



# The Crossroads Messenger Advent 2020

The official newsletter of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

Mount Washington, Kentucky



## An Advent Journey *ful*

Fr. Ed Broom, OMV

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Advent is just around the corner, which means time to prepare for Christmas — the birth of Our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. The joy of Christmas depends on the intensity with which we live out the Season of Advent. Let us follow these concrete suggestions and live out this Season of Advent with great joy, prayer, love and intensity. Let us live out this Advent as if it were to be the last in our lives. Indeed, it could be! Jesus constantly reminds us to be alert, awake and to be ready and prepared for His coming because we know neither the day nor the hour.

Here are five helpful suggestions for making this your holiest Advent, yet!

### 1. Practice Silence

Remember the Prophet Elijah and his experience with God in the silence on the Mountain. (1 Kings 19: 11- 13) Try to eliminate unnecessary noise in your life and find a few minutes for silence. Turn off the noise pollution for just a while. life.

### 2. Prayer

Find more time to pray in this Holy Season. The Church encourages us to increase and intensify our prayer life. Forms of prayer are many. The list might be among the following:

- Liturgy of the Hours
  - Psalms — the prayer book of the Bible
  - Holy Hour and the Word of God
  - Lectio Divina and following the classical steps: lectio, meditatio, contemplatio, oratio, accio, and finally transformacio (Pope Benedict XVI, in his writings on the word of God, *Verbum Domini*, strongly recommends this)
  - Holy Mass — the prayer “par excellence”
  - Vocal prayers prayed slowly and with great attention and love
  - Examen of Conscience (strongly recommended by Saint Ignatius)
  - Holy Rosary — possibly the Scriptural Rosary
  - Contemplate the Crib/ the empty crib, the Shepherds
- It could be very helpful to supplement your prayer, to read a good book on prayer; there are many, but find a good one!

### 3. Serve the Poor

Perhaps in this season of Advent you can find some way that you can serve Jesus in the poor. Remember that Jesus manifests Himself in the poor. Blessed Mother Teresa said that we should discover Jesus in the “distressing disguise of the poor.” Read Mt 25:31-46—the Parable of the Last Judgment. Jesus points out that our final Judgment will be based on how we treat the poor. Never forget this challenge: charity begins at home!

### 4. Holy Mass in Advent

Try to go to Holy Mass every day in Advent. If you already attend daily Mass then go a step or two beyond what you are doing. Try to come earlier before Mass to prepare yourself better to receive Jesus into your “Bethlehem”—House of Bread, meaning your own heart. Also try to encourage and bring all the family members and friends that you can to encounter Jesus in the Eucharist. As St. Andrew brought people to Jesus, you are also called to bring people to Jesus, the Savior! Indeed Jesus is the pearl and treasure of infinite price. Share Him with others!

### 5. Imitate Our Lady

In the Marian classic written by Saint Louis de Montfort, True Devotion to Mary highlights Mary’s ten most exalted virtues. They are: deep humility, lively faith, blind obedience, unceasing prayer, constant self-denial, surpassing purity, ardent love, heroic patience, angelic kindness, and heavenly wisdom. (True Devotion to Mary, # 108).

Why not choose one or two of these virtues of Mary, beg through her intercession the grace to imitate them and then during the course of Advent make a concerted effort to live these virtues out more fully in your life? Mary is the shortest, quickest, and the easiest path to arrive at the Heart of Jesus.



I hope this finds you doing well in these COVID times. I am so proud and happy that we are able to have copies of our Parish newsletter in our hands once again. As you know, it has been a long while since we have had one and we are blest in having a great staff to prepare it.



These last months have been an incredible challenge to everyone... no one excluded. It has caused absolute havoc with the timing on our community's Parish Activity Center (PAC) project and renovations of the old church/Parish hall. Following all the steps prescribed by the archdiocese has been a test, but one that we persistently address. To refresh everyone's memory, right before COVID hit us this past March, we had been approved by the archbishop to move forward on the next steps of our plan. The Steering Committee has continued to meet throughout all this time as have JRA Architects and Wehr Contractors. We are getting a clearer picture before us of what we can afford and what other needs we have yet to meet. I have been so impressed and gratified that those committed to the "Expanding Our Embrace" campaign have been so faithful to your pledges. As of this writing, we have received

\$1,156,816.00 which represents 85% of our goal in 29 months. **That is super!** Thank you!

