The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord
It would be easy to wonder why the disciples ate “with unwashed hands,” especially in those times when dust and dirt were plentiful and the disciples worked with their hands as fishermen. But these scriptures are not concerned so much with physical cleanliness as with spiritual cleanliness.

The Pharisees, who were so picky about following every letter of every law, had an “aha” moment in which they saw an opportunity to accuse Jesus and the disciples of breaking the law of Moses. Jesus responds in a very sensible way. He says, “Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written:

This people honors me with their lips,
But their hearts are far from me;
In vain do they worship me,
Teaching as doctrines human precepts.
You disregard God’s commandment but cling to human tradition.”

TRADITION TODAY

The same could be said about some of today’s Christians, who are so enamored of the past that they cannot see that Jesus has brought about a new interpretation of tradition. Just as we celebrate birthdays with cake and candles, perhaps now with chocolate cake and tiny candles—whereas in the past it was only white cake and bigger candles—tradition adapts to the times while holding on to the essence of what was celebrated before. Tradition preserves the essence while changing the details, something that some of us may fail to grasp. Such people may want everything to be the same in every detail, and accuse others of failure to worship properly because they do not hold to past practices.

Like the Pharisees, sometimes we want to cling to the way things were done in our childhood, never accepting change of any kind. We fail to see the essence of the tradition preserved in a new way of doing things. Perhaps we don’t understand the essence of tradition, or perhaps we are so unsure of ourselves that we want to be instructed strictly in the old ways, like the Pharisees who knew the law by heart and were quite comfortable practicing what poorer people had no way of doing perfectly. It was the poorer people who followed Jesus because he offered them hope.

It would be well for us to remember that the essence of tradition is the worship of God, not the preservation of human habits. We can learn to practice charity and love in emulation of others who have willingly, in following Jesus, held their faith to mean loving their neighbor.

Today’s Readings: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Ps 152-3, 3-4, 4-5; Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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St. Francis Xavier Volunteers

The following list indicates the number of people who signed up in each area on our recent volunteer survey. If you have not yet filled out a form, they are located in the church vestibule or you may call the church office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Mass</th>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Facility Management</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Altar Servers: 7</td>
<td>Bereavement Dinner: 14</td>
<td>Decorating the church: 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cantor: 2</td>
<td>Body &amp; Soul Soup Kitchen: 15</td>
<td>Groundskeeper: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choir: 13</td>
<td>Gabriel Project: 12</td>
<td>Locking the church: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eucharistic Minister: 12</td>
<td>Homebound Project: 15</td>
<td>Maintenance: 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift Bearer: 10</td>
<td>Knights of Columbus: 7</td>
<td>Sacristy cleaner: 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greeter: 18</td>
<td>Marriage support: 1</td>
<td>Snow removal: 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musician: 1</td>
<td>Minister to the sick: 7</td>
<td>Special</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organist: 0</td>
<td>Prayer Shawl Ministry: 9</td>
<td>Pierogi worker: 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacristan: 1</td>
<td>Prison Ministry: 1</td>
<td>Rosary Group: 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Lector: 8</td>
<td>Relay for Life: 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usher: 2</td>
<td>St. Vincent DePaul Society: 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekday Lector: 7</td>
<td>Youth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td>Chaperone outings: 4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Baker: 16</td>
<td>CCD teacher: 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bible Study: 2</td>
<td>Holiday Programs: 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bingo Kitchen: 6</td>
<td>Youth Ministry: 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bingo Raffle: 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish Fry Worker: 21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Administration:
Office workers: 5
Publicity: 1
Technology: 3
Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 2, 2018
Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls.
—James 1:21b

WEEKLY SCHEDULES

Lectors/ Eucharistic Ministers:
9/8  4:00 p.m. Alice Wise/M. Taskalines
9/9  8:00 a.m. Tom Wise/ C. Frame
9/9  10:00 a.m. C. King/ J. Kuskey

Altar Servers:
9/8  4:00 p.m. Frizell family
9/9  8:00 a.m. Laberde family
9/9  10:00 a.m. Whitelatch family

