Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap.

*Luke 6:38*
February 24, 2019 • Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Have you ever read or heard anything about Jesus being called a “radical”? What such a statement ignores is that God has been a radical all through salvation history. What kind of superior being forgives the kind of unloving actions humankind has committed through the centuries? Answer: a God of radical mercy, kindness, love. In today’s Gospel, Jesus teaches that, like himself, like God, we must love with Godlike radical compassion, even those who are our “enemies.”

Didn’t Jesus give us an extreme example, forgiving those who put him to death? How difficult it is to be like God, like Jesus, forgiving, even loving, the very people who have treated us badly!

The first reading gives another example. David was under a death sentence by King Saul, who had become David’s enemy through jealousy. Given an opportunity to murder Saul in his sleep, David chose to let him live, out of respect for God’s will toward Saul. David recognized that the only way for him to do God’s will was to love Saul, his enemy, enough to refrain from being judge, jury, and executioner.

BEARING A GOD-LIKE IMAGE

Today’s psalm praises God for showing mercy toward us, even though we are weak-willed and consistently in need of forgiveness. God is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked, too, and calls us to show this God-like mercy to all. In Paul’s letter to the Corinthians, he tells us that by living and loving as Jesus did, as new creatures, we will bear his image as well. That being the case, and knowing that we are all children of a merciful God, made in God’s image and likeness, we take on the image of Jesus through God-like kindness and compassion.

That word “radical” comes from the Latin word for root (radix)—we hear this truth every year during the season of Advent. One of the “names” of the Promised One, Jesus, is “Root” of Jesse—indeed, a radical from before his birth.

Today’s Readings: 1 Sm 26:2, 7–9, 12–13, 22–23; Ps 103:1–2, 3–4, 8, 10, 12–13; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27–38

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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 office 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.
Merciful and gracious is the LORD, slow to anger and abounding in kindness. — Psalm 103:8

WEEKLY SCHEDULES

**Lectors/ Eucharistic Ministers:**
- 3/2  4:00 p.m. Alice Wise/Mary Taskalines.
- 3/3  8:00 a.m. Tom Wise/Cathy Frame
- 3/3  10:00 a.m. Chris King/Jonna Kuskey

**Altar Servers:**
- 3/2  4:00 p.m. Whitelatch
- 3/3  8:00 a.m. Kent
- 3/3  10:00 a.m. Miller/ Blatt

**Gift Bearers:**
- 3/2  4:00 p.m. Volunteer
- 3/3  8:00 a.m. Mark Hitt
- 3/3  10:00 a.m. Georgia Pettit

**Sacristy Cleaners: Week of February 25th**
Latrisha Whitelatch & Lottie Durbin

**Greeters:**
- 3/2  4:00 p.m. Jane Klug
- 3/3  8:00 a.m. Loretta Remke
- 3/3  10:00 a.m. Jenny Ingram

**Bingo: March 1, 2019**
Raffle: John & Loretta Niemiec
Kitchen: Jenny Ingram

Our secretary has been away getting a new knee and the parish office got ahead of itself with offertory reports! February 10 collection was reported in last week’s bulletin. If you missed it, check our website.

**Parish Family Fun and Games**
Today (Sunday) at 4:00 in Xavier Hall
You bring games and snacks;
We will bring pizza and drinks.

**Wednesday March 6**

**ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE**
- 8:00 A.M. - Mass with distribution of ashes
- 12:00 Noon - Brief Prayer Service with distribution of ashes
- 7:00 P.M. - Mass with distribution of ashes

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**St. Francis Xavier Church.**
**Stations of the Cross**
Every Friday of Lent at 6:30 p.m.
**PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS:**

**Prayer Request:** Joan Lemasters, Rick Boaudreaux, Sam Bee, Doreen Coffield, Ralph Mercer, Brenda Kurko, Joe Church, Don McCormick, Maggie Yeater, Miriam Kulavik, Bobby Kleinedler, Chris Colby, Richard Timko;

**Homebound:** Semon & Phyllis Prado, Doris Murphy, Bob Tetrick, Rachel Kerekes;

**Nursing Home:** Gary Dobbs, Patricia Schmidt, Helen Remke, Thelma Gitlin, Barbara Meyer, Elizabeth Potts, Marilyn Neidhardt, Helen Cuchta, Ron Jaworski.

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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

- **Feb. 24** - Family Fun Afternoon 4:00 Xavier Hall
- **Mar. 2** - Gifts From the Holy Land sold after Masses
- **Mar. 6** - Ash Wednesday SFX/K of C Fish Fry and every Friday in Lent.
- **Mar. 8** - Fish Fry
- **Mar. 13** - Parish Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- **Mar. 13** - Monthly Cooking Class: Indian Cuisine

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**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER / KNIGHTS FISH FRY**

We have fish fries Ash Wednesday, March 6th and every Friday during lent. We need donated desserts, volunteers, and customers!

Make a date, bring a friend.

**EAT, DONATE, VOLUNTEER**

Delivery available: 304-845-7080

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**Gifts From The Holy Land**

On March 2nd & 3rd we will have a display of beautiful handmade olive wood carvings from the Holy Land. The sales from these carvings will support our fellow Christians in the Holy Land. It is a major source of income for families struggling to remain in the Holy Land.

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**The Sanctuary Candle**

beside the tabernacle burns this week for:

Greg “Shad” Fromhart

Requested by

St. Francis Xavier Class of 1968

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**Faith, Hope, Love Conference:**

*Creating Connections for Healing*

This conference is designed for the average layperson. It’s for people who know about the drug problem, but who have no idea what to do.

**7th Annual Social Ministries Conference**

March 9, 2019

St. Joseph Retreat Center, Wheeling

For more info call 304-232-8160 ext. 112

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The monthly First Friday Mass will be celebrated at the Bishops’ Chapel located in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Wheeling, at 5:30 p.m. on March 1st. Also, please remember that clean-up at the cemetery starts on March 1st and ends on March 15th. Please remove everything including keepsakes.

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**SHARE THE GOOD NEWS!**

Join us as we congratulate a few of our young parishioners on their recent achievements:

- **Braden Whitelatch** will receive the Aquinas Medal at the Catholic School’s Dinner in Morgantown on April 7, 2019
- **Jewell Kesserling** won the Queen of Queens competition at John Marshall High School and will move on to the OVAC Queen of Queens Competition.
- **Chris Kuskey** put out an album of original Music entitled *Dandelion.* Listen to it for free on Spotify, iTunes, Apple Music, and YouTube. Check our facebook page for links.