

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

912 SEVENTH STREET, MOUNDSVILLE, W. VA. 26041

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Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 30, 2020

**THE SON OF MAN WILL COME
WITH HIS ANGELS IN HIS FATHER'S GLORY,
AND THEN HE WILL REPAY ALL ACCORDING TO THEIR CONDUCT.**

Matthew 16:27

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When Jesus says to Peter “whatever you bind” or “whatever you loose” in today’s Gospel, he describes a distinct power that emerges from Peter’s faith in Jesus. The capacity to bind or to loose suggests a new ability, both to restrain or block forces that harm the community of faith, and also to release or liberate energies that strengthen the community.

It might be helpful to observe, within your own parish or faith community, where God might be working now. Perhaps you can see persons and groups working to restrain toxic forces of resentment or fear. You might see those who are releasing new energies, and empowering the faithful to care for their neighbors. When we are grounded in a prayerful trust relationship with Jesus, we can receive this power to participate in God’s work, to bind and to loose.

AWE AND PRAISE

In today’s passage from Romans, Paul concludes his complex reflections on the Jewish people, the emerging Gentile churches, and God’s work among them. Paul has struggled to

understand the responses of both the Jewish and Gentile communities, with their mix of acceptance and rejection of Jesus. He warns the Roman church to avoid any sense of superiority over Jews or non-Christian Gentiles, for everyone is in need of God’s mercy. Paul acknowledges the limits of his understanding, and gives way to prayers of awe and praise. He concludes by marveling at the limitless mercy of God, whose designs are ultimately mysterious.

Sometimes our own prayer can be like that of Paul. In conversation with God, we try to make sense of life, especially its difficulties. The full truth of what’s going on in our lives or in our world eludes us, and so we work humbly with the truth that we can understand. If we believe our mysterious God is indeed trustworthy, we can open our hearts in praise, and allow God to shape our lives.

Today’s Readings: Is 22:19–23; Ps 138:1–2, 2–3, 6, 8;
Rom 11:33–36; Mt 16:13–20

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Calling: The Reach of Simple Faith

Much of what makes the story of Fr. Stanley Rother stand out is how ordinary he was--and how faithfully he lived his call to the priesthood, despite facing serious obstacles.



Fr. Stanley Rother

Stanley Francis Rother was born on March 27, 1935, in Okarche, Okla., the son of farmers who were Roman Catholics. Rother was adept at farming, but he wished to be a priest, a calling that nearly escaped him after being asked to leave seminary for his poor Latin. The local bishop in Oklahoma valued Rother's plain faith, so he guided him to Saint Mary's Seminary in Maryland, where they graduated him in 1963.

Fr. Rother served his local diocese for five years until answering the call of Pope John XXIII to send missionaries to foreign lands, especially war-torn Guatemala. With their bishop's approval, he and eleven members of Oklahoma City's diocese went to Santiago Atitlán to serve the Tz'utujil people, a Mayan ethnic group.

By 1975, Fr. Rother was alone, the others having returned home for various reasons. Fr. Rother served the Tz'utujil people for 13 years, winning their hearts and souls. Unpretentious and mild mannered, Fr. Rother, forever the farmer, tried various crops while fulfilling

his heavy pastoral duties, which included as many as five Masses in four different locations on a given Sunday and as many as a thousand baptisms a year.

By 1980, Guatemala's 20-year civil war reached Atitlán. Troops camped on the parish farm, and Fr. Rother witnessed the assassination of many parishioners. By early 1981, he learned his name was on a death list and was told to leave at once. He reluctantly complied but returned a short time later intent upon celebrating Easter with his parishioners. He chose to stay, and on July 28, 1981, he was shot in the head by three masked men. He was only 46 years old.

His remains are buried in his hometown, but at the request of his Tz'utujil parishioners, his heart was removed and buried under the altar of the church where he had served them. On Dec. 1, 2016, Pope Francis beatified Fr. Rother in Oklahoma, making him the first U.S.-born martyr to be beatified by the Catholic Church.

