

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



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



Visitation - Fra Angelico (ca 1395-1455)

DECEMBER 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent

CONTACT US

Church Office: 304-845-1593

Xavier Hall: 304-845-7080

Rev. That Son Ngoc Nguyen:

Pastor | 408-858-7467

Email:

sfxmoundsville@comcast.net

Website: sfxmoundsville.org

Facebook: facebook.com/StFrancisXavierMoundsville

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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

GOSPEL MEDITATION: FOLLOWING MARY

On this last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before his birth. The Gospel turns our attention from the ministry of John the Baptist to the events that preceded John the Baptist's birth. The story of John the Baptist and his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, are reported only in Luke's Gospel. Luke pairs the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus, establishing John's early connection to the Messiah.

Mary, after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel, visits

Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. If we were to continue to read the verses that follow in Luke's Gospel, we would hear Mary respond to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel.

It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation.

Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that

God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.

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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>
DEC. 20 MONDAY
8:00 a.m. Agnes Pucharich† <i>Francis Pucharich</i>
DEC. 21 TUESDAY
8:00 a.m. Philip Patrello† <i>Ed and Mary Dugas</i>
DEC. 22 WEDNESDAY
8:00 a.m. Mary Beth Callahan Kirchner† <i>Jim & Diana Barker</i>
DEC. 23 THURSDAY
8:00 a.m. Anne Boudreaux† <i>Jane Klug</i>
DEC. 24 FRIDAY Christmas Eve
4:00 p.m. For the children of our parish
7:00 p.m. For Victims of natural disaster
10:00 p.m. For parish families
DEC. 25 SATURDAY Christmas Day (Nativity of the Lord)
10:00 a.m. For those without families during the holidays
DEC. 26 SUNDAY
8:00 a.m. Sara Walters† <i>Joan Lemasters</i>
10:00 a.m. Charles Freeman† <i>Kitty & Stan Pazyk</i>

2022 Calendars are in the vestibule.

Bring Your Baby Jesus to Church This Sunday!

We would like to fill our church this Sunday, the Fourth of Advent, with statues of Baby Jesus from your home nativities to be blessed as part of Bambinelli Sunday. We hope to make this a new tradition at St. Francis!



The Blessing of the Bambinelli was first instituted by St. John Paul II, who encouraged the children of Rome to bring the baby Jesus (Bambinelli) from each of their Nativity sets to St. Peter's Square during Advent for special

blessings. The tradition is now celebrated in other churches around the world as a way for children especially to connect their Nativity scene at home to the celebration of Christmas at their church.

Any statue of Baby Jesus that is special to you and that you feel comfortable carrying to church will be blessed by Fr. That Son during Mass. We are eager to give this tradition to our parish families and children. Make sure to bring your Bambinelli to church this Sunday for blessings!

Animals Coming

Again this year those coming to Children's Mass on Christmas



Christmastime visit 2019.

Eve will be able to visit animals like those present at the Nativity. The animals will be outside the church from 3 p.m. until the start of Mass at 4 p.m. Thanks to Carolyn Harris for continuing this tradition for our children and their families.

The Sanctuary Candle

beside the tabernacle burns this week for

Brenda Kurko and Frank Gayda from Family

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.

Annual Collection Aids Catholic Charities



As in past years, the second collection during Christmas weekend supports Catholic Charities and its continued

work to provide holistic services to our vulnerable brothers and sisters.

Catholic Charities of West Virginia helps tens of thousands of our brothers and sisters in need every year. Donating allows us to provide hope, safety, food, and care. Through your support, we can continue providing for West Virginians in need. Thank you for your heart to give. Parishioners also can make donations at www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org and note their parish if they so choose to do so.

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

PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
THE WEEK OF DEC. 27.

Wednesdays 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	LINE DANCING WITH LOTTIE VFW Moundsville
Dec. 19 after 10 a.m. Mass	DECORATING CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS
Dec. 28 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.	ANNUAL YOUTH BOWLING OUTING St. Clair Lanes In St. Clairsville
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. 24 & 25
LECTORS/EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

4:00 p.m. Children's Mass
S. Taylor / M. Taskalines & L. Magnone
7:00 p.m. Candlelight Mass
L. Remke / P. Remke & R. Swift
10:00 p.m. Choir Mass
L. Freeland / S. Kent
10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass
C. King / L. Yoho
ALTAR SERVERS

Confirm with Father

SACRISTY

Ruth Bertrand / Julie Anderson

OFFERING DEC. 5, 2021

Envelopes	\$3,341.00
Loose Offering	\$400.00
Diocesan Collection	\$400.00
Shut-in Project	\$15.00
Pennies for God	\$25.26
Memorial Fund	\$1,160.00
Christmas Flowers	\$390.00
Online Giving	\$215.15
Attendance	222

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#)

Crowd Enjoys Santa!

More than 150 children came Saturday to Xavier Hall to visit Santa for breakfast! Thanks to Briana, Julie, and Ruth for organizing the event and to the generous donors who made sure the elves were covered! Thanks also to the many volunteers, especially students from the PSR groups at St. Francis and St. Jude and John Marshall High School.



HOLIDAY NOTES

WE NEED WELCOMING FACES to greet fellow worshipers for Christmas Masses. Please call the office to say you will be an usher.

LOTTIE IS BUSY PRACTICING with the children for the annual Children's Mass pageant. If you would like your child or grandchild—niece or nephew—to participate there is still time! Contact Lottie: 304-845-4011.

OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY BOWLING outing for all our parish youth is set for Tuesday, Dec. 28, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at St. Clair Lanes in St. Clairsville. Refreshments and pizza will be provided.

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

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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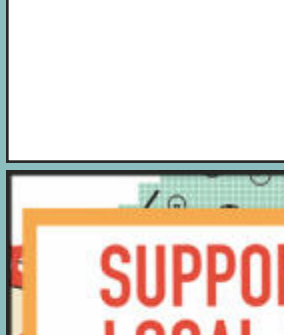
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