9/2 10:00 a.m. Butch & Linda Miller

Bingo August 31, 2018
Raffle - Rick Targosky
Kitchen – Daunel Gump/ Pam Ryan

COLLECTION: August 12, 2018
Envelopes - $2,652.00
Loose Offering - $ 554.00
Building Repairs - $743.00
Assumption - $15.00
Xavier Hall - $ 30.17
Memorial Offerings- $ 250.00
Attendance - 297

The Saint Francis Xavier Parish
Community wishes all teachers and students a safe and productive start of the new school year.

Office of Safe Environment
To report an incident of suspected child sexual abuse, contact local law enforcement, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services: 800.352.6513.
To report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Diocese at 888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880.

DON’T FORGET TO ARRIVE AT MASS
30 MINUTES EARLY
FOR THE NEXT INSTALLMENT OF
THE MASS
**The Sanctuary Candle**

beside the tabernacle burns this week
In honor of
Robert & Bernadine Miller
Requested by Miller/Porter Families

**CCD CLASSES will begin on Sunday, September 16th from 8:50 to 9:50**
All Students attending public school, grades 1 through 12 should attend CCD.
All student must register by August 30th, 2017.
Registration forms can be found in the vestibule or in the Church Office. A $20.00 book fee is due at the time of registration. Students who have been confirmed are still required to attend CCD classes. For more information call the church office 304-845-1593.

**Mass for the Conversion of Lost Souls on the Memorial of St. Monica.**
This fourth-century saint was a Christian, but her husband was a pagan. Monica’s virtues and prayers, however, converted him, and he was baptized a year before his death. When her son, Augustine, went astray in faith and morals, Monica’s tears and prayers for her son were incessant. She followed him where he went to teach, and there continued to storm heaven with prayers for her son. Finally, she had the joy of witnessing Augustine being baptized.

In addition to being one of the patron saints of mothers, Monica is most often invoked for the conversion of children who have left the Church. The Cathedral will celebrate this Mass on her feast day to pray in a special way for all those who have wandered from the faith. During the Mass, everyone will have an opportunity to write down the names of their loved ones and entrust them to the powerful intercession of Saint Monica.
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling
Monday, August 27
6:00 p.m.