Jesus said, 
“There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me.

For whoever is not against us is for us.”
Mark 9:39–40
When Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp, away from the other prophets, Joshua, Moses’ beloved aide, urges Moses to stop them. Moses replies “Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets!” He proclaims that grace abounds for all and that the word of the Lord should be proclaimed by all the people.

We see a similar situation in the Gospel of Mark. John tells Jesus that someone who does not follow him with them is driving out demons in Jesus’ name. Jesus replies “Do not prevent him... For whoever is not against us is for us.” In other words, Jesus is saying the same thing as Moses: Would that all the people prophesied in God’s name!

THE DEVASTATION OF SIN

Jesus goes on to teach about sin and its consequences. “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea.” By “little ones,” Jesus means the humble followers as well as innocent children who love him. Certainly those who have abused children have not caused the children “to sin,” but have made them victims of the worst kind of abuse. These people are worthy of condemnation.

Jesus next points out something so strong in its condemnation of sin that it alarms us when we hear it, knowing that we all are sinners. But Jesus often speaks in metaphors and parables, and it is not necessary to take his teaching about cutting off hands and feet and gouging out eyes literally. It can be taken to mean that if we are guilty of sin, we should make an immediate break from our sinfulness and return to God. Better to cut sin out of our life than to enter into eternal darkness.

There is so much to learn from these readings that we have many things to ponder and to pray about. Take advantage of these wise teachings to become closer to Christ and to treat one another with love and care.

Today’s Readings: Nm 11:25-29; Ps 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14; Jas 5:1-6; Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

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Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 30, 2018

The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul; the decree of the LORD is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple.  
— Psalm 19:8

WEEKLY SCHEDULES

Lectors/ Eucharistic Ministers:
10/6  4:00 p.m.  Alice Wise/Libby Magnone  
10/7  8:00 a.m.  C. frame/ L. Yoho  
10/7  10:00 a.m.  Mark Helfer/ L. Freeland

Altar Servers:
10/6  4:00 p.m.  Frizzell family  
10/7  8:00 a.m.  Kent family  
10/7  10:00 a.m.  Targosky, Miller

Gift Bearers:
10/6  4:00  p.m.  John & Loretta Niemiec  
10/7  8:00  a.m.  Pete & Judy Myśliwiec  
10/7  10:00  a.m.  Carolyn Gordon

Sacristy Cleaners: Week of  September 24, 2018  
Latrisha Whitelatch & Charlotta Durbin

Greeters:
10/6 4:00 p.m.  Cork Potts  
10/7 8:00 a.m.  Phil 7 Loretta Remke  
10/7 10:00 a.m.  Daniel & Heather Blatt

Bingo October 5, 2018  
Raffle – Rick Targosky  
Kitchen – Kathleen Naegle

COLLECTION: September 16, 2018
Envelopes - $ 3096.00  
Loose Offering - $ 998.00  
Building Repairs - $160.00  
Xavier Hall - $ 100.00  
Memorial Offerings - $ 105.00  
Pennies for God - $ 6.86  
Attendance -  301

The Second Collection this week is for  
The Catholic University of America

OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL  
NOVENA EVERY TUESDAY BEFORE 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.
**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

- **Sept 30** - Heroin(e) Movie Screening 2-4 pm
- **Oct 6** - Blessing of the animals at 10:00 am
- **Oct 9** - 2019 Mass Book opens
- **Oct. 12** - Fish Fry Noon to 4:00
- **Jan 26** - World Youth Day

**MONTHLY FISH FRY**
The Knights of Columbus and St. Francis Xavier Parish will sponsor a Fish Fry on the second Friday of every month.
Starting date is **FRIDAY OCT. 12, Noon to 4**
Fish fries will begin on the second Friday until the Lenten season. Workers and baked goods are Needed! Contact Greg Green 304-238-3621or Cork Potts 304-845-2686 if you are willing to help or drop off baked goods or supplies at the church office.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**
The Catholic Charities’ Neighborhood Center on 18th Street in Wheeling needs volunteers, especially backup drivers to deliver meals.
Through the meal delivery program, the Neighborhood Center feeds about 170 people each day. These individuals are shut in their homes for various reasons, and would otherwise struggle to get the nourishment they need.
For more information please contact
Keith Miller at 304-650-9608

**QUILT DRAWING**
Benefits St. Francis Xavier Church
Handmade King Size
Embroidered Flower Garden Quilt
Chances $5 each or 5 for $20
Tickets available in the church office
or call Alma Cunningham 304-280-4474

**ST. JUDE CRAFT FAIR**
Free Admission
Saturday, October 13, 2018
10 am to 2 pm
Homemade soups, bake sale, lunch
Handmade purses, jewelry, bows, quilts, art, lamps, wreaths, lighted items, wooden items, quilted items, porch crafts, live cartooning, scarves, tree decorations, cards, frames, needlework, clothes, pillows, cosmetics, nail products, and seasonal items
Something for everyone