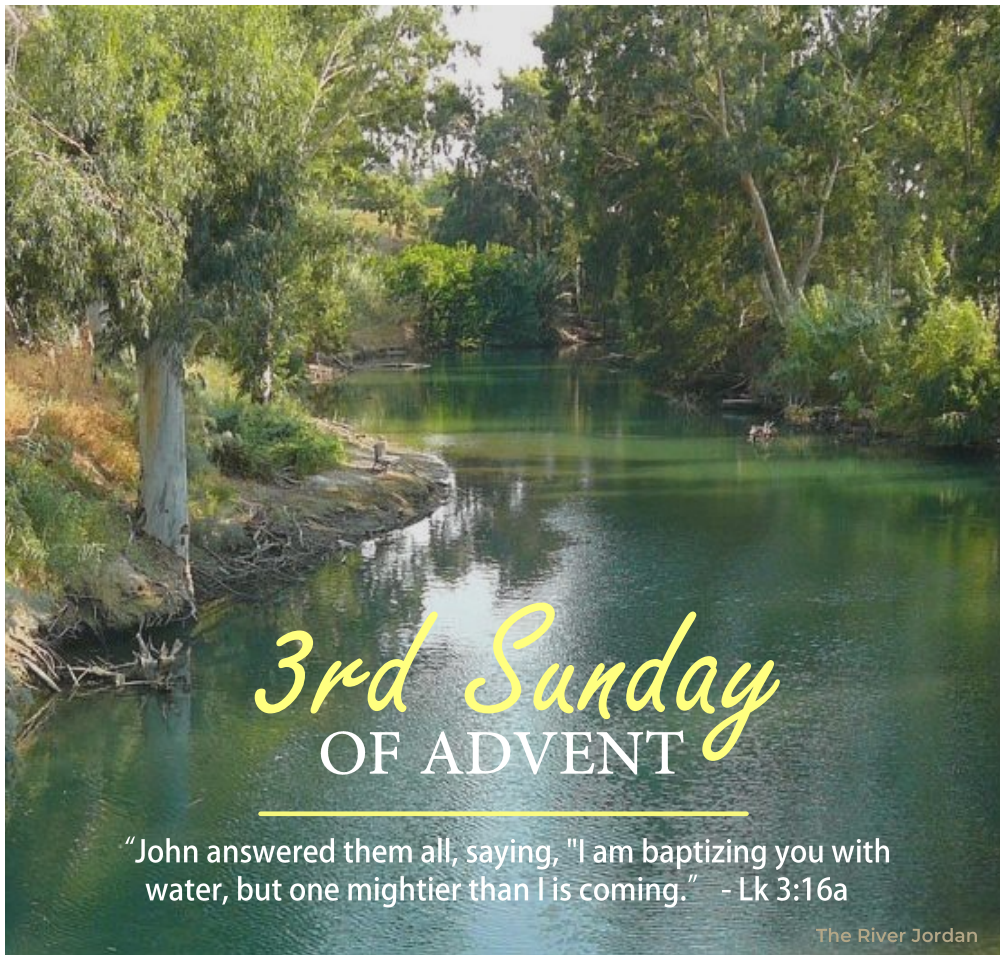


ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



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



DECEMBER 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent

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Facebook: [facebook.com/](https://facebook.com/StFrancisXavierMoundsville)

[StFrancisXavierMoundsville](https://facebook.com/StFrancisXavierMoundsville)

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekends:

Saturday - 4 p.m.

Sunday - 8 a.m., 10 a.m.

Weekdays:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m.

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

STAFF

Secretary: Sr. Agatha Munyanyi, SJI

Bookkeeper: Susan Board

Bulletin Editor: Kathy Swift

DRE: Mary Helen Marling

3rd Sunday
OF ADVENT

"John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming." - Lk 3:16a

The River Jordan

GOSPEL MEDITATION: SERVE WITH LAUGHTER

"From silly devotions and sour-faced saints, good Lord, deliver us!" (St. Teresa of Avila.)

We've all heard the adage, "Laughter is the best medicine." In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? The gift of imagination allows us to see possible things that are yet to be. Imagine a world filled with laughter. We take life too seriously sometimes. Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of the joy needed for laughter. God never promised us an easy road, and we do have to take the course of our lives seriously. However, there is a balance to

be sought and a possible joy that can be brought even to the darkest and most challenging of encounters.

