



The Crossroads Messenger

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

3rd Quarter 2023

Youth Group News: Faith, Fellowship & Fun Promised For '23-'24!

Dave Richardson

Youth Minister

Thank you to the entire Saint Francis Xavier congregation for all the support you have given the SFX Youth Group over the years. We thrive because of your generous time and contributions! We're gearing up for another great year with many opportunities for your continued support.

We will have our kickoff party on August 27th from 4:00pm to 9:00pm in the Xavier Center. This is open to all youth 8th – 12th grade and their families. We will have food and snacks and a time of fellowship. RSVP to Dave Richardson if you plan on attending our kickoff.

We have several events planned for the coming months so mark your calendars now!

September 17, 2023 – Donut and coffee fellowship after each Mass in the Parish Hall.

October 13, 2023 to December 11, 2023 – Food Collection for Christmas baskets with Outreach Ministries. A list of needed items will be available in the bulletin and gathering space.

October 2023 – March 2024 – Collection of hygiene items for volunteer service project with Mark 12 Ministries.

January 1, 2024 – Xavier Center clean-up following the New Year's Eve Dance.

January 2024 – We'll be volunteering or donating to the Sunshine Boy's Home – more information to follow.

January 13, 2024 – Trivia Night in the Xavier Center – more information to follow.

February 1, 2023 – XC Clean up after The Taste of St Francis.

As you can see, we have a very active and involved Youth Group. In addition to all these events, we meet every Sunday evening 6-8 p.m. for Fun and Fellowship.

If you have any questions or would like to make a donation to the SFX Youth Group, please contact Dave Richardson 502-609-9390 or Dave.Richardson@sfxmw.com.

SFX High School Youth Group
Kick-off the New Year
August 27, 2023
4 - 9 PM in the Xavier Center
Fun, Food, & Fellowship
Parents are welcome to come hangout with us for a brief discussion on what they can expect for the upcoming year.



RSVP Dave Richardson
502-609-9390





Shifting Seasons

Ah... Autumn... just a few weeks away. It is my favorite of all the seasons God made ... the brilliant colors, the crisp temperatures, and, in a word, football. To me, the fall season is a brief period to step back, relax and to give credit (or blame) for what the summer months have done to us as individuals as well as a

faith-family. I am so proud to say that we continue to welcome more people into our Parish who tell us they feel they have found a “home” for their worship of God. To me, there is no greater compliment to you or me than to be told that someone feels “at home” within our prayer, work and play.

This coming fall, like all the ones before it, brings most of us back to the routine of religious formation, committee meetings, liturgical events to be celebrated, school activities, short trips, weddings to attend, family reunions, trips to take... which brings me to the point of asking for your prayers for me and Father Brandon DeToma as we pilgrimage to Ireland and England from September 22 to October 4 (Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi). The last time I traveled overseas was to visit Deacon Brandon with the newly ordained Father Shayne in Rome. I wonder how I will do on my 68 years old feet... IF I survive, you will hear all about it... and even more.

The fall season brings back Catholic Services Appeal for us to consider. Last year we surpassed (@ 133%) our goal by giving almost \$30,000.00. Because we did so well, I know our goal will be raised; logic tells us this. I, likewise, know we will meet the challenge as this Parish has done since the inception of the collection in 1968 by Archbishop McDonough. I want to thank you in advance for your support in all the causes that the CSA covers, especially vocations to priesthood and the religious life. When it comes to this, you cannot be thanked enough.

Have a great Autumn!

Fr. Dale

Congratulations to all our Parish members who participate in the American Red Cross Blood Drive held at our church every other month. The Red Cross recognizes your contribution to the community in 2022 with a special thank you! They also awarded a “15-gallon” pin to Michele Mattingly for her long and faithful service in coordinating the blood drives at SFX. Please mark August 20, on your calendars for the next opportunity to continue your support of this life - saving program!



