



The Crossroads Messenger

The official newsletter of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church • Mount Washington, Kentucky

1st Quarter 2021



A Tribute To Margee

Earl Baker
Deacon

Since the November 2020 issue of Crossroads Messenger, our dear friend and Pastoral Associate, Margee Joseph, has gone home to be with our Lord.

I first met Margee at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in the late 1980s. At the time, she was a schoolteacher and taught religious education at the Parish. As the years passed, she remained active in other ministries such as Vacation Bible School, Parish Fun Days, Youth Retreats and RCIA. In the spring of 1997, Margee and her husband Eddie, and I and my wife Ellen were in a two-year Ministry Formation program together. As we went through this program, we became closer friends. During that time, it became more evident that she was a woman of deep faith and trust in God. Margee had a real joy in her heart and others were drawn to her because of it.

Although I've only been at SFX for a few months, I can truly imagine how she has touched the lives of many people here in her various ministries. In memory of Margee, I would like to share some excerpts from my homily at her Funeral Mass:

Margee lived with such a joy in her heart, and she was fun-loving. As I understand, she was also one who liked to keep her co-workers in stitches. She loved to hassle Fr. Dale about sharing outdated candy and often joked about being "fired" from her duties. Margee was young at heart and full of life. She was "all in" on planning fun or activities for the Parish, and she had a gentle way of inviting others to share in the work of the Parish. She will be dearly missed.

Margee lived her Catholic faith with such great joy and trust in God. It was profound. I remember one of her childhood stories of her playing the Mass parts as a child and handing out "Necco" wafers as though they were communion to her childhood friends. She was a practicing Catholic from an early age!

Margee had the ability to see God working in all things great and small. She touched the lives of so many people through her work as a Pastoral Associate, an RCIA presenter, in the Be-Friender Ministry, Youth Group Retreats, Vacation Bible School and much more. Her work was done with faith and trust in Christ. As someone once said, she was the epitome of a big thing that came in a small package. She was a great gift to all of us and she will be greatly missed.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord.

And may perpetual light shine upon her.

May she rest in peace. Amen

Greetings!

As this edition of our newsletter arrives, we find ourselves in the season of Lent that brings with it the invitation and responsibility to reflect on our own lives and how we use our lives to the benefit of others around us.



Almost a year ago, we were given no option but to abandon our routines on many normal, average things and activities. The coronavirus hit us hard and caused us to retreat into our own homes to just survive. Those first days were very tough as there was so little information on what the virus was and how it could be transmitted. Today we know much more but we are still under siege and have learned to cope and co-exist with something that is an understood threat, especially to the most vulnerable among us.

One barrier the coronavirus has caused is a hard challenge to our Catholic understanding that we are a Eucharistic people. When we cannot gather together in our church building, after a time, we might be tempted to think coming together and “being” church (to one another) has redefined itself. From the time of the Last Supper of Jesus with His disciples until now, we will always be an active Eucharistic people and find our identity in (A) receiving Him in His Body and His Blood and (B) building up His Body by our physical presence to each other.

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic Christian life. Getting to that source has been a peaked summit unto itself. Church people have been very creative in reaching out for those things that make them feel connected to each other. The Table of the Lord is that central point we seek and from which we know all things flow. Getting everyone back, step by step, to the Table is our work and goal.

There is a Latin phrase, “*Introibo ad altare Dei*”, which translated is “*I will go to the Altar of God.*” Many have done well in *going to the altar* in the means available to them, especially electronically through various media and that is so good. But let us move *forward*, when our time comes, in taking the *next* step so that we will be **together** in God’s house to give Him the praises and the glory as we are accustomed to offering. What a great day that will be for you and for me. Keep on “*keeping the faith!*”

Fr. Dale



St. Francis Xavier

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OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Friday, 8:30 a.m. - noon

www.sfxmw.com



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Be Watchful, Be Alert

Jesus said, “Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come...” This past season of Advent began with these words from St. Mark’s gospel. Considering the way 2020 went, we might all do well to heed this advice as we move into 2021, the Lenten season and beyond.

Jesus’ words are a haunting reminder that in today’s world, we don’t know when the next pandemic or social unrest will occur. We don’t know when the time will come for job loss, economic challenges, closed or limited use of churches, canceled weddings and celebrations, and non-traditional instruction in our schools. Add to this, we don’t know when the time will come when more hurricanes and storms occur than ever recorded, if there will be another Derby in September with no fans or the important unknown of the next toilet paper shortage.

