

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

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The Annunciation
Henry Ossawa Tanner, American (active France), 1859 - 1937

DECEMBER 20, 2020

Advent, Fourth Sunday

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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

GOSPEL MEDITATION: ALLOW GOD TO FIND YOU

In Blaise Pascal's work, *Pensees*, he says: "What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself."

We have a difficult time accepting that fulfillment and happiness are not achieved by our own merits but through a relationship with God. We come from God and are designed to return to God. The world does not realize that it is waiting. It is waiting for

the birth of God in time, within one's soul and in eternity. We get so confused by seeking other momentary satisfactions that we misinterpret the hunger within. We crave God.

The union of God and humanity, revealed in Jesus Christ, is precisely what sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. We are so lost. God is with us. The prophet Nathan told this to King David, the angel said this to Mary and the birth of Christ brings this Good News to us. We do not need to be busily looking for more things but must learn to find contentment and blessing in the One Presence. This is the beautiful simple message of Advent!

If you are feeling unsettled, anxious, angry, disgruntled, disconnected, unhappy, worried, fearful, off center, becoming overly self-indulgent, unable to spend time alone and without distraction, then there's a good chance you are lost. Now is the time to allow God to find you! Ponder the holy simplicity of Mary's call to be the Mother of God. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

When we are helpless and at home with our emptiness, God will fill us. Our Savior has come.

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MEN FOR OTHERS

Honoring Our Own During St. Joseph's Year

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

MONDAY, DEC. 21

8:00 am Diane Hill†
Cathy & Roger Frame

TUESDAY, DEC. 22

8:00 am Inez Rakoskie†
Joann & Arch Blair

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23

8:00 am Mary Ann Barnes†
Loretta & Tony Saporito

THURSDAY, DEC. 24

4:30 pm Diane Hill†
Marilyn & Dan Lydick

6:00 pm Joseph & Patricia Kuskey†
Randy & Kathy Swift

10:00 pm Florence Sawinski & Scott Minor†
Rick & Robin Targosky

FRIDAY, DEC. 25

10:00 am To Honor All Healthcare Workers

SATURDAY, DEC. 26

4:00 pm Matthew Hicks†
Lucille Hicks

SUNDAY, DEC. 27

8:00 am Joseph A. & Mary Patrello†
Cathy & Roger Frame

10:00 am Patty Kleinedler†
Her husband

There is a second collection Christmas Day to support Catholic Charities of West Virginia and its vital work to provide during need.

Joseph was a man for others. Though the Scriptures say little about Joseph, even that absence speaks volumes. Why? Because to Joseph, he was not the one who was important, others were.

Joseph's quiet and humble service reminds us of our parish men, whom we wish to recognize during this year of St. Joseph, which Pope Francis recently decreed to honor the saint's 150th anniversary as patron of the Universal Church.

The Year of St. Joseph began Dec. 8, 2020 and concludes Dec. 8, 2021.

Francis established a Year of St. Joseph so that "every member of the faithful, following his example, may strengthen their life of faith daily in the complete fulfillment of God's will."

The pope has also granted special indulgences to mark the year. During this period, the faithful will have the opportunity to commit themselves with prayer and good works to obtain, with the help of St. Joseph, head of the heavenly Family of Nazareth, comfort and relief from the serious human and social tribulations that besiege the contemporary world today.

In addition to the decree, Francis issued an apostolic letter dedicated to the foster father of Jesus.

The pope explained in the letter, titled *Patris corde* ("With a father's heart") and dated Dec. 8, that he wanted to share some "personal reflections" on the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who was a humble man of faith who had a close, intimate, and personal relationship with the God of His Fathers. Named after the great Patriarch who was sold into slavery in Egypt, Joseph bore the name with similar humility.

"My desire (to share thoughts) increased during these months of pandemic," the pope said, noting that many people had made hidden sacrifices during the crisis in order to protect others.

"Each of us can discover in Joseph -- the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence -- an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble," he wrote. "St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

We honor our parish men during this Year of St. Joseph as the husbands, fathers, grandfathers, brothers, uncles, cousins, nephews, coaches, mentors, pastors, ministers, and religious whose intercession, support, and sincerity keep our faith community strong.

Please remember these men in your prayers.

-- with reporting by Catholic News Agency.

Prayer REQUESTS

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

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.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve Thursday, Dec. 24	Children's Mass 4:30 p.m.
	Evening Masses 6:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m.
Christmas Day Friday, Dec. 25	10 a.m. Mass Recognizing and Thanking All Healthcare Workers

FOR ALL CHRISTMAS MASSES:
When you arrive, *please wait to be seated*, wear masks, sanitize, and observe social distance.

LECTORS

Dec. 24	4:30 pm	D. Evans
	6:00 pm	T. Andrews
	10:00 pm	T. Andrews
Dec. 25	10:00 am	M. Hitt
Dec. 26	4:00 pm	D. Prado
Dec. 27	8:00 am	T. Wise
	10:00 am	M. Lewis

OFFERING DEC. 6, 2020

Envelopes	\$3,154.00
Loose Offering	\$108.00
Church Repair	\$130.00
Xavier Hall	\$585.00
<u>Other Collections:</u>	
Online Giving:	\$15.15
Christmas Flowers	\$545.00
Shut-in Project	\$320.00
Memorial	\$1,035.00
Immaculate Conception	\$316.00
Candles	\$2.00
Attendance	135

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.



CONSIDER TAKING SOME TIME to visit dwc.org to watch a recent virtual gathering titled "Integrating Ecology, Economy, and Human Dignity in West Virginia." The discussion brings together community leaders in the areas of faith and economic development and features Sen. Joe Manchin. The discussion highlights positive, local stories of job creation and conservation from Coalfield Development Corporation, Appalachian Headwaters, and Downstream Strategies. The event also focuses on Church teachings on ecology as expressed by Pope Francis and the Catholic bishops of the Appalachian region. The forum was organized and offered by Catholics for a Sustainable Economy.

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.

ANY CONTRIBUTION MARKED

"Giving Tuesday" received through Dec. 31 is now exempt from any Diocesan assessment. In other words, every day can be Giving Tuesday through the end of the year! (Please remember to write Giving Tuesday on your check or envelope.)

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

passed out 38 Christmas food cards on Wednesday. A reminder that our parish gave \$1,466 to this special holiday mission. Thank you, again, for your generosity.

NEW DELIVER Sympathy

*To the family and loved ones of
Thomas Sullivan,
our heartfelt condolences.*

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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