

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



📍 912 Seventh St., Moundsville, W.VA. 26041 📞 304-845-1593 📧 sfxmoundsville@comcast.net



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



“Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.” - Mk 13:33

NOVEMBER 29, 2020

Advent, First Sunday

CONTACT US

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MASS SCHEDULE

Weekends:

Sat - 4 p.m. Sun - 8 a.m., 10 a.m.

Weekdays:

Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m.

Holy Days: 8:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m.

STAFF

Secretary: Robin Targosky

Bookkeeper: Susan Board

Bulletin Editor: Kathy Swift

DRE: Mary Helen Marling

GOSPEL MEDITATION: WE HAVE TO BELIEVE

You are at the eye doctor and it's time for the peripheral vision test. You know the one. It's where you put your head up to a contraption and have to click a switch every time you see a squiggly line. If you don't concentrate and maintain optimal focus, you will miss them and skew the outcome of the test. You can easily find yourself with a diagnosis that really isn't accurate! Concentration and focus are key to succeeding with this evaluation. They are also key to developing a healthy, vibrant spiritual life. If we do not bring our full consciousness to the task, concentrate with all our might, be watchful and vigilant, we are not going to see God's loving presence flashing before our eyes!

That's why we need Advent. Let's face it. We can easily get distracted, focus on

nonessential and superficial things and lose touch with what really matters. Our attentions wander. We daydream and even become a bit overwhelmed and tired. All of the stresses and demands of life consume us and we find ourselves constantly trying to play catch up rather than relishing the moment of the now.

“Now” moments are so fleeting. They flash before us like those squiggly lines on a screen. Present moments go as quickly as they come but it is important to discover them and rest in them as often as we can. Though gone in a flash, now moments of encounter with God teach powerful lessons and offer a grounding in truth that can be found nowhere else. It's the grace of Advent to become watchful and attentive because we are never sure when God will surprise us.

God loves surprises and love thrives on them! God's now moments of surprises come as tender instants of intimate connection where I find profound peace, experience joy, and rest in love. These are Advent times reflective of the now moments when Christ first was born, when God surprises us during every time we care to watch and when the great surprise of Christ's second coming dawns upon us all.

But, to discover the grandeur and experience the awe of these now times, we have to be ready. We have to want to be there. We have to believe. And, we have to have the desire to soak in as much as we can in the time we have before us.

©LPi

WORSHIP & OUTREACH



SATURDAY, NOV. 28

4:00 pm **Bob Yeater†**
Maggie Yeater

SUNDAY, NOV. 29

8:00 am **James & Elizabeth Silver†**
Lucille Hicks

10:00 am **Al Albertini†**
Alma & Larry Cunningham

MONDAY, NOV. 30

8:00 am **Fred & Judy Mehler†**
Chris Frizzell & Fred Mehler

TUESDAY, DEC. 1

8:00 am **Isabel Ferris Wolfe†**
Libby G. Magnone

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2

8:00 am **Ruth Ann Harrigan†**
Harrigan Family

THURSDAY, DEC. 3

8:00 am **Mattale Ducci & Alex Ducci**
Sandina Leonard

FRIDAY, DEC. 4

8:00 am **Regina Gonchoff†**
Mildred Mysliwicz

SATURDAY, DEC. 5

4:00 pm **Raymond/Padula Family†**
Family

SUNDAY, DEC. 6

8:00 am **James Silver Jr.†**
Lucille Hicks

10:00 am **Pat Kleinedler†**
Terry & Chris McDonald

"Speak to them of the great mercy of God... Sometimes people are helped by your telling of your own lamentable past."
St. Francis Xavier

Dec. 3 Feast Day

St. Francis Xavier An Example for Advent

We celebrate only days after the start of Advent the Dec. 3 Feast of our parish patron St. Francis Xavier.

Those who knew Francis said he was always filled with an immense joy. Though he died at a young age, he spent the last 15 years of his life spreading that joy to others, helping them see not only the love of Christ, but the love for their fellow man and the dignity inherent in us all. It was this joy and strength that led to the conversion of thousands. So, it seems fitting to take a moment to celebrate him as we begin Advent.

Fr. That Son would rightfully say that we should know by now the story of St. Francis and his part in forming the Jesuits, as well as his missionary work in India, Malaysia, and Japan. So, let's

consider instead one of Francis's most noteworthy remarks: *"Speak to them of the great mercy of God."*

Francis Xavier remains the greatest missionary ever after St. Paul. Imagine the souls he saved. This Advent, let's ask ourselves what we can do to bring Christ to those around us. There are many ways to evangelize to others. It could be striking up a conversation. It could be through a group that serves the needy and disenfranchised. It could be taking time for someone who is struggling. We expect and need mercy from God, but we must also show this mercy to others. He gave this gift to all of us.

This Advent, let us use St. Francis as our model for how to treat others.

(Susan Ciancio and K. Swift excerpts)

Women Determined to Continue Giving Tradition

Our parish has nearly 40 members who are homebound or who reside in nursing homes. Despite the restrictions imposed on us by the pandemic, Mary Taskalines and Loretta Remke are determined to continue our tradition of bringing these beloved parishioners flowers and a small gift for Christmas.

This small gesture during the holidays can be very meaningful.