Lent is typically a season of reflection and preparation before the celebration of Easter. Last year, how many of us observed Lent as a season to be watchful and alert? If anyone did, my hat’s off to you, because most of us likely did not.

If we take anything away from Jesus warning us to “be watchful, be alert,” I hope it is that He might not come suddenly and find us sleeping. In other words, perhaps this Lenten season is a good time to make ready for life’s unexpected things. Perhaps it’s a good time for us to put past years and ways behind us. Perhaps, like a spiritual garment the apostle Paul refers to in the epistle to the Ephesians, it’s a good time to take off the old way and put on the new ways of God and preparedness. That is what every season of the Church is all about.

As the Church began its new liturgical year at the end of 2020, the Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Louisville posted a newsletter online. In it he gave an analogy for the year. I thought it described the year very well and in turn provides us wisdom and hope for times to come. He reminded us 2020 started like any other year until the pandemic made it a test of endurance. In part, it read, “...people began to move through the pandemic like it was a sprint and then discovered it was a marathon, and now it appears to be a triathlon.” I think many of us go through much of life this way. I know I do. Perhaps though, in the midst of unforeseen challenges, is the gift of self-reflection as we approach Lent this year.

I suggest we all take something from St. Paul’s playbook this Lenten season. Try this from St. Paul’s epistle to the Ephesians. Paul said, “...be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created in God’s way in righteousness and holiness of truth.” (NAB Ephesians 4:23-24)

If we do this, will it undo all the craziness that happened in the world in 2020? Not at all, but it’ll sure lower stress levels by molding and changing attitudes. The prophet Isaiah said, “...O, Lord you are our Father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands.” (NAB Isaiah 64:7)

This Lent, let’s first “be watchful, be alert,” then let go and let God. Be open in 2021 to what God the Father has in mind for you. I can’t wait to see what He has planned for me.



Deacon Steve Age

Deacon's Desk

#HealthyatChurch:

A Look At Safety Protocols

Rhonda Abner
Newsletter Committee

It is hard to believe a whole year has passed since all our lives changed due to the pandemic. So much changed, but much was learned. Our accustomed ways of worship and gathering was adjusted while we adapted to safety first and foremost.

For several weeks last spring, the church was closed to all gatherings including Mass. But plans were made and measures put in place to bring us back to the Table and to do it sensibly and safely. In the early days of the lockdown, with so much uncertainty, Father Dale was in constant contact with the Archdiocese in regard to guidance for a safe return to Mass and other church related gatherings. By the end of May we were able to return to in-person Mass by following guidelines from the Commonwealth, the Archdiocese, the CDC and insurance underwriters. To accomodate a 200-person capacity, pews are blocked off. Disposable paper worship aids replaced Hymnals. The installation of five hand sanitizing stations at each door and the clearly marked spacing for social distancing for the Communion line are two additions to the sanctuary.

Basic changes to Mass include: masks required, no shared cup, only peace gestures, no passing the offering basket, no full choir, and all Eucharistic ministers, priest, deacons and lectors wear gloves, masks, and use hand sanitizer where appropriate during the Mass. We will continue to follow these procedures and guidelines for as long as necessary.

In the beginning, Parishioner Joey Followay offered his expertise and experience in helping establish cleaning procedures and recommended a supplier for purchase of the best cleaning products. He also advised the purchase of an electrostatic sprayer which arrived in October. Prior to obtaining the sprayer, all cleaning was done by hand with volunteers, Safety Team members and Hospitality Ministers pitching in after all Masses to get the job done. With the introduction of the electrostatic sprayer, cleaning transferred to members of Safety and Hospitality. The Victory Electrostatic Backpack Sprayer's patented technology provides cutting edge effectiveness by providing an electrical charge to solutions allowing them to wrap conductive surfaces with even coverage. Double charged particles envelope all conductive surfaces making sanitizing more efficient and effective. Cleaning of all door handles and bathroom fixtures is still done by hand with appropriate solutions. Together, this ensures all surfaces are properly cleaned for our safety. In addition, the regular cleaning crews continue cleaning on Wednesdays. Bobby



Grace takes care of sanitizing duties after the daily Masses and Eucharistic Adoration on Tuesdays and Fridays, funerals and all other campus gatherings. Every campus wide meeting space has been set up with hand sanitizer and cleaning products and any group using the space must disinfect the area after use and confirm they have done so on a disinfecting guideline form. As for all of us, we do our part by cooperating in wearing masks and following all the procedures that have been put in place.