St. Francis Xavier

155 Stringer Lane
Mount Washington, KY 40047
502.538.4933 - or - 502.955.5366

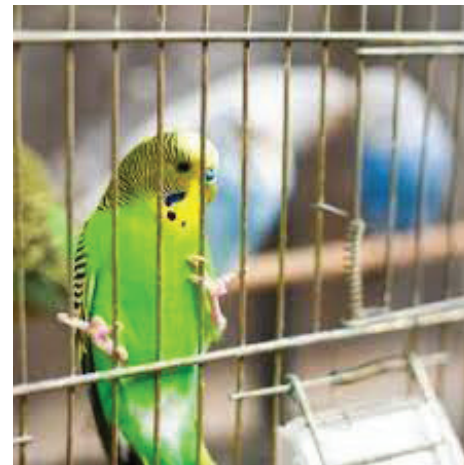
OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Friday, 8:30 a.m. - noon

www.sfxmw.com



Chippie Doesn't Sing Much Anymore

It happened in Galveston, Texas. A woman was cleaning the bottom of the cage of her parrot “Chippie” with the hose attached to her vacuum cleaner. When her phone rang, she recognized that it was her friend, so she turned her head to pick it up, continuing to vacuum the bottom of the cage while she said “Hello” into the phone. Then she heard the horrible sound of Chippie being sucked into the vacuum cleaner. She immediately put down the phone,



ripped open the vacuum and the bag, and found Chippie in there, quite stunned, but still alive. Since the bird was covered with dust and dirt, she grabbed it, ran to the bathroom, turned on the faucet, and held the bird under the water until it was cleaned off. When she finished that, she realized that he was soaking wet. She looked across the sink and saw a hair dryer. She grabbed it, turned it on and held Chippie in front of the blast of hot air!

A few days later her friend called her back and asked, “How’s Chippie doing these days?” She said, “He just sort of sits and stares, he doesn’t sing much anymore.”

I suppose the same thing happened to the Apostles. They were probably all traumatized by the arrest and conviction of their teacher, Jesus. They were probably bewildered by his post-resurrection appearances and his ability to walk through locked doors. I suppose that many of us can identify with the Apostles. Life’s circumstances can sometimes disrupt our peace and joy; it can suck us up, throw cold water on us,

and then blow us away!

The question is, through this journey of life, have we lost our song? Have the circumstances of our lives taken our joy from us? Do we need to once again fan the flame of the Holy Spirit in our lives, so we can keep singing our songs, and witness to the truth, love and mercy of our Loving God? If so, may you find the courage and strength from the Holy Spirit to continue, one day at a time. St. James said it best, “Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. And let perseverance be perfect, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing” (James 1:24)



Earl Baker

Deacon's Desk

Garden Ministry Blooms

Sandee Clark & Cathy Taylor

Garden Ministry

Several Parishioners have toiled in the field of the SFX garden all summer. The Garden Crew numbers around seven or eight usually and the produce is delivered to the Mount Washington Community Ministries every week for distribution on Thursday mornings. As an example, a couple of weeks in July produced 38 gallon sized bags of kale, ten heads of broccoli, twelve cabbage heads, ten heads of lettuce, twelve heads of cauliflower and ten 5-gallon buckets of tomatoes. We thank all those in our Parish family who support our ministry with your prayers and financial donations!



The Crossroads Messenger
3rd Quarter 2023

Thank you!

St. Francis Xavier Church Mt. Washington

June 25th, 2023

Next Date to Make a DIFFERENCE: Sunday, August 20th, 2023

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 30 Total Number of Donors | 1 First Time Donors |
| 23 Type O Donors | 37 Units Collected |

One single blood donation can help save more than one life.
Thank you for supporting our lifesaving mission!

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Paula's Ponderings

Paula Silliman
Pastoral Associate

Choosing Between Gossip or Gospel

Gossip or Gospel? In today's ever secular world it can be hard to choose which path to follow. Ultimately, the decision of whether to listen to gossip or follow the gospel depends on an individual's principles, faith, and personal goals. Gossip can be tempting as it often carries sensational or intriguing information about others. However, gossip is often harmful and can lead to misunderstandings, hurt feelings, and the spread of false information. Engaging in gossip can damage trust and relationships, both for the person gossiping and the subject of the gossip. Participating in gossip can create a negative and toxic environment.

The gospel emphasizes teachings of love, compassion, forgiveness, and living in accordance with God's will. Living a life deeply rooted in the gospel message, the kerygma, can lead to a sense of purpose, inner peace, and a deeper connection to one's faith. These principles encourage positive actions, kindness, and consideration for others, fostering harmonious relationships and a more compassionate society. Ultimately, choosing to follow the gospel over engaging in gossip is often regarded as a more virtuous and fulfilling way to live. By doing so, individuals can cultivate positive qualities within themselves and contribute to a more positive and supportive community.