St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us that, "Joy is not found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul. One can possess joy in a prison cell as well as in a palace." Falling in love with God, who is present in all of creation, allows us to bring a depth of understanding to everything we experience. We can more easily see above and beyond things while pursuing the only One who can truly satisfy our hearts. When we realize God is in our midst, there is no misfortune to fear. We can celebrate God's gift of joy.

We celebrate today with joy and hearts filled with expectation, wonder, and beauty as we ready ourselves for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven't laughed in a while, why? Rejoice and laugh in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine.

"Go ahead, laugh! Live your life with joy and serve the Lord with laughter! Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter." (St. Padre Pio)

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DEC. 11	SATURDAY
4:00 p.m.	Mike Whetzal† <i>Uncle Sonny</i> <i>Oakland & Family</i>
DEC. 12	SUNDAY
8:00 a.m.	Philip Patrello† <i>Jerry & Lottie Durbin</i>
10:00 a.m.	Megan Freeland Roskovensky <i>Paula Whitwam</i>
DEC. 13	MONDAY
8:00 a.m.	Living & deceased members of God's Children of Love prayer group <i>Joan Lemasters</i>
DEC. 14	TUESDAY
8:00 a.m.	Philip Patrello† <i>Mary & Chuck Taskalines</i>
DEC. 15	WEDNESDAY
8:00 a.m.	Richard McPeek† <i>Jane Klug</i>
7:00 p.m.	Joe & Ellen Curia† <i>Curia Family</i>
DEC. 16	THURSDAY
8:00 a.m.	Sr. Monica Farthing† <i>Jane Klug</i>
DEC. 17	FRIDAY
8:00 a.m.	Philip Patrello† <i>Mary Britt</i>
DEC. 18	SATURDAY
4:00 p.m.	Mary & Fred Nadolski† <i>Nadolski Family</i>
DEC. 19	SUNDAY
8:00 a.m.	Nancy Termin† <i>Termin Family</i>
10:00 a.m.	Brenda Kurko & Frank Gayda† <i>Family</i>

2022 Calendars are in the vestibule.



Advent and Pondering St. Joseph

The events of Jesus' birth are the core of what we know about St. Joseph in Scripture, which is why the Advent cycle is a perfect time to reflect upon his witness. The year of St. Joseph proclaimed by Pope Francis ended Dec. 8, but Advent continues the perfect time to ponder and appreciate St. Joseph.

Though we do not know many details about him directly from Scripture, much can be inferred about him from what is known. Among other things, he is known as "most just." To live as a man of justice, St. Joseph needed to be a man of faith, hope and charity. Take for instance the situation in which he found himself — betrothed to a woman pregnant with a child not

his own. The justice of his day would have expected him to abandon her and for her to be killed. While it's clear he wrestled about what to do, St. Joseph's action was definitive. He welcomed Mary into his home. St. Joseph's faith informed his hope that God would provide for him because he was doing what was right. His actions were just.

When life's darkest times challenge us, we can turn to St. Joseph for strength to persevere—emulate his faith, hope and love. Meditating on his life proves a fundamental truth described by St. Paul: "We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (Rom. 8: 28)

Excerpted from Fr. Brian, OSJ / Michael R. Heinlein.

Collection Benefits Retirement Fund



This weekend's special collection supports the Retirement Fund for the Religious. This is an annual appeal to provide for many elder religious who worked for years for small stipends, leaving a large gap in retirement savings.

Many of these women and men religious are now elderly, and too often their religious congregations do not have adequate funding for their care. Giving supports those communities. Also, fewer religious are able to serve in compensated ministry.

Bishop Brennan asks the we reflect on the role of religious in our own lives as we consider our giving for this appeal.



Homily Engages Children

Our parish children were all ears last Sunday as Father talked to them about the meaning of Advent, the lighting of Advent candles and how stinky John the Baptist must have smelled as he prepared the way of Lord in his camel hair shirt. Father also taught everyone a special song!

Prayer REQUESTS

Homebound: Rachel Kerekes, Doris Murphy, Phyllis Prado.

Nursing Homes: Hazel Markey, Katie Renshaw, Joan Weekly, Alma VanSyoc, Ron Flading, Barb Meyer, Raymond Pennybacker.

Recently Sick: Joseph Grampa, Bobby Kleinedler, Anna Mae Veronis Holliday, Sami Wilson, Kathryn Ferrera, Danielle Wilson, Loretta Saporito, Mary Stees, Judith Harbert, Megan Freeland Roskovensky, Annalyn Liette, Mike Gardill, Sandina Leonard, Deanne Ferraro, Celeste Evans, Ted Scarbin, Debbie Hand, Georgia Pettit.