So, as you can see, great care has been taken to allow our safe return to the Table and we are grateful to all who have given time and effort toward mutual safety and cooperated with protocols to protect one another. We all have a part to play to stop the spread!



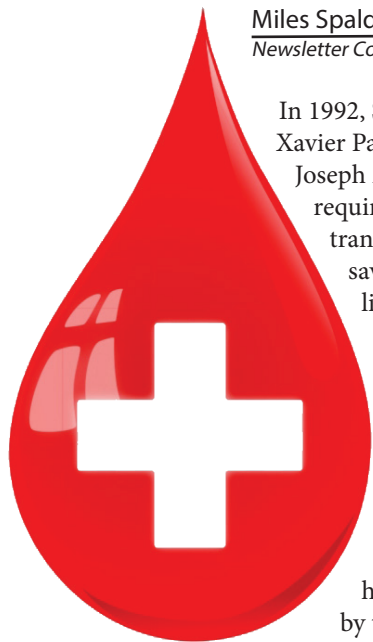
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Blood Drive

“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have; God is pleased by sacrifices of that kind.” (NAB Hebrews 13:16)

Miles Spalding
Newsletter Committee



In 1992, St. Francis Xavier Parishioner Joseph Mattingly required a heart transplant that saved his life. Today, Joseph's wife Michele helps organize our Parish blood drives in thanksgiving for all those who helped her husband by their generous donation. A seemingly small contribution on your part could make

a huge difference in others' lives. Approximately 36,000 units of red blood cells are needed every day in the U.S. You can make a difference!

The word blood is mentioned over 400 times in the Bible and for good reason. Blood is something we all have in common and is essential for life. The chances are great that you know someone who has benefitted from a lifesaving blood donation. The need for blood increases every year. Red blood cells can only be stored for 46 days, so there is a great need to constantly replenish our stock.

St. Francis Xavier Parish is known for its generosity. From October 2019 to August 2020, SFX sponsored six blood drives and collected 161 pints of blood. At a recent SFX blood drive, 27

people donated blood. This included two new donors. The 27 pints of blood donated could potentially help 81 people. As noted by the Red Cross, behind all these numbers, are real people, real families, and real hope.

The need for blood is great now as we struggle with the COVID 19 pandemic and the normal requests for blood due to accidents, surgeries and lifesaving therapies. If you are interested in getting involved, go to the redcrossblood.org website or call 1-800-733-2767. Keep watch for the next SFX Blood Drive to be announced in the bulletin or Parish website for your opportunity to donate.

No greater gift can we give than the gift of life.

Jesus With Us

Rhonda Abner
Newsletter Committee

In March of 2020 everything changed. In response to the deadly pandemic, lockdown measures took place that kept us all from attending Mass. It was hoped that drastic measures would slow the spread of the Covid 19 virus. While this affected all faithful people, it was especially painful for Catholics as we were separated from the Holy Eucharist which is, as St. John Paul II wrote in his 2003 encyclical *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, “the heart of the mystery of the Church.” But as is sometimes the case, something good came of the changes that had to be made. In response to our separation from the Eucharist at Communion, Father Dale began twice a week Eucharistic Adoration. After careful and prayerful consideration and in adherence to all CDC, state and Archdiocesan safety guidelines, Parishioners were afforded the opportunity to at least be closer to Christ in the Eucharist through Adoration where we are invited to spend a holy hour in the divine presence. Once a monthly observance in the chapel, it is now a twice weekly devotion in the main church where attendees can be more spread out.

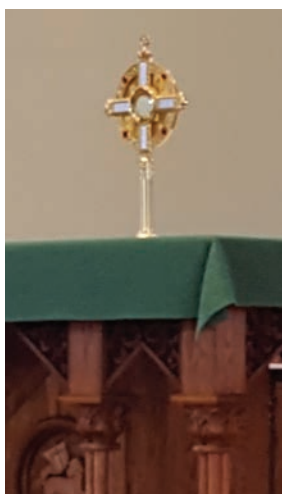
In May, we began in-person Mass again but twice weekly adoration continues, which is a blessing. While we have all had to give up so much in many ways, this is one way we are given more time to spend closer to our Lord. That is important, especially in these trying and uncertain times. As St. Teresa of Calcutta, who observed daily Eucharistic Adoration, said, “When you look at the crucifix you understand how much Jesus loved you. When you look at

the Sacred Host you understand how much Jesus loves you Now!”

