

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



912 Seventh St., Moundsville, W.VA. 26041 304-845-1593 [sfxmoundsville@comcast.net](mailto:sfxmoundsville@comcast.net)



## 1st Sunday OF ADVENT

“Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.” - Lk 21:27

**NOVEMBER 28, 2021**

First Sunday of Advent

### CONTACT US

**Church Office:** 304-845-1593

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**Rev. That Son Ngoc Nguyen:**

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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: AWAKEN

Staying awake can often be a challenge, especially when we are exhausted. Being tired affects us physically, psychologically, and spiritually. Getting sufficient physical rest only helps so much. We need rejuvenation in other ways. If we are psychologically exhausted, we need to understand what is draining us. If we are spiritually tired, we need to find the boost to put us back in touch with God and His love. Unfortunately, exhaustion is seldom limited to just one part of who we are. When we lack energy and zeal it is usually the case that everything suffers.

And yet, our Lord's directive is clear, "Be vigilant at all times." Even Jesus knew

what "the anxieties of daily life" can do to us. One day pours into another, and time quickly passes. Any one of us can take a moment and reflect on how many wonderful opportunities we miss to awaken because of so much to do and so little time to do it. We justify sleep walking through life, separated often from love, by convincing ourselves that tomorrow is another day and there'll be more time. However, tomorrow is here, and time is running out. We're on a limited ride and time is short.

Jesus is clear on another point. "That day [will] catch you by surprise like a trap." St. Teresa of Calcutta tells us, "We desire

to be able to welcome Jesus ... in a heart full of love and humility, a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another."

Getting to this place requires vigilance and discipline. It takes a knowledge of what is really of importance and what truly needs the focus of our energy and time. Pray, starting now and not tomorrow, that we can stay alert, be strengthened in our faith, and prepared for whatever will come. Don't miss another opportunity to love.

LPi/Edited



<b>NOV. 27</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Sara Walters†</b> <i>Suzy Lunau</i>
<b>NOV. 28</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Rocco &amp; Helen Rich†</b> <i>Karen Eisenhauer</i>
<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Megan Freeland Roskovensky</b> <i>Latrisha Whitelatch</i>
<b>NOV. 29</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>
<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Bob &amp; Bernadine Miller†</b> <i>Porter &amp; Miller families</i>
<b>NOV. 30</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>
<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Veronica DiCola†</b> <i>Rosemary Patrone</i>
<b>DEC. 1</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>
<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Isabel Ferris Wolfe†</b> <i>Libby Magnone</i>
<b>DEC. 2</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>
<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sara Walters†</b> <i>Jim &amp; Diana Barker</i>
<b>DEC. 3</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Patricia Kurelac†</b> <i>Barker &amp; Thomas families</i>
<b>DEC. 4</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>John J. Lubic†</b> <i>Loretta Remke</i>
<b>DEC. 5</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Steven Eisenhauer†</b> <i>Karen Eisenhauer</i>
<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Philip Patrello†</b> <i>Lynn Comerici</i>

## Shrine Reminds Us Mary Lived Advent



As Advent begins, it is our good fortune that Father and a few from our parish

visited Mary's House during a recent pilgrimage that included Turkey. This place is where Mary eventually lived out her days after Jesus spoke of her from the Cross to John. Today it is one of the world's holiest shrines—visited by more than a million people a year. It is revered by both Christians and Muslims, and Pope Paul VI and Pope John Paul II both worshiped there, making special journeys to do so.



**The House of the Virgin Mary located on Mt. Koresos in the vicinity of Ephesus, Turkey.**



**Father at the house's entrance.**

It is also our good fortune that Father found the book *Mary's House* by Donald Carroll, which tells "the extraordinary story behind the discovery of the house where the Virgin Mary lived and died." (subtitle)

Carroll, who was an expert on Turkey, writes "the shortest leap of faith" confirms the house was Mary's. Here is his synopsis of the history: "In the closing years of the nineteenth century, the Aegean coast of Turkey witnessed three of the greatest archaeological finds of all



**View of main altar. Daily visitors may not take photographs. (Book photo)**



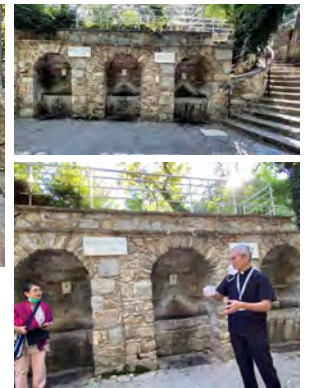
**The floor plan. (book photo)**

time. Two of these – the discoveries of the ruins of Ephesus and Troy – made international headlines overnight. The third, however, in 1881, was immediately enveloped in secrecy...

nobody in the Vatican believed that an obscure French priest, (Abbé Julien Gouyet) following the visions of an equally obscure German nun and mystic, (Anne Catherine Emmerich) could possibly have found the actual house where the Virgin Mary spent her last years. Yet by the end of the century the evidence had become so compelling that scholars had pronounced the discovery authentic, and Pope Leo XIII had declared the site a place of pilgrimage."