In time, you will also be invited to financially participate in other items needed *in* our new building, too. As always, I invite, encourage and welcome our **new members to please** help by making a financial commitment to the Parish for the PAC as well as the improvements in the old church. Taking ownership in our communal work and effort is an opportunity that fulfills the mission of Jesus and our Parish, **His Parish**. Won't you *please* help?

Lastly, I offer a word of most sincere thanks to **all** who worked (seen and unseen) so hard on our *first-ever* AuctionFest. What an incredible achievement during these days of COVID and all the unknowns that have come with that virus. Working together we can do great things! God bless each of you!

In Christ the Cornerstone,

*Fr. Dale*



## St. Francis Xavier

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*Thank You!*



Many thanks to Mary Morris for serving on the Newsletter Committee since its beginning in 2016. It was through her initiative The Crossroads Messenger became a reality and serves as a vital communication tool for our Parish family. Mary's dedication and sharing of time and talent in this ministry will always be greatly appreciated.



**ROSARY Rally**

On October 10th, Deacon David Maxwell and I were fortunate to lead a small group of faithful Catholics in a Public Square Rosary Rally at St. Gabriel Parish. This was part of a Rosary Crusade organized by "America Needs Fatima" Rosary Crusade. The event occurred in over 21,000 locations across America that day. Thanks to those of you who attended the rally!

The Rosary Rally intention was to ask God for His mercy and plead for Our Lady to intercede for us to help save America from today's chaos, immorality and social upheaval.

America seems to be at historical crossroads with the unknowns of the Coronavirus pandemic and recent civil unrest. There is no doubt our nation is in great need of prayer as we combat abortion, euthanasia, homelessness, human trafficking and other threats to religious liberty and freedom and to human dignity. Unfortunately, this war between good and evil has always been waged in the world and it's waged within each of us and our families as well. At times we lack hope that we can make a difference in our world. There is one place, though, we can make a difference and it's within our families.

Venerable Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C says that "The family that prays together stays together," and the Holy Rosary provides this opportunity to our families. Praying the Rosary together as a family each night can create a strong foundation for one's

faith. Meditation on the salvific mysteries of Christ, together in union with Mary and as a family, can unite us as one. The fruits of the mysteries like humility, poverty of spirit, obedience and love of neighbor are part of what can actually make us grow in virtue and holiness. Pride, jealousy and anger are among those things that easily slip into our daily lives and weigh upon our hearts. Yet, Our Lord is ever-present and ever-ready to bring us healing of mind, body and soul.

We understand the power that prayer can have in our personal lives, but sometimes prayer can be difficult in the family environment. How can we change this situation to make it a truly positive environment for the whole family? We can make it possible with the following faith steps:

**Consider incorporating prayer throughout the day and not just at mealtimes. Consider saying a short prayer together in the morning before everyone heads off to their activities.**

**Consider adding individual prayers and intentions to the prayers before family meals.**

**Consider reciting an Our Father, a Hail Mary and a Glory Be in the car on the way to school or at home before starting non-traditional education each day.**

**Consider creating a prayerful environment in your home by defining a "prayer place" with simple pieces of sacred art, a rosary, a crucifix or a bible. This can generate quiet time and family discussion as well.**

**Consider spending prayer time together as a family at a local**

### Adoration Chapel.

**Consider a Saturday morning of prayer at a local shrine or monastery. These can be fun trips which are both educational and transformative for the family.**

**Plant a small garden at home with a statue of Mary in it as a special place to remind your children that Mary is always with them.**

**Consider praying the Rosary together virtually (Zoom or Go-To-Meeting) with your older children if they are away.**

**Make Rosaries as a family for your use together or to give as a gift to someone else.** There are many ways to cultivate prayer in your home, but one thing is for sure, as you draw your family closer to Mary, she will draw your family closer to her Son.