In his homily during Mass at the 41st International Eucharistic Congress in 1976, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen spoke of the importance also of the holy hour in connection with devotion to the Blessed Mother who was the first “tabernacle” of the Lord. The Lord is present, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, in the monstrance but He was first present through Mary. God used Mary to bring the New Covenant to a world much in need of it. Christ is the connection between heaven and earth, the divine and the human and devotion to Mary in order for her to lead us to her son brings us closer to the divine. At the end of the homily, Archbishop Sheen said, “... make the Holy Hour and you will discover as you leave the divine Presence that if you move among people in the world, they will say of you as the maid said of Peter, ‘You have been with Christ.’”

After finding His disciples asleep in the Garden of Gethsemane as He prayed the night before his death on the cross, Jesus asked, “So you could not keep watch with me for one hour?” Likewise, He asks the same of us. What better time to start than this Lenten season when we are called to reflect on our lives, repent and share of ourselves with each other in gratitude for Christ's great sacrifice. We sometimes do this by giving something up but it is equally pleasing to God to give something back, and a holy hour is a good place to start.

(Eucharistic Adoration is currently on Tuesdays and Fridays 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.)



From Vision to Reality

Mitchell Elder & Helen Hagan
Steering Committee Chair, Parish Manager

We're certain everyone would agree that we are all happy 2020 is behind us! So now we look to 2021 for fresh starts and new beginnings. St. Francis Xavier Parish has one of our own and that is the beginning of construction on our PAC-Parish Activity Center and Renovation of the Parish Hall. A Town Hall meeting was held February 7, when the Steering



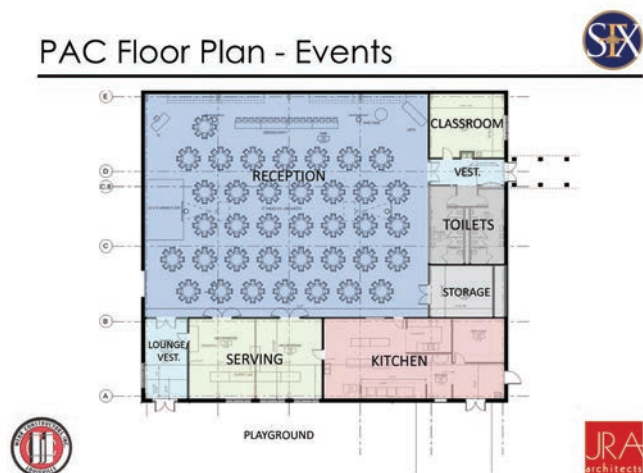
Committee, after many long hours of hard work to get the maximum out of budgeted money, presented the final plans and layout to Parishioners. The groundbreaking scheduled for February 21, following the 11 a.m. Mass with Archbishop Kurtz as celebrant, is the ceremonial first step that leads to the actual site work that begins March 1, 2021. Work will take approximately one year to complete with our Grand Opening scheduled for March 2022. A PAC dedication ceremony is planned for March 27, 2021, which is exactly 12 years from the date we dedicated our beautiful church!

The PAC-Parish Activity Center will meet and hopefully exceed our needs for space when we all can get back to a normality of our Faith Family needs. We have designed the PAC to be very versatile to accommodate many functions and gathering sizes. The PAC features a commercial kitchen with dishwasher, ovens, fryers, freezer, beverage counter, exterior service window, storage room and provisions for future walk-in freezer. The adjacent two multi-purpose rooms can be used as separate class rooms or converted to one large room for gatherings such as large bereavement meals, anniversary celebrations, youth conferences, or large buffet area. These rooms are accessible to the Gym and Reception Room where many large functions will take place such as wedding receptions to accommodate up to 300 guests, basketball, volleyball, pickle ball, indoor soccer, walking track, cheerleading practice and many other functions. The PAC also features a lounge/ vestibule, storage room, women's and men's bathrooms and an additional large classroom.