**Above and top right: Path from the house to a spring fountain. Right: Father drawing water.**



Carroll's writing underscores for Father the privilege of visiting this shrine and his desire to share more about it as we begin Advent. A highlight for Father was drawing water from the fountain spring, which many believe to be holy waters. A placard affixed nearby the area reads *Meryemana Kaynak Suyu* or Blessed Virgin Spring Water.

We hope the history of Mary's House and these photographs, courtesy of Donald Carroll's book, *Father*, and parishioner Dru Meyer, enrich your Advent journey.

## Prayer REQUESTS

**Homebound:** Rachel Kerekes, Doris Murphy, Semon & 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.

"It is not the physical exertion that counts toward one's progress, nor the nature of the task, but by the spirit of faith with which it is undertaken."



*St. Francis Xavier  
Feast Day Dec. 3*

**CALENDAR**

Dec. 5 4 p.m.	ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE
Dec. 9 & 10	DIRECTORY PHOTO SESSIONS
Wednesdays 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	LINE DANCING WITH LOTTIE VFW Moundsville
Dec. 11 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	BREAKFAST with SANTA Xavier Hall Reservations by Dec. 8
Dec. 17	CHRISTMAS FLOWERS due date for forms
Dec. 18	FLOWERS TO HOMEBOUND
Dec. 19 after 10 a.m. Mass	DECORATING CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

**SCHEDULES DEC. 4 & 5**

LECTORS/EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	
4:00 p.m.	A. Wise / volunteer
8:00 a.m.	C. Frame / S. Kent
10:00 a.m.	L. Niemiec / L. Yoho
ALTAR SERVERS	
ALL MASSES - Please Volunteer	
SACRISTY - Please Volunteer	
Linda Miller / Butch Miller	

OFFERING	NOV. 14, 2021
Envelopes	\$2,890.00
Loose Offering	\$396.00
Church Repair	\$575.00
Xavier Hall	\$340.00
Military Chaplains	\$45.00
All Souls	\$120.00
All Saints	\$20.00
Candles	\$20.00
Memorial	\$325.00
Online Giving	\$115.15
Attendance	184

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**IT'S A GIRL!**

Welcome to the world Belén—born Nov. 5th to missionaries Pablo and Debora, who along with Jose Miguel and Alan spent time with our parish last year as part of the Neocatechumenal Way. Mom is doing well, and Belén (Spanish for 'Bethlehem') is getting settled just in time for the holidays. It is heartwarming that Pablo and Debora wished to say hello and to share their good news with us!



**ADVENT EVENING REFLECTION**

will take place Thursday, Dec. 2, at 6 p.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral in Wheeling. Fr. Adam Potter from the Diocese of Pittsburgh will speak at this special evening of prayer, music, and reflection. Everyone is invited to attend.

**PLEASE NOTE PHOTO SESSIONS**

for the church directory have been moved to Dec. 9 and 10, and time slots are NOT changed. Whatever time and day you signed up for in October has been transferred directly to that time and day in December. There are still time slots available for anyone who would like to schedule a photo session. You may also contact Loretta Niemiec at 304-830-1137 to schedule or if you have questions. You can schedule through our website, Facebook page, or below:

<https://tinyurl.com/ywefhxv3>

**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.

**HOLIDAY NOTES**

**A REMINDER WE WILL DELIVER** flowers to the sick and shut-ins of our parish Saturday, Dec. 18, at 10 a.m. Please contact the parish office or Mary Taskalines at 304-845-7326 if you would like to participate in the annual Christmas ministry to remember those of our parish who are unable to attend Masses.

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

*Christmas Eve - Friday*

4:00 p.m. - Children's  
Mass

7:00 p.m. - Candlelight  
Mass

10:00 p.m. - Choir Mass

*Saturday*

10 a.m. - Christmas Day Mass

**THE CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND**

is a special way to remember loved ones during the holidays while helping decorate the altars for Christmas. If you would like to honor someone, consider a donation in their name.

You can find the form for listing names on our website under the "forms" tab and in the vestibule in the back of church. You also can bring completed forms to the parish office, place them in the collection basket or mail them in. Forms are due by Dec. 17.

**November 30, 2021**

**Giving Tuesday**

All donations to St. Francis  
Xavier will come back



to our  
parish.

**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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