Gift Bearers:
9/8  4:00 p.m. John & Loretta Niemiec
9/9  8:00 a.m. Dan & Lori Laberde
9/9  10:00 a.m. Carolyn Gordon

Sacristy Cleaners: Week of September 3, 2018
Jenny Ingram & Daunel Gump

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

Bingo September 7, 2018
Raffle - Bob & Patty Kleinedler
Kitchen – Jenny Ingram

COLLECTION: August 19, 2018
Envelopes - $4,284.10
Loose Offering - $1,104.00
Building Repairs - $190.00
Assumption - $205.00
Pennies for God- $7.10
Memorial Offerings- $25
Attendance - 331

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

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.
PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS:

Prayer Request: Don McCormick, Joe Church, Helen Cuchta, Patricia Gardener, Kenny Blake, Chris Colby, Richard Timko, Maggie Yeater, Carl Richmond; Homebound: Semon & Phyllis Prado, Al Furline, Doris Murphy, Bob Tetrick; Nursing Home: Gary Dobbs, Patricia Schmidt, Helen Remke, Gladys Holmes, Thelma Gitlin, Barbara Meyer, Elizabeth Potts, Marilyn Neidhardt.

All school age children are expected to attend religious education classes. Please call the parish office to register for CCD.

A natural family planning class will be offered by NFP International on Saturday, September 29th at St. Peter’s Church in Steubenville. For more information or to register please call Steve and Ann Craig at (740)457-9663. Also, an online course is available at the website (www.nfpandmore.org).

In January 2019, two million young adult pilgrims will gather with Pope Francis in Panama, for World Youth Day. Closer to home, in Washington, DC, thousands of college students and young adults from across our country will join them in pilgrimage. “Panama in the Capital”, a one day stateside celebration of World Youth Day begins at 11:00 am on Saturday, January 26th.

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is inviting all young adults ages 18 to 39 to join in the gathering by offering the event for $20. If interested please contact our parish office at 304-845-1593.

The Gabriel Project of WV, Marshall County site would like to invite all members of St. Francis Xavier Church to come to our open house, Thursday, September 6, 2018 from noon to 2:00 pm, in Xavier Hall.

Cathy Frame and many St. Francis parishioners under the guidance of Fr. That Son have made this dream become a reality. We welcome you to come stop in and see the set up and learn of all the wonderful things St. Francis Xavier is doing to help God’s littlest ones.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sept 5 - Novena to St. Jude 7pm at St. Jude
Sept 6 - Gabriel Project Open House Noon-2PM
Sept 9 - Grandparents Day
Sept 12 - Bible Study Class begins
Sept 12 - Novena to St. Jude 7pm at St. Jude
Sept 13 - Evening Bible Study Cass begins
Sept 16 - CCD classes begin
Sept 20 - Bus trip to Sugarcreek
Sept 23 - RCIA begins
Oct 6 - Blessing of the animals
Jan 26 - World Youth Day

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH
QUILT DRAWING

Handmade King Size Embroidered Flower Garden Quilt
Made by Seams Sew Snugly Quilt Guild
Drawing at the St. Francis Xavier Feast Day celebration in December
Chances are $5 each or 5 for $20
Tickets available in the Church office. Watch for other opportunities to purchase tickets.

QUARTER AUCTION

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus at Our Lady of Peace Parish are sponsoring a Quarter Auction on Sun., Sept. 16 at the Peace Family Center in Mount Olivet, WV. Doors open at 12 noon and auction begins at 1 PM. Admission is $5.00, which is the cost of a paddle. For more information please call the parish office at 304-242-6579.

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Meditation is an ancient form of contemplative prayer. It is found throughout the ages of the Christian tradition and today it is widely recognized as a form of prayer that is relevant and much needed for modern people.

We invite you to come along and try this form of prayer which is simple and peaceful. We will begin with a six week introductory course that will provide an opportunity to experience the practice of Christian Meditation in small group, to learn about its origins, and to discover its relevance as a form of prayer for the contemporary world.

Every Wednesday 7:15 pm
Beginning September 12, 2018
Admission is free
St. Vincent DePaul Church
New Martinsville, WV