

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



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**DECEMBER 13, 2020**

Advent, Third Sunday

## CONTACT US

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**Rev. That Son Ngoc Nguyen:**

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

## 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

My  
soul  
rejoices  
in my  
God.

LUKE 1



## GOSPEL MEDITATION: THE PURSUIT OF JOY

Did you ever stop and realize that there is no earthly gain that can ever really satisfy us? Imagine winning the Lotto. On the “what if” side of the ticket, it’s all about the money and fantasies of how we will spend it. The possibility of acquiring these things brings us back again and again to purchase the next week’s ticket. Then one day we win! Our dreams are fulfilled, and happiness is on the horizon. We wrap ourselves in our newfound friendship with riches. We cast aside what brought us struggle and worry. Our challenges subside.

Then another day comes--the day we realize nothing remarkable. Nothing left to want or to inspire us. We come to understand that earthly gains cannot sustain us, and the joy we thought we attained was only novelty.

Glimpses of true joy are possible but not by material means. They are brought to us through incredible experiences of connection that bring us face to face with real and authentic faith, hope, and love. They are glimpses that are fleeting. The moment we find ourselves looking back at them, we realize their gift. To carry joy within us is to realize that it is not something we create, manufacture or even acquire. It cannot be purchased. It is a gift. The need for joy mirrors the need for eternity, for a Creator who has a claim on the very essence of who we are and desires a home within each of us.

As C. S. Lewis discovered, joy is a surprise that speaks to the very soul and is given as a gift by the God, who loves us.

The beauty of Advent is found in discovering the beauty of the gift of joy. God has visited his people for no other reason than to show them where and how to find joy! All of our human and earthly joy experiences are always only glimpses, and it is only God who is the joy of our souls. Real, Divine experiences of joy catch us off guard, make us stop and become aware, bring a feeling of awe and rightness and have an eternal Otherness about them.

Nothing created by humans can ever come close to this experience.

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## WORSHIP & OUTREACH



SATURDAY, DEC. 12

4:00 pm Semon & Phyllis Prado

*Danny Prado*

SUNDAY, DEC. 13

8:00 am Mary & Fred Nadolski†

*Nadolski Family*

10:00 am Thomas & Nora Abraham†

*Lucille Hicks*

MONDAY, DEC. 14

8:00 am Living & Deceased members of the St. Francis Pierogi Group

*Libby Magnone*

TUESDAY, DEC. 15

8:00 am Mary Ann Barnes†

*Dippel Family*

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16

8:00 am Rebecca Fetty†

*Mom & Dad*

THURSDAY, DEC. 17

8:00 am Jim Campbell†

*Joanne Ray*

FRIDAY, DEC. 18

8:00 am Susanna Kirchner†

*Veronica DiCola*

SATURDAY, DEC. 19

4:00 pm James & Regina Regiec†

*Lucille Hicks*

SUNDAY, DEC. 20

8:00 am Nancy Termin†

*Termin Family*

10:00 am Theresa Baum†

*Family*

**This weekend's second collection benefits the Retirement Fund for Religious. These servants vow poverty and live humbly during their time of service. Please help provide for them in their later years of need.**

### Reflections

## Wedding Story Recalls Bygone Traditions

What was my wedding like 60 years ago in 1960?

I was 19 and my groom was 22. Together we earned \$4 an hour.

The invitations were mailed one month prior to the SFX noon wedding scheduled the Saturday after Thanksgiving with Fr. Hopkins officiating.

Marrying a non-Catholic was considered a mixed marriage and did not qualify for a Nuptial Mass, so the wedding occurred off the altar on the parishioner side of the communion rail. Music was performed by Millie Fromhart, the longtime parish organist.

No attendant rented special clothes. The males wore suits and the females wore their prom gowns with their shoulders covered by added, very wide, cape-like straps. The maid of honor and best man needed to be Catholics, which restricted my groom's choices but solved the problem of my choosing one of two best friends. After a short ceremony, the "kiss the bride" moment happened outside on the church steps under a shower of rice.