*The
Sanctuary
Candle*

beside the tabernacle
burns this week
to honor

Rodney Kerekes
from
Rachel Kerekes

Masses for the Week

- AUG. 29** **SATURDAY**
4:00 P.M. **Paul Baum†**
(Family)
- AUG. 30** **SUNDAY**
8:00 A.M. **Mike and Jean Yurisko†**
(Bill & Kim Yurisko)
10:00 A.M. **Scott Wiethe†**
(Mom & Dad)
Mass is in the church
- AUG. 31** **MONDAY**
8:00 A.M. **Tuyet Dinh's**
special intentions
(Tuyet Dinh)
- SEPT. 1** **TUESDAY**
8:00 A.M. **Theresa Myer†**
(Tex & Theresa Reynolds)
- SEPT. 2** **WEDNESDAY**
8:00 A.M. **Rodney Kerekes†**
(Rachel Kerekes)
- SEPT. 3** **THURSDAY**
8:00 A.M. **Eileen Klug†**
(Jane Klug)
- SEPT. 4** **FRIDAY**
8:00 A.M. **Tom Ferris†**
(Libby Magnone)
Mary & Bill Stees
Anniversary
(Libby Magnone)
- SEPT. 5** **SATURDAY**
4:00 P.M. **Margaret Harrigan†**
(Harrigan Family)
- SEPT. 6** **SUNDAY**
8:00 A.M. **Rocco & Helen Rich**
(Karen Eisenhauer)
10:00 A.M. **Cork & Joann Potts**
Anniversary

WITH DEEPEST
Sympathy

*to the family and loved ones of
Mary Ann Barnes,
Veronica DiCola's sister and
Rosemary Patrone's aunt,
our heartfelt condolences.*

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

Website: 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, Wanda DeTemple, Jane Klug, Sami Wilson, Bill Fowkes, Shirley Moczek, Dale Whitlatch.

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 Lohori, Bill Tennant, Ron Jaworski, Helen Remke, Bertie Gaughenbaugh, Barb Meyer, Amelia Rynkiewich, Raymond Pennybacker.

SPECIAL NOTES

* This week's special collection is for **Pontifical Good Friday for the Holy Land**, which helps support many missions there. Please look for a second basket for the collection.

LECTORS

Sept. 5 4:00 p.m. **A. Wise**
Sept. 6 8:00 a.m. **T. Wise**
 10:00 a.m. **Our First Communicants**

WEEKLY OFFERING AUG. 16, 2020

Envelopes: \$3,368.00
Loose Offerings: \$339.00
Church Repair: \$65.00
Xavier Hall: \$10.00
Online Giving: \$45.00
Assumption: \$605.00
Candles: \$48.00
Attendance: 134

*Thank you for sending us
your donations.*

CONGRATULATIONS

*2020 First Holy Communicants
Keagan L. Steele, Avery L. Taylor,
and Sierra M. Taylor.*

*Please pray that Keagan, Avery,
and Sierra always know the peace
of Jesus and the joy of his life
within them.*

*Pray also for their parents and
families in their efforts to keep
these children in the practice of
the faith. May God, who brought
each of you to this special day,
continue to direct your lives in his
perfect and everlasting way.*

LOOKING FOR A CHANCE

to free up cabinet and storage space? We are taking donations for a parish rummage sale!

The sale is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 7, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. in our church parking lot. We will let you know about any other details.

All proceeds will benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society and its important mission helping the area's needy, so we hope everyone will get to work finding items to give to this cause.

Items of interest are antiques, collectibles, art, household goods, small pieces of furniture, etc.

Not sure what to give? Just e-mail sfxmoundsville@comcast.net or call the office at 304-845-1593 with any questions or to arrange limited pickup. Thank you!

OUR PARISH'S SCHOOL

of religion, better known as PSR, will be restarting in September. Plans for how we are returning to instruction are in progress, and we need families to register their children as soon as possible to finalize those plans.

Please contact Susan in the parish office at 304-845-1593 to register.

FATIMA, the long-anticipated feature film, is showing in theaters



and on demand, but **Formed** members can enjoy an equally powerful telling of the Fatima story, titled *The 13th Day*, as part of a library of offerings about the three youths whom God chose to send an urgent message of hope for the world.

The 13th Day is special in that it is based on the memoirs of Lucia dos Santos, the oldest of the three children, as well as independent eye-witness accounts.

This a great chance to activate your free **Formed** membership provided by the parish. Need help signing up? Easy step-by-step instructions are posted under the "FORMS" tab on our webpage sfxmoundsville.org. You can also call the parish office. We are always glad to help.

OUR NEW SERIES, "LIVING pandemic," continues to receive good responses. Be sure to check in next week for another inspiring installment about life during these challenging times from our parish community.

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