

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

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**Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes**, undated

Attributed to Pedro Mena y Medrano (Spanish, 1628–1688)

after Jacopo Robusti, called Tintoretto (Italian, 1519–1594)

Chicago Institute of Art (CIC)

Taking the five loaves and the two fish,  
and looking up to heaven,  
Jesus said the blessing, broke the loaves,  
and gave them to the disciples,  
who in turn gave them to the crowds.

Matthew 14:19

**Eighteenth**  
Sunday in  
Ordinary Time

**August 2, 2020**

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Today's passage from Saint Paul's letter to the Romans concludes Chapter 8 with a flourish. It is the exclamation point of Paul's teaching on the presence of the Spirit within them and among them. The church in Rome faced great suffering as they were marginalized and persecuted for their faith. Paul names both social and cosmic forces that oppress them, over which they have no control. Their trials likely provoked questions that led them to wonder, "Where is God?"

Paul teaches that God is so deeply present within us that nothing can separate us from God. This includes our own forms of resistance. Even when we find myriad ways to avoid and run away, God is waiting patiently. Even when God seems distant or absent, God continues to invite, to welcome, and to speak to us.

## IMAGINING GOD'S ABUNDANCE

When reflecting upon today's Gospel passage from Matthew, the story of the feeding of the multitude, we might consider the role of Jesus' disciples. Unlike the very similar story in Matthew 15, Jesus responds to the

disciples by saying, "Give them some food yourselves". Jesus is pushing his disciples to think beyond the apparent scarcity, and to open their imaginations to God's abundance. They are to join in with what God is doing. Jesus then takes, blesses, breaks, and shares the bread (anticipating his action at the Last Supper), and the disciples share the loaves with the crowd.

The stories of the feeding of the multitudes also point ahead to the practice of Eucharist in the Church. The Eucharist itself points ahead to God's banquet at the consummation of the reign of God, when all will share God's abundance. We the Church are called to open our imaginations to God present and active, who continually works toward God's promised future. We are to share in God's passionate desire to feed the people, and join in what God is doing here and now.

Today's Readings: Is 55:1–3; Ps 145:8–9, 15–16, 17–18;  
Rom 8:35, 37–39; Mt 14:13–21

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# Fesch's Journey Proves God's Plan

“Great sinners make great saints. God has big plans for you.”

These are words of wisdom from the Church as handed down by Fr. John A. Hardon, SJ, American jesuit priest, theologian, and Servant of God. Fr. Hardon's words inspire the telling of the spiritual awakening of Servant of God Jacques Fesch, whose conversion in our modern times is nothing short of stunning.

Jacques's spiritual awakening in prison during the 1950s was considered so stunning and his writings so moving that the Catholic Church in France petitioned the Vatican to make him a saint. That process began decades ago for Jacques, who was known for his stunning immorality, yet died a follower of Christ who tried to convert his family from his prison during his last days.

Jacques was born April 6, 1930 to an avowed atheist and his wife in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, France. He seemed a troublemaker from his earliest days, growing to live a life of crime and hedonism. That life led to his relentlessly beating to death a currency shop owner to fund his pursuits. Jacques also brazenly gunned down the police officer who tried to apprehend him after the crime. During the trial, his total lack of remorse made it easy for the jury to find him guilty and sentence him to death by the guillotine. By the mercy of God, Jacques sat on death row in solitary confinement for three years, allowing him time for his remarkable conversion.

His conversion took some time, but finally after nearly one year, the realization, the horror of what he had done, struck him. As he wrote in his journal that he began to keep, “The Spirit of the Lord seized me by the throat.” Immediately. He began a life of deep prayer as his journals indicate — even becoming a mystic. Jacques also sought to repay the many and deep hurts he had caused his family. He reconciled with his wife and daughter. He also wrote many letters to his family, including his brother and stepmother.

His letters and journals reveal a man no longer preoccupied with seeking pleasure. Rather he sought to comfort others and to console them and convert them. His last journal entry before he died was, “In five hours, I will see Jesus.” On October 1, 1957, just before he died on the guillotine, Jacques pronounced his last words, asking the Blessed Virgin Mary to have mercy on him.

After his death, Pierrette and his daughter worked with Sr. Veronica, a Carmelite nun, and Fr. Augustin-Michel Lemonnier to publish the writings of Jacques Fesch. Since the 1970s, his writings have brought encouragement to many souls. Many plays have also been written about Jacques's journey. --Excerpted from a profile by Carole Breslin, former national coordinator for the Marian Catechists, founded by Fr. John A. Hardon, SJ.