#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

*We have been committing space for some months now to the areas of worship and outreach. Our goal is simple: to connect us. Our desire is direct: to use our own stories whenever we can to form connections. We offer a letter this week from longtime parishioner Jenny Ingram, who decided to share with all of us her reminiscence of how weddings have changed since hers 60 years ago. We hope Jenny's story moves more of you to share stories of your own.*



**Jenny's only wedding photograph is this proof made by the Wheeling News-Register. It was customary at that time for newspapers to take announcement photos.**

The reception followed at the VFW Hall. Pete Bieniek and the Polka Dots, a trio of a trumpet, drums, and accordion, played some music that pleased both my immigrated grandmother and my Lithuanian-born God mother.

The buffet, including golumbki (cabbage rolls), was provided by family members, the cake was bought at Quality Bakery, and the open bar was stocked by both fathers.

One Polish tradition observed was a short dance with the bride, costing a small money donation that was thanked with a shot glass of choice "liquid."

During the band's last song, guests circled me as my mother removed my bridal veil and replaced it with an apron to start my homemaking for the next 60 years. -- Jenny Rejonis Ingram

### Prayer REQUESTS

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

**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.

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

Calendar of Events

Sunday, Dec. 13	Decorating Xavier Hall for Christmas
	Lector Training for Parish Young Adults
Monday, Dec. 14	Christmas Food Orders Deadline
Wednesday, Dec. 16	Flower Fund Deadline forms are in the office and on our website.
Saturday, Dec. 19	Christmas Deliveries to Shut-ins Meet at 9 a.m.
Monday, Dec. 21	Pick Up Food Orders Church Basement 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. noon - 2 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 24	Children's Mass Christmas Eve 4:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 25	Christmas Day 10 a.m. Mass for Healthcare Workers

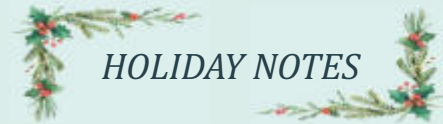
LECTORS

Dec. 19	4:00 pm	D. Evans
Dec. 20	8:00 am	M. Hitt
	10:00 am	L. Remke

OFFERING NOV. 29, 2020

Envelopes	\$2,724.00
Loose Offering	\$172.00
Church Repair	\$35.00
Xavier Hall	\$45.00
Diocesan Collection	\$20.00
<u>Other Collections:</u>	
Online Giving:	\$376.00
Christmas Flowers	\$835.00
Shut-in Project	\$320.00
Christmas Offering	\$50.00
Candles	\$18.00
Attendance	130

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.



HOLIDAY NOTES

MONDAY, DEC. 14 IS THE LAST

day to order holiday food made by our parish pierogi group.

Nut bread, nut cookies, apple butter, potato/cheese pierogies, and sauerkraut/bacon pierogies are available to purchase for your holiday celebrations.

You can place orders by leaving your name and number at 304-845-5565. An order sheet also is available on our website in the forms menu.

Items can be picked up Monday, Dec. 21, in the church basement from 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m., and noon - 2 p.m.

PLEASE RESERVE A MASS TIME

for Christmas this year, as we can only seat 80 people because of safety guidelines. Should reservations overflow, we will contact you to offer another Mass seating time.

Make reservations by sending an email or calling the office Monday - Wednesday. Forms also are available on the website.

The following are our Mass times:

- \* 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve (Children's Mass)
- \* 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve
- \* 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve
- \* 10:00 a.m. *Christmas Day.*

**Please tell Father ASAP if you must cancel your reserved time so it can be given to another.**

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.

OUR CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

is being offered for all those who work in health professions. The Mass is to recognize the ministry of those across our country who protect life and care for the ill and dying, such as physicians, nurses, compassionate caregivers, mental health workers, ministers, and chaplains.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE REMINDS

us of all that is filled with the gentleness and promise of God. It stands like the tree of paradise that God made into the tree of life--the cross of Jesus.

In your home, remember to bless the tree along with the evening meal on the Vigil or at another suitable time on Christmas Day. Any family member may lead the blessing, and many choose to sing a holiday hymn or carol both before and after the prayer.

A lovely blessing and a brief history of the Christmas tree tradition can be found by visiting [usccb.org](http://usccb.org) and typing the words "Blessing of a Christmas Tree" into the search area at the top right of the screen.



HEARTFELT THANKS

to parishioners Jane Klug and Libby Magnone for the purchase of new cloths for the Church's frontal altar and the candlebench alongside the tabernacle. We are grateful to have these new coverings for Advent. Jane and Libby are among those who go above and beyond to help, and it is greatly appreciated.

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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