It is essential to critically evaluate the information one consumes and consider how it aligns with one's principles and the impact it may have on oneself and others within their community. Being mindful of the content we engage with can help us lead a more authentic, empathetic, and meaningful life. At the end of the day, which one do you listen to?



5 WAYS TO AVOID GOSSIP



- 1 PRAY FOR YOUR OWN CONVERSION**
Focus on your own conversion. Ask God for help.
- 2 CULTIVATE PERSONAL VIRTUES**
Cultivate the virtues of prudence, temperance and justice.
- 3 BE CONSTRUCTIVE WITH YOUR WORDS**
Use them to build others up instead of tearing them down.
- 4 ESTABLISH PARAMETERS**
Choose your topics of conversation wisely.
- 5 BE AN APOSTLE**
Be charitable. Give others advice instead of criticism.

"DO NOT JUDGE, AND YOU WILL NOT BE JUDGED" (MT 7:1) CatholicLink

Celebrating The Archangels

Feast Day: September 29

Rhonda Abner
Newsletter Editor

According to the Church, there are seven Archangels based on what is known from Scripture and other Jewish and Christian sources throughout the centuries. Angels are mentioned numerous times in the Bible, most famously at the birth of Christ, ministering to Jesus in his temptation by the devil and his agony in the garden as well as in Tobit 12:15, Revelation 1:4, 20; 3:1; 8:2, 6; and Isaiah 63:9. Archangels are mentioned only twice (1 Thessalonians 4:16 and The Letter of Jude verse 9) in Scripture. Some of the Archangels are familiar while others are nearly unknown.

Officially, the Catholic Church acknowledges three of the seven Archangels, St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael because these are the only angels named in Scripture. However, the Church also acknowledges that there are another four Archangels whose names appear in Jewish and Christian Apocryphal (a story of doubtful authenticity widely circulated as truth) Sources outside of the canon of Sacred Scripture. These Archangels are Uriel, Raguel, Zerachiel and Remiel; note each angel's name ends in EL which means God.

St. Michael is mentioned in Sacred Scripture (Daniel 10:13, 10:21, and 12:1; the Letter of Jude verse 9 and Revelation 12:7) as well as in apocryphal Jewish and Christian writings. He is arguably the most well-known Archangel and, as various traditions hold, is believed to be the first angel created. Michael's name means, "Who is like God?" and he is revered as the Guardian Angel of the Church. Famously, Michael is known as the angel who led the forces of heaven to cast out Lucifer (Satan) when he rebelled against God.

St. Gabriel is God's holy messenger and is traditionally revered as the Archangel of Wisdom, Revelation, Prophecy and Visions. There are several variations of the meaning of Gabriel's name but it is often interpreted as "Strength of God." As a messenger of God, Sacred Scripture records that Gabriel appeared to the Prophet Daniel (Daniel 8), to Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist (Luke 1) and to the Virgin Mary at the Annunciation (Luke 1). According to tradition, Gabriel may have been the angel who appeared to Joseph in his dreams (Matthew 1 & 2) and that he was the guardian angel of Jesus and the holy family.

St. Raphael plays an important role in the Book of Tobit and this is the only time he is mentioned by name in the Bible. He is considered the Archangel of healing as his name means "Healing Power of God."

Uriel is traditionally considered the Archangel of Repentance and his name means "Fire of God." Though Uriel cannot be found in Scripture he was revered in the early centuries of the Church until the Council of Rome in 745 which removed four Archangels from the list of those worthy of veneration leaving only the three mentioned by name in Scripture. However, the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Anglican Church still venerate the Archangel Uriel.

These last three Archangels are revered by Christians in the East even though there are several variations of their names and how they are spelled. These Archangels are found only in apocryphal sources. Raguel (Sealtiel) whose name means "Friend of God" and traditionally revered as the Archangel of Justice and Fairness.