- AUG. 1 SATURDAY**  
4:00 P.M. **Members of the Raymond & Padula families†**  
*(Family)*
- AUG. 2 SUNDAY**  
8:00 A.M. **Betty Lewis & Deceased Members of the Rakoskie Family**  
*(Teresa Vermeulen)*  
10:00 A.M. **Pat Kleinedler†**  
*(Jean & Gregg Smith)*
- AUG. 3 MONDAY**  
8:00 A.M. **Theresa Myer†**  
*(St. Vincent DePaul Society)*
- AUG. 4 TUESDAY**  
8:00 A.M. **For the Sick Members of our Parish and Their Families**
- AUG. 5 WEDNESDAY**  
8:00 A.M. **Theresa Myer†**  
*(Joanne Ray)*
- AUG. 6 THURSDAY**  
8:00 A.M. **Bob & Bernadine Miller†**  
*(Miller/Porter families)*
- AUG. 7 FRIDAY**  
8:00 A.M. **Joseph Mai Van Nhat†**  
*(Tuyet Dinh)*
- AUG. 8 SATURDAY**  
8:00 A.M. **L. Richard Lewis & Deceased Lewis Family Members**  
*(Teresa Vermeulen)*
- AUG. 9 SUNDAY**  
8:00 A.M. **Deceased Healy Family Members**  
*(Rose & John Hess)*  
10:00 A.M. **Mary Ann Barnes**  
*(Veronica DiCola)*

## REV. THAT SON NGOC NGUYEN, PASTOR

### 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 parents or guardians. Contact the parish office.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (PSR):

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.

Church Office Phone: 304-845-1593  
Church Hall Phone: 304-845-9238  
Xavier Hall Phone: 304-845-7080  
Rev. That Son Cell: 408-858-7467

Email: [sfxmoundsville@comcast.net](mailto:sfxmoundsville@comcast.net)

Website: [sfxmoundsville.org](http://sfxmoundsville.org)

### MASS SCHEDULE:

**Weekends:** Saturday - 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday - 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.

**Weekdays:** Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m.

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

**PRAY FOR OUR  
PARISHIONERS  
& FRIENDS**



**Prayer Request:** Jim Campbell, Joseph Grampa, Ronnie Hill, Eleanor Smith, Mary Coffield, Jim Conner, Thomas Sullivan, Sara Walters, Bobby Kleinedler, Anna Mae Veronis Holiday, Sami Wilson, Wanda DeTemple, Mary Ann Barnes, Patty Kudlak-Kettler, Jane Klug.

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

**Nursing Home:** Ron Jaworski, Bill Tennant, Helen Remke, Bertie Gaughenbaugh, Barbara Meyer.

**SPECIAL REMINDERS**

- \* We have parishioners who are lonely, sad, or sick. Beginning this month, we will offer a Mass each month for all those in our parish family who need our prayers. Look for this monthly notice!
- \* Online giving is back! Look for more information in next week's bulletin.

**LECTORS**

**Aug. 8** 4:00 p.m. **D. Prado**

**Aug. 9** 8:00 a.m. **T. Wise**  
10:00 a.m. **P. Whitwam**

**WEEKLY OFFERING JULY 19, 2020**

<b>Envelopes:</b>	<b>\$1,980.00</b>
<b>Loose Offerings:</b>	<b>\$263.00</b>
<b>Church Repair:</b>	<b>\$160.00</b>
<b>Xavier Hall:</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>Diocesan Collection</b>	<b>\$147.00</b>
<b>Memorial Offerings:</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>113</b>

*Thank you for sending your donations.*

# Senior Parishioners Owed Our Gratitude

We are deeply grateful for the senior members of our parish who have been attending Masses for the past two months and for all those who continue to come. Simply put, the church could not carry on if you did not show up for Mass! At the same time, we also support those with underlying health problems who feel they need to stay home to be safe. Some of our families have new babies and need to protect their health.

We are looking for ways to connect with parishioners who are feeling disconnected. For those who are attending Mass, one way you can help us do this is by spreading the word about your comfort level! Many have told us they feel far safer at Mass in Xavier Hall than they do visiting area shops and venues. Let us know how we can continue to help Jesus to live in your life and the life of your family.

**BEGINNING NEXT WEEK**

we will feature the stories of parishioners and their journeys during these times of pandemic. We know these are difficult times, and your stories can help us be there for each other. Please call Father or the parish office if you would like to share your story. We want very much to hear from you.

**AUG. 14 IS THE DEADLINE** for ordering luminaria bags from our SFX team for the upcoming Relay for Life drive-thru display.

The event is set for Saturday, Aug. 22, from 9-11 p.m. at John Marshall High School's north parking lot.

Bags cost \$5 each, and purchase forms are available in Xavier Hall following Sunday Masses and at the SFX website in the directory for bulletins. Call Lottie for special orders at 304-845-4011.

**TO EVERYONE BRINGING** empty cans to the church for recycling, a reminder that two bins are available. One is in front of the garage and another is beside it. Please also rinse the cans you bring, especially pet food containers. The recycler will not accept cans containing content remnants.

**THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT'S**

weekly electronic news edition is starting to catch on, and you can receive it for free by e-mail subscription. Anyone can sign up by e-mail at [crowan@dwc.org](mailto:crowan@dwc.org) with the subject line "The Catholic Spirit e-List."

This new version aims to reduce the cost of distributing a print edition. If you are already getting the weekly digital edition, please consider stopping your print version. Doing this helps offset the cost of providing the print edition to Catholics around the state without internet access or who do not use or own computers. You can stop your print delivery by e-mail by sending your name and address to [crowan@dwc.org](mailto:crowan@dwc.org).

A reminder that The Catholic Spirit is now printing once a month on first Fridays to cut costs. It will still be delivered without charge to W.Va. Catholics.

**SFX PARISH ONLINE**



**Facebook.com/  
StFrancisXavierMoundsville**

**Office  
of Safe  
Environment**

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