CALENDAR

Wednesdays 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	LINE DANCING WITH LOTTIE VFW Moundsville
Dec. 17	CHRISTMAS FLOWERS due date for forms
Dec. 18	FLOWERS TO HOMEBOUND
Dec. 19 after 10 a.m. Mass	DECORATING CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS
Four Wednesdays Beginning Jan. 5 5:30 p.m.	UNLOCKING THE MYSTERY OF THE BIBLE Church Hall
SYNODAL LISTENING SESSIONS Sunday, Jan. 16, after 10 a.m. Mass Wednesday, Jan. 19, at 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 22, at 2 p.m.	
Tuesday Feb. 8 6:30 p.m.	PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Church Hall

SCHEDULES DEC. 18 & 19

LECTORS/EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

4:00 p.m. **D. Prado / M. Taskalines**
8:00 a.m. **R. Hess / J. Hess**
10:00 a.m. **L. Freeland / C. McDonald**

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ALL MASSES - Please Volunteer

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Suzanne Artimez / Ellen McCormick

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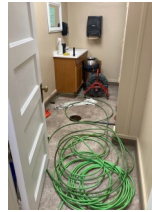
Envelopes	\$2,481.00
Loose Offering	\$469.00
Shut-in Project	\$40.00
Pennies for God	\$5.88
Memorial Fund	\$85.00
Christmas Flowers	\$115.00
Online Giving	\$480.40
Attendance	212

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THANK YOU**

Please report suspected child sexual abuse to your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact W.Va. Child Protective Services at 800.352.6513. In addition to contacting civil authorities, report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the diocese at 888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880. Please visit www.dwc.org under "Accountability" for additional information.

All Things Odiferous Cast Out; Boiler Is Tanking

Once again we may breathe easier. Thanks to intrepid plumbers with electronic devices, tiny cameras, sensitive noses, and strong stomachs we think we have discovered the source of the sulfur-like odors emanating from the bowels of the church. And no, contrary to all those whispered rumors, the noxious pathway from Hades does not lead to our church basement! Ancient rusting pipes clogged with all types of terrible things were found. The plumbers bored through it all and then were able to flush it all away. The plumbers have promised a "fascinating" video of our sewer pipes. Also not to be ignored is the church boiler. In 2010 our HVAC contractor



had this to say about the unit: "This boiler is 30 plus years old with a life expectancy of 20 years. The boiler is operating normally but should be considered for replacement due to age. Consider this boiler for replacement within the next two years." The boiler is still working, but we face new challenges each year. Last month after another repair we asked for a replacement proposal. The price tag is steep—\$64,400 for a high efficiency unit—but everyone agrees, meaning our church finance council, the diocesan office of building and property, and Bishop Brennan: The boiler needs replaced. Ordering now locks in the price until parts are available and before costs increase a projected minimum of 20 percent next year. The order is in.

HOLIDAY NOTES

PLEASE SHARE A PHOTOGRAPH

of a lovely holiday memory to include in our Christmas bulletin. Maybe your favorite snapshot is the family by the tree or a grandchild in the church pageant. Bring your favorite snapshot to the office or send it via email by Wednesday, Dec. 15.

A REMINDER THAT DELIVERY of flowers to the sick and shut-ins is Saturday, Dec. 18, at 10 a.m. Come to church to help.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve - Friday
4 p.m. - Children's Mass
7 p.m. - Candlelight Mass
10 p.m. - Choir Mass
Saturday
10 a.m. - Christmas Day Mass

FRIDAY IS THE LAST DAY FOR

donations to the Christmas flower fund in memory of a loved one and to help decorate the altars for Christmas. If you would like to honor someone, consider a donation in their name. Forms are on our website under the "forms" tab or in the vestibule. Please bring completed forms to the parish office or place them in the collection. Those being honored will be commemorated in our Christmas bulletin.

A "NATIVITY ESCAPE ROOM"

featuring riddles, puzzles, pizza and a movie is planned at the church hall at St. John's in Benwood from 6 - 9 p.m. Dec. 17. Any students between ages 12 and 16 are welcome. Contact Mary Rose Robbins to let her know if you can attend: 304-650-6232.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS):

Sat. 3:30 p.m. or 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.

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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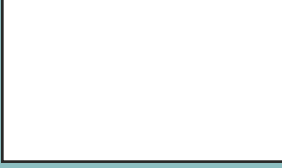
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