In closing, I offer this "Prayer for Peace in Our Family" taken from the Laudate website:

*Lord Jesus, be with my family.  
Grant us Your peace and harmony, an end to conflict and division.*

*Gift us with compassion to better understand each other, wisdom and love to assist each other, and trust and patience to live peacefully together.*

*Grant that through the intercession of your mother, Mary, and St. Joseph, our family may become a holy family accepting each other, working together in unity, selflessly dedicated to one another and to You.*

*Amen.*



Deacon Earl Baker





# AuctionFest Success

Helen Hagen  
Parish Manager

Coming together, we pulled it off! We tried something new in the “new normal,” and AuctionFest proved to be a great success! Whether by your auction donations, raffle ticket purchases, auction bids, or volunteering, we all made it happen!

Congratulations to our raffle drawing winners: Grand Prize \$10,000 winner, Vincent Sivori, and two \$500 winners, Susan Egan and Jami Jarboe! We hope you enjoy those winnings! It's interesting to note, with the Covid situation, we tried to promote online ticket sales and two of the winners bought their tickets online! Our final totals were 1,809 paper tickets sold and 993 online tickets sold, for a total of 2,802. We appreciate all who bought tickets and all of the volunteers who helped in any way with ticket sales.

In a year when many businesses weren't able to give us donations, Parishioners pitched in with their time and talent by making something or by donating gift cards and items. With the wide variety of over 150 items, there was sure to be something for everyone. We thank everyone for their donations and purchases. We hope you had a little fun in participating!

Although it wasn't a sit down dinner, many drove by to pick up a chicken dinner. It was a delicious meal and we appreciate those who helped in preparing it and serving it. It was also nice to have a familiar and popular meal that has been served at so many SFX picnics in the past!

Finally, we have also placed an order for numerous SFX t-shirts, tumblers, and Christmas ornaments! These should be back in plenty of time for Christmas. Again, we appreciate those who made purchases and look forward to seeing our new church logo and name promoted.

Although we couldn't be together and gather in person, we hope this FUNdraiser was a good time for everyone. We don't have final numbers at this printing on how profitable the AuctionFest was, but we know it surpassed our normal picnic proceeds. That helps with our budget and normal operating expenses, in addition to helping with our Long Range Plans for the Parish.



## Youth Group Goes On



### Faith Formation & Fellowship Through Formed

Rhonda Abner  
Newsletter Committee

The high school youth group started the new school year with a cookout on September 27th. All the kids who were involved last year came back as well as six new young people! The group has been learning and discussing the current weekly scripture readings as well as participating every other week in a program from the FORMED website called *The Search*.

New Youth Minister Dave Richardson also reported parents Mike and Kim Zygmunt now help out in the class as well as former member Matt McCarter, now a UK freshman, who has signed on as a young adult leader. For fun and recreation, the Group has received a foosball table, air hockey table and a Wii U console. Also, the group is very grateful to a generous Parishioner who donated a brand new, full-size refrigerator!

As in years past, Youth Group members have started collecting food to make Christmas baskets in conjunction with the SFX Outreach Ministry. Unfortunately, other planned community outreach events must be put on hold due to Covid 19. The Youth Group, parents and leaders look forward to when they can resume normal Parish and community outreach activities!



# Margee's Musings



**Margee Joseph**  
Pastoral Associate



In keeping with my past articles, the next ministry I want to highlight is the Garden Ministry. Located on our campus next to the maintenance garage, this is a wonderful example of stewardship of God's creation. How wonderful that this Parish makes use of a plot of land to raise vegetables for the hungry of the community!

From spring to fall the produce from the garden is taken to the Mt Washington Community Ministries and distributed to those families in need of food. That alone makes this a noteworthy project. But what really makes it outstanding is the number of volunteers and the dedication they have to planting and tending to this garden each year.

According to Sandee Clark, chairperson of the garden committee, there are about 9 Parishioners who dedicate themselves to maintaining the garden. Every spring, they prepare the ground and plant the seeds. This past spring, they planted tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, zucchini, cabbage, peppers, kale, green beans, sweet potatoes, broccoli and cauliflower. Late summer brought second plantings of green beans, kale, cabbage and broccoli for a fall harvest. Only organic fertilizer and natural neem oil as a pest repellent are used, ensuring safe and healthy produce.