Consider supporting these efforts by placing a donation in an envelope marked "Holiday shut-in project" and dropping it in the collection basket. Donations can also be mailed to the parish office.

Mary and Loretta also are looking for a few volunteers to help place gifts on porches and in the lobbies of the nursing homes. Drop offs are planned for Saturday, Dec. 19.

Britt, Whitelatch Capture Parish Nominations

Congratulations to Kevin Britt and Latrisha Whitelatch for being nominated by our parish to move on to the Vicariate level of consideration for the newly forming Diocesan

Pastoral Council. The Vicariate will select three members to serve from among the nominees of all the parishes in our area. The council's aim is to give Laity a proactive voice in diocesan matters. Please pray for our two as they continue this journey for our parish.

Prayer REQUESTS

Recently Sick: Joseph Grampa, Eleanor Smith, Thomas Sullivan, Sara Walters, Bobby Kleinedler, Anna Mae Veronis Holiday, Sami Wilson, Bill Fowkes, Joanna Bierce, Isabella Wood, Dale Whitlatch, Sandye Yoho, Mike Morris, Betty Carney.

Homebound: Semon & Phyllis Prado, Rachel Kerekes, Doris Murphy, Deanne Ferraro.

Nursing Homes: Hazel Markey, Katie Renshaw, Joan Weekly, Alma VanSyoc, Ron Flading, Betty Kerns, Marie Lohri, Bill Tennant, Ron Jaworski, Raymond Pennybacker, Helen Remke, Barb Meyer.

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Names of those recently sick will appear for two months. Please resubmit requests for those who still need our healing prayers.

Calendar of Events

	Advent Communal Penance Service 6:30 p.m. in the Church
Tuesday, Dec. 1	—Giving Tuesday— 100 percent of donations remain with our parish Last Day to Donate White Socks
Thursday, Dec. 10	Knights of Columbus 50-50 Raffle Drawing Tickets are on sale after Masses and in the office
Sunday, Dec. 13	Decorating Xavier Hall for Christmas Volunteers needed!
Wednesday, Dec. 16	Flower Fund Deadline forms are in the office and on our website.
Saturday, Dec. 19	Christmas Deliveries to Shut-ins Volunteers Needed!
Mondays & Thursdays	Catechesis Gatherings 7 p.m. Xavier Hall

LECTORS

Dec. 5	4:00 pm	A. Wise
Dec. 6	8:00 am	L. Whitelatch
	10:00 am	L. Freeland

OFFERING NOV. 15, 2020

Envelopes	\$3,183.00
Loose Offering	\$189.00
Church Repair	\$455.00
Xavier Hall	\$50.00
Diocesan Collection	\$70.00
<u>Other Collections:</u>	
Online Giving:	\$65.15
All Souls	\$10.00
Candles	\$97.00
Pennies for God	\$2.00
Attendance	137

Report suspected child sexual abuse to law enforcement or Child Protective Services at 800-352-6513. Report suspected cases by Diocese personnel to the Diocese at 888-434-6237.

Here We Come a Wassailing!

Fr. That Son, our seminarian-in-waiting Andrew, and visiting missionaries Allen and Jose Miguel will be celebrating Christ's birth this holiday season with some old-fashioned caroling.



Unfortunately, health and safety concerns make it necessary to limit to 10 the number of singers who can join them. Should more than 10 people wish to participate, a second group also limited to 10 additional singers is planned. Limiting the numbers will ensure we spread only Christmas spirit! If you are interested in joining our vocalists with vocations, let Fr. That Son know or call the office.

ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE service will be held in the church here at St. Francis Xavier **Tuesday, Dec. 1st, beginning at 6:30 p.m.**

Msgr. Sam Saccus and Fr. Harry Dunn will join Fr. That Son to hear confessions. Room dividers will be used to create safe distance during confessions.

PSR FAMILIES ARE REMINDED that the signed forms verifying at-home instruction for the Virtus Safe Touching class must be returned to the parish immediately. Forms can also be sent to teachers or the office electronically.



Aug. 1 to Oct. 31
45 Households
\$232.29

Visit the address below to link your Kroger Rewards card to our parish. No card? Use the web address below to register. Need help? Let us know. Let's get more parishioners earning rewards for St. Francis!

[kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards](https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards)

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (PSR):

Sundays during the school term at 9:00 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. Grades 1-12.



HOLIDAY NOTES

THE CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND is a special way to remember loved ones during the holidays while helping decorate the altars for Christmas. If you would like to honor someone, consider a donation to the fund in their names. Loved one's names will be published in the Christmas bulletin. **Donations deadline is Wednesday, Dec. 16.**

OUR PARISH CHILDREN MAY NOT process during the children's Mass this Christmas Eve because of pandemic guidelines. Instead, children are asked to dress as the characters depicted in our nativity procession—shepherds, angels, drummer boys, Mary, Joseph—whichever they choose. This is a joyous and creative way to continue our nativity tradition.

DEC. 1st — THE LAST DAY TO donate white socks for prisoners in the regional jail. Please put them in the bin in Xavier Hall.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

By appointment. The diocese requires instructions beforehand for parents or guardians. Contact the parish office.

REGISTRATION, CHURCH SUPPORT:

Parishioners should be properly registered at the parish office. Please be sure to update your information when you move or change phone numbers.



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