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | ST. MICHAEL ARCHANGEL MEANS "WHO IS A GOD?" He is one of the main angels. His name is a battle cry; both shield and weapon in the struggle against the enemy. |
|  | ST. RAPHAEL ARCHANGEL MEANS "DIVINE HEALER" He is the friend of the walkers, doctor of the sick - both physically and spiritually. |
|  | ST. GABRIEL ARCHANGEL MEANS "STRENGTH OF GOD" He had one of the most important missions: announcing to Virgin Mary that she would be the Mother of the Messiah. |

Zerachiel (also known as Saraqael, Barachiel or Sariel) is traditionally considered the Archangel of God's Judgement and his name means "God's Command." Remiel (aka Jerahmeel, Jehudiel, or Jeremiel) is traditionally revered as the Archangel of Hope and Faith. The meaning of his name has several variations including, "Compassion of God," "Mercy of God" and "Thunder of God."

St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael come to our aid and intercede for us through prayer. With personal devotion, we can each request this intercession keeping in mind that the angels serve always to bring glory to God without ceasing. What a beautiful example for all of us!

For more informatin go to Formed.org/Who are the Archangels, or read about it in "The Catholic Teachings on the Angels: The Seven Archangels" by Alex Brittain.

VBS 2023

A Stellar Start To Summer

Nearly 80 SFX kids blasted off from June 19-23, for the annual St. Francis Xavier Vacation Bible School. With the enthusiastic help of 50 adult and teen volunteers, the Pre-K through 5th grade astronauts learned the many ways we are called to “Shine Jesus’ Light” into our world.

Each evening, the large group gathered in the church sanctuary (which was transformed to resemble the surface of the moon) to “blast off” on their nightly adventure with skits, music, and a Bible point of the day. From there, the group split up into smaller “crews” to dig deeper into the Bible Point by rotating through fun stations to play games, experience Bible stories, create gizmos, and hear stories of kids living out their faith. As a special treat, the Mt. Washington Fire Department visited on the last night, creating a temporary “sprayground” for the participants!

DRE Lauren Battcher and Parishioner Megan Shull teamed up as codirectors for this year’s event. They agree that this year was a success and want to give a HUGE shout out to the incredible team of volunteers that made it possible. They look forward to next year’s “Scuba” themed VBS, which is already scheduled for next June!





ST. FRANCIS XAVIER Church
MOUNT WASHINGTON, KENTUCKY

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Scramble Support

Whether you're interested in hitting the links, or simply offsetting this annual event's costs, we are looking for you to make a difference in our Parish through Golf! Hole Sponsorships are \$100. You can mail a check to the Parish Office, or contact Pattie Mattingly for details. The hole sponsorship includes your name and logo on the hole sign at the tee box.

St. Francis Xavier 11th Annual Golf Scramble

Sunday, September 17, 2023

Registration 12PM, Shotgun Start at 1PM. Awards ceremony immediately following. RAIN OR SHINE

Contact Pattie Mattingly (502) 407-9802 or call the Parish Office at (502) 538-4933

Prizes: 1st 2nd & 3rd awarded to foursomes, Closest to the Pin and Door Prizes.

Make your own foursome or we can create one for you.



Summerfest Success

James Underwood
Summerfest Committee

Thank you to all who volunteered their time and talent to make this year's picnic festival "Summerfest" an event to be proud of. The day started off early around 8:00 am with the annual volleyball and pickleball tournaments. The teams battled it out on the courts to see who could have the most fun. Soon the afternoon was upon us and lunch was prepared. We had hamburgers on the grill, hot dogs, corn dogs, funnel cakes, snow cones, and other tasty treats. Mass was celebrated at 3:00pm. Following Mass it was chicken dinner time. Thanks to the Knights of Columbus, hot and juicy fried chicken was shared by many. The kitchen staff did a wonderful job serving up the sides and dessert. Two bands supplied the Summerfest with live music. The sweet treats cake booth was hopping with excitement. Our 50/50 booth was a big success and drew more attention than we anticipated. The children enjoyed the bounce houses, a duck pond, and free face painting. Late in the evening it was time to draw for the raffle winners. Paula Layman won the grand prize of \$20,000, Gail Lawson won the second prize of \$1,500 and Will Blandford won the third place prize of \$500.

Summerfest '23 was a huge enterprise and a great success. A big thanks goes out to all those who contributed to this success. Big or small, the efforts of each member of the SFX faith family culminated in a spectacular event.

The momentum from Summerfest '23 helps ensure that our vision of an annual picnic comes to life. We plan to include more booths and activities so that we can grow this fellowship event. Keep an eye out for information on next year's picnic!