Over the span of the growing season, one could find the "Garden Gang" weeding and watering the crops early Wednesday mornings. They gathered produce in 5 gallon buckets and took the fruits of their labors to the Mt. Washington Community Ministries for distribution. The average yield was 3-5 buckets of produce weekly for the season April to October.

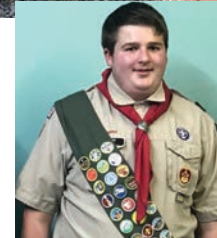
This ministry always reminds me of the Eucharist. In the Eucharistic prayer, Father refers to the wine and bread as fruit of the vine and work of human hands. That is what our Garden Ministry is all about: working with human hands to reap the fruit of their plantings. In addition, the word Eucharist means "thanksgiving." Not only are the recipients of this food thankful for receiving it but we are thankful for the garden committee in their efforts to feed the hungry. Kudos to this group as they respond to Jesus' call to "Feed my sheep."

If anyone is interested in joining this committee, please contact Sandee Clark at 422-1255.



## Prayer Garden

**Miles Spalding**  
Newsletter Committee



While visiting the St. Francis Xavier campus for Mass or another church activity, you may have noticed the new prayer garden. This prayer garden was an Eagle Scout project by Dillan Robison. Dillan, age 18, is a senior at Bullitt East High School, a member of Boy Scout Troop 776 which meets here at St. Francis Xavier and the grandson of Pastoral Associate Margee Joseph.

Dillan first approached Margee with his idea of a prayer garden and she recommended he speak to Fr. Dale. Upon receiving Father's approval, Dillan met with Facilities Coordinator, Bobby Grace, who suggested a site for the prayer garden and gave him ideas on coordinating it with the surrounding landscape. After some basic research, Dillan designed the garden and approached vendors

for the supplies he needed. He also contacted utility companies to survey the property for hidden lines to avoid when digging. Having received the required permissions, Dillan then recruited troop members and their families, friends and his own family to help in the actual construction of the garden. Upon completion of the prayer garden, dedicated to Mary, Mother of God, he invited Fr. Dale to bless it.

Dillan presented his final report on the completion of the prayer garden to the Boy Scout Council Board on October 13, 2020. With their approval, Dillan was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout. In his comments at the blessing of the garden Dillan said he wanted to provide a quiet place for SFX Parishioners or

anyone in the community to come to meditate or to pray, especially during times when the church was not open.

Dillan is an honor roll student and a member of the Honor Society at Bullitt East. He is a tuba player in the marching band and a member of the concert choir. Dillan plans to attend Western Kentucky University majoring in agricultural science while also taking part in the Hilltopper's marching band. Upon completion of his degree he plans to continue his education at Auburn University pursuing a degree in Veterinary Science. In the future he wants to become a small animal veterinarian.

The Saint Francis Xavier family thanks Dillan for his contribution and wishes him well in his future endeavors!

## Tribute to All Souls

*"Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit."*

*Romans 5:5*



Loved ones remembered on All Souls Day November 2, 2020:

- |                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Nancy Ball Almony         | Richard E. Hartman      |
| Hazel Marie Bass          | Lenora Joy Haydon       |
| Donald Lee Becker         | William Herdman         |
| Sylvia Mae Butts          | Mary Alice Huffman      |
| Leonard Edward Carpenter  | Angela Kelty            |
| Gerald Michael Clark      | Michael Owen Jarboe     |
| Robert & Linda Durrett    | Matthew Martin          |
| Margaret & Richard Easley | Elizabeth M. Paul       |
| Gregory Michael Elder     | Clara Imelda Sivori     |
| Shirley Ann Elmore        | Barry Joseph Smith      |
| Mary Sue Estes            | Elizabeth Joan Stratton |
| Judith Greulich           | David Wegley            |
| Rev. Joseph Stephen Hall  | Larry Wheat             |
| Arnold Harbolt            | Zerelda Mae Wheat       |
| Leonard J Hardy           | Marlene Wiersum         |