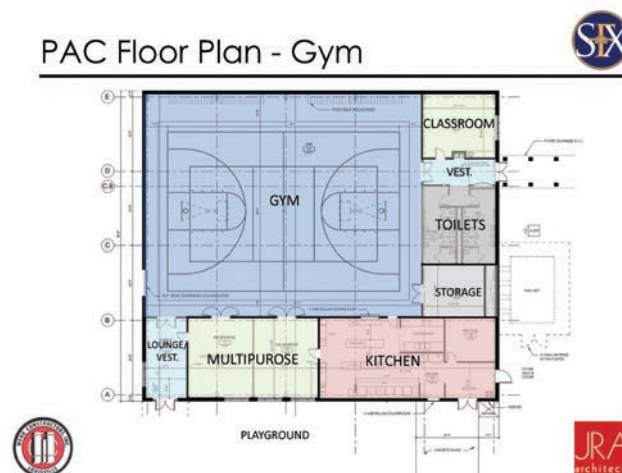
The Parish Hall renovation at this time consists of adding interior stairs for easy access to both floors and cosmetic improvements of painting and floor coverings. Future plans may include an elevator, bathroom renovation and additions to the upper level and are contingent upon adequate and additional funding.

We hope everyone is excited to see the first phase of our master plan come to life as our vision becomes reality!

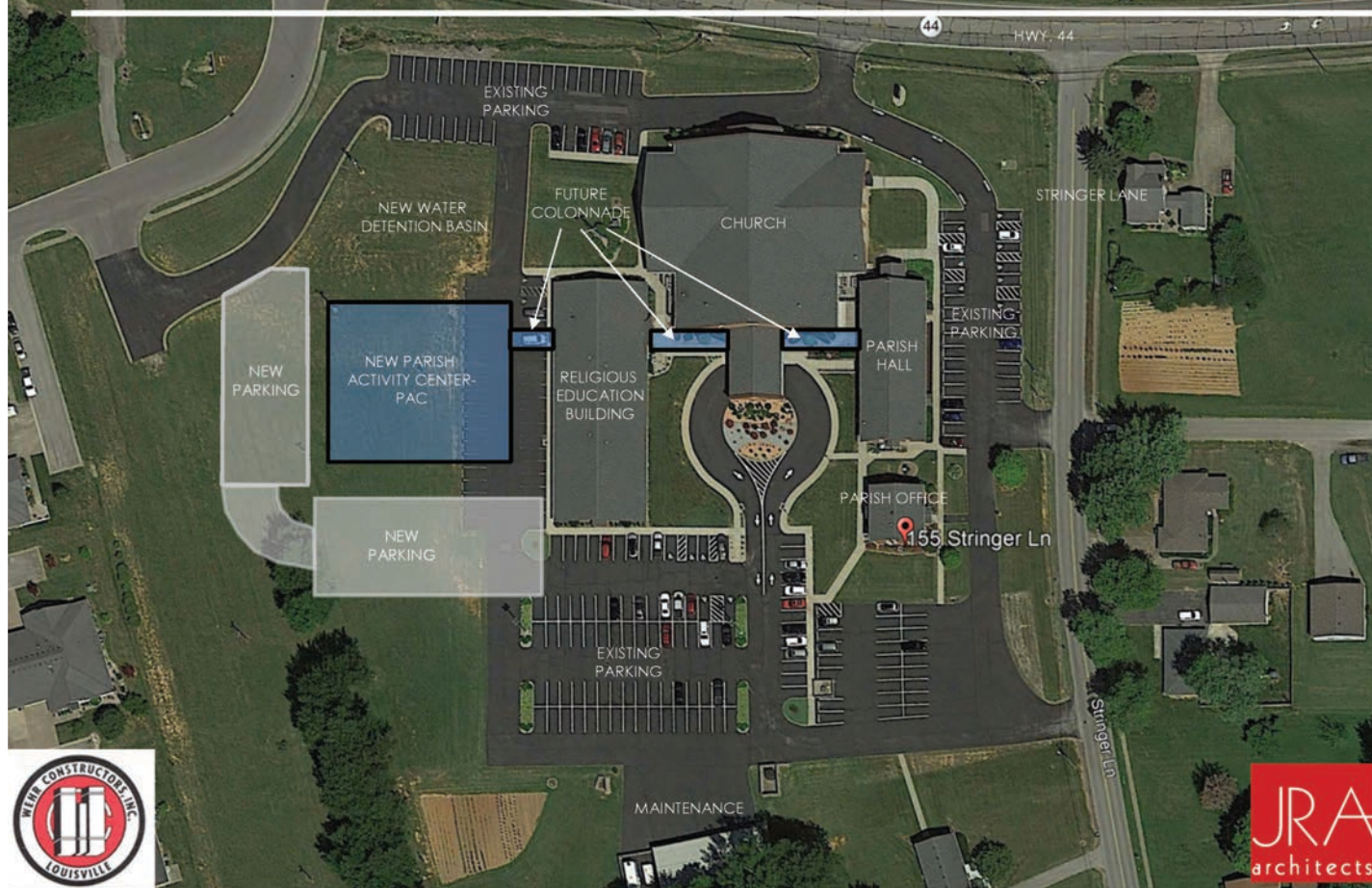
PAC Floor Plan - Events



PAC Floor Plan - Gym



Aerial View of Site – New PAC



Lenten Schedule

Feb. 17, 2021: Ash Wednesday Service 7 p.m.
 April 1, 2021: Holy Thursday Service 7 p.m.
 April 2, 2021: Good Friday Service 7 p.m.
 April 3, 2021: Easter Vigil 8 p.m.
 April 4, 2021: Easter Mass 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Feb. 19 & 26 - 6 p.m.
 March 5, 12, 19, 26 - 6 p.m.
 April 2 - 3 p.m.



FISH FRY FRIDAYS

Curbside & Carry Out
 Only
 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

February: 19 & 26
 March: 5, 12, 19, 26



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Lent 2021

Daily Scripture
and Reflections
for the Sacred Season

THE LORD, YOUR GOD,

is in your midst, a mighty savior,
who will rejoice over you with
gladness, and renew you in his love...

— ZEPHANIAH 3:17

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21 Divine Archer God's rainbow bounds through the sky, promising salvation for all. <i>Genesis 9:8-15</i>	22 You Are Christ Now is the time to confess who Jesus is to all the world: our Savior and Lord. <i>Matthew 16:13-19</i>	23 How to Pray When you pray this Lent, reflect on what you will say, not how you will say it. <i>Matthew 6:7-15</i>	17 FEBRUARY Ash Wed. God's loving message has always been, "It's never too late to change." <i>Joel 2:12-18</i>	18 One Thing Is Certain All people, even Christ, have suffered in life, but life does not end there. <i>Luke 9:22-25</i>	19 Daily Bread We need not fast from hearing God's Word or speaking his truth to the world. <i>Isaiah 58:1-9</i>	20 Leave It Behind When Jesus calls you by name, you don't need anything to follow him. <i>Luke 5:27-32</i>
28 Sacrifice In God's reckoning, Jesus was the price to pay for the souls of those who needed him. <i>Romans 8:31-34</i>	1 MARCH Confession Be honest about the consequences of your words and actions. <i>Daniel 9:4-10</i>	2 You Can Run ... God knows your intentions, but he also sees your daily works. <i>Isaiah 1:10, 16-20</i>	24 One Day One Word, one death, is enough witness to God's redemption of the world. <i>Jonah 3:1-10</i>	25 Our Prayer Lord, grant us whatever we need to keep our Lenten commitments. <i>Matthew 7:7-12</i>	26 Justice for All Do you owe anyone anything? Go, then, and repay your debts. <i>Matthew 5:20-26</i>	27 God Is Romantic Unrequited love, though bitter-sweet, still unites; however, war divides. <i>Matthew 5:43-48</i>
7 Sabbath God created a day of rest for our sake. Honor him by setting aside some time for him today. <i>Exodus 20:1-17</i>	8 Do Not Delay If you discover God's presence today, why not go and stay with him? <i>2 Kings 5:1-15</i>	9 Punished Those who don't learn to forgive teach others to hold their deeds against them. <i>Matthew 18:21-35</i>	3 Humble Thyself The greatest power is given without reward, acknowledgment or credit. <i>Matthew 20:17-28</i>	4 Living for Today? Beyond this world is a kingdom of everlasting fullness and peace. <i>Jeremiah 17:5-10</i>	5 Slavery Don't sell yourself to anyone or anything. Jesus granted us freedom with his death. <i>Genesis 37:3-28</i>	6 Give Thanks Let your daily life be a song of praise to the God from which our life comes. <i>Psalms 103:1-4, 9-12</i>
			10 Professor Lord, your teachings are so wise, I want to spend my life learning and living them. <i>Psalms 147:12-20</i>	11 Spring Thaw Frozen inside? Open a window and let God's warmth into your home. <i>Psalms 95:1-2, 6-9</i>	12 The Only Way The road to God is the path of righteousness, the way to lasting joy. <i>Mark 12:28-34</i>	13 Better than Mercy Before turning to apologize today, turn your words and actions around. <i>Hosea 6:1-6</i>

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

**SUPER
RAFFLE**

Are YOU Ready? Can YOU Volunteer?

Coming: June 12, 2021

Kick-off Weekend: April 24-25

Check the bulletin for details and information.