Allen Zygmunt





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# Advent 2020

Daily Mass Readings and Reflections for the Sacred Season

**SUNDAY**

**29 NOVEMBER Mercy Rules**  
God knows what we need most for Christmas this year—freedom from our sins.  
Is 63:16-17, 19; 64:2-7

**MONDAY**

**30 Good News**  
We have heard and believe. Now spread the good news that Jesus is Lord to the ends of the earth.  
Romans 10:9-18

**TUESDAY**

**1 DECEMBER Newborn King**  
Jesus rules like no other—he aims only to bring peace.  
Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

**WEDNESDAY**

**2 Filled by Jesus**  
Feast on the food that Jesus provides. It will fill your every need.  
Matthew 15:29-37

**THURSDAY**

**3 Wishing**  
The greatest Christmas gift is the joy of building one's home on faith in Christ.  
Matthew 7:21, 24-27

**FRIDAY**

**4 Shining On**  
May each twinkling light, each glowing candle, grant you the comfort of God's protection.  
Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14

**SATURDAY**

**5 Peace on Earth**  
God's kingdom arrives when bounty, healing and wisdom come to all.  
Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26

**A PRAYER FOR LIGHTING ADVENT CANDLES**

In the darkness, we light a flame of hope. May it dance not only upon our Advent wreath, but within each of our hearts as well. Hope is the flower that blooms from the ground of faith. And so, with joy, we keep the tradition of ages past as we encircle our Advent wreath with love and prayerful expectation. May this Advent season bring us a new birth of hope in the ancient promises of God. Amen.

**6 Thy Kingdom Come**  
Though we count the days to his coming, God is not bound by time.  
2 Peter 3:8-14

**7 On the Roof**  
Whether you come bearing gifts or bring others to the blessing, God is glorified in it.  
Luke 5:17-26

**8 Immaculate Conception**  
Salvation is manifested through Mary, graced to live without the stain of sin.  
Psalm 98:1-4

**9 Be Still**  
Weary of all the season's activity already? Find your rest in the presence of the Lord.  
Isaiah 40:25-31

**10 Follow Him**  
John humbled himself and pointed the way to Jesus. This alone is what makes him great.  
Matthew 11:11-15

**11 Ignore the Appearance**  
Look beyond the seasonal surface and see the peace, hope and joy beneath it.  
Matthew 11:16-19

**12 Our Lady of Guadalupe**  
Even now, the Lord lives and moves among his people, especially the lowly.  
Zechariah 2:14-17

**13 Rejoice!**  
Celebrate the spirit of Advent with full joy, for the Lord of Christmas is perfect.  
1 Thes 5:16-24

**14 Heaven's Authority**  
The power from above is present in the words and deeds of Christ, who is God-sent.  
Matthew 21:23-27

**15 Sing Out**  
Lord, may every word that comes from my mouth today give you glory and praise.  
Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23

**16 God With Us**  
Jesus is that one special gift you have always wanted but never expected. Receive him today.  
Is 45:6-8, 18, 21-25

**17 Age to Age**  
From age to age, prosperity shall come to God's people in Christ. Spread his blessings.  
Psalm 72: 1-4, 7-8, 17

**18 Righteous Branch**  
A Branch from the line of King David shall rule in justice and righteousness.  
Jeremiah 23:5-8

**19 You Will Be Speechless**  
Quiet the voices around you today and listen to what God promises in the Word.  
Luke 1:5-25

**20 It's Possible**  
Despite the sinfulness of David's line, God remained faithful to it throughout generations.  
Luke 1:26-38

**21 Sharing Joy**  
Are friends and family coming your way? Celebrate and share the Good News together.  
Luke 1:39-45

**22 Magnify Him**  
We, his servants, lift up our voices and our lives to exalt the Lord and his help.  
Luke 1:46-56

**23 Filled With Wonder**  
With wonder and awe, we welcome those whom God has placed in our lives.  
Luke 1:57-66

**24 Way of Peace**  
When we don't know where to go, God will guide us in the way of peace.  
Luke 1:67-79

**25 Seek Him**  
Go out to see your Lord and Savior, for he will reveal himself to you, and you shall rejoice.  
Luke 2:15-20

