

The Crossroads Messenger

Winter/Spring 2024



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

Taste of St. Francis and \$10K Raffle

The St. Francis Xavier faith family came together on February 10th for an amazing, fun filled evening of fellowship and celebration at an event called Taste of St. Francis. It sported a Mardi Gras theme and Bourbon Street did not seem too far away with all the beautiful decorations. This was the first Taste of St. Francis since 2019, post Covid, to be celebrated in the Xavier Center. Over 200 participants were treated to food from more than 20 local restaurants and food vendors. A surgically repaired Father Dale made a guest appearance, which elevated the mood of the evening even more.



Memorable events like the Taste of St. Francis do not happen without a lot of work by a lot of dedicated people. Over seventy online auction items were donated raising \$6980 before processing fees for the parish. An unbelievable 2,460 \$10K Raffle Tickets sold with 1 \$10,000 winner and 2 \$500 winners. St. Francis Xavier parish realized a \$13,600 profit before processing fees. The \$10K Raffle Counting



Team - Phyllis Shepherd, Ann Shelton, Elaine Miles, and Jessica Wilkins - were instrumental in the success of the raffle. They organized and distributed tickets, met weekly for six weeks to count tickets and worked the night of the event.



Many thanks go to the Planning committee: Wende Aubrey who was the Chairperson for the Online Auction, Raffles, and Bourbon & Wine Pull. Our indefatigable Jennifer Sweeney was Co-Chair and secured sponsors, additionally helped coordinate the \$10K Raffle & assisted with the online auction. Connie Eisenback oversaw decorations and assisted with the online auction. Mike Thomas and Patty Heuser did a yeoman's job securing the restaurants and food vendors as well as soliciting additional online auction items. Jonathan Profitt from McFarland, Troutman, Profitt Funeral Home donated his services as emcee and provided music for the evening. Many thanks to Twyla Mills for managing the kitchen and food vendor needs. A heartfelt thanks to Brian Rueve for coordinating the set-up volunteers and working the event.

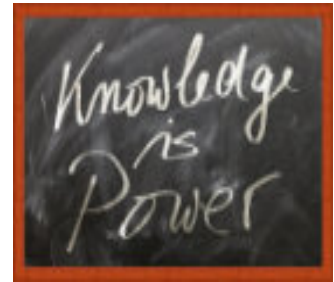


Thanks to our community sponsors who donated \$5,500 to the event. These sponsors include First Harrison Bank – Platinum Presenting Sponsor, McFarland, Troutman, Profitt- Platinum Sponsor, Roosters- Diamond Sponsor, Schoppenhorst, Underwood & Brooks Funeral Home- Gold Sponsor, and Ken-Mulch – Gold Sponsor

Thanks to everyone who donated to the auction and bourbon/wine pull. Lastly, many blessings on ALL of the wonderful volunteers who helped set up, decorate, sell raffle tickets, check people in, and make the Taste of St. Francis the special event that it was!

Trivia Night

If you missed Trivia Night at the Xavier Center on January 13, you missed a fantastic event. Trivia night is a fun time to pit your knowledge and the collective knowledge of your team against other teams. There were 110 contestants competing. We had 23 SFX high school youths show up to set up, work the event, and take down. We made the most money we have ever made. We had a taco bar that was a big hit. Our theme was FIESTA! All money made is going towards our end of the year retreat the second week of June. It brings out the competitive



SFX New Years Eve Dance 2024



A great time was had by all as more than 200 people took to the dance floor to ring in the New Year in the Xavier Center! The Wilson Brothers provided great entertainment with rock music from the 70's and 80's. This was the second dance held in the Xavier Center since its opening in 2021, with the first being a Valentine's Dance in 2023, also drawing a crowd of 200 plus party goers to hear the sounds of the Midnite Chasers. The SFX Dance Committee consisting of parishioners; Twyla Mills, Ellen Baker, Vicki Hall, and Jennifer Sweeney have worked hard to plan fun and festive social events for the SFX community and visitors. This group is looking forward to planning the next dance! Stay tuned to the bulletin for future plans!

From the Pastor's Pen



By the time you read this issue of The Crossroads Messenger, I will be in recovery from surgery on my left shoulder (reattaching a tendon to my shoulder bone) and am in the first blushes of six weeks recovery and therapy beyond. It has amazed me, since my December 10 fall down the steps in the rectory carrying laundry detergent, of how many people have come forth offering me their story of a similar situation with themselves (or someone they know) ... and the recovery experienced. All have said to me, "*Father, you gotta do exactly what the therapist tells you and do those exercises... don't skip any of them if you wanna be well again!*" I heeded those words of, not only encouragement, but The Will to become better. Bobby Grace, our longtime facilities person, went through shoulder surgery and he has shown me the way to "*get it done*".

I recall all of this in order that I can "pastorally" point us to the best therapist I know... his name, of course, is Jesus. He is the One with whom we walk in the desert of Lent. He knows the best way to move forward in any situation. He knows pain, especially the physical kind, and wants all pain to be placed on the cross he carried. I speak of this fact a lot when I prepare to celebrate The Anointing of the Sick after Masses each month. The usefulness of pain is that we can truly identify with the pain and the hunger Jesus endured in the desert; the premature "celebration" of a Palm Sunday, the denial at a Last Supper and the dying at Calvary. This earthly pain will transport us to a place familiar to all humankind... being back with God in the heavens. God made us there and He calls us back to His home... everyone... in due time and season. How we miss those who showed us how to work through pain.

As you and I walk these days of reflection, let us be mindful of the pains that we know are real and how we can use this knowledge to support and empathize with those who suffer every day... mentally, physically, spiritually, emotionally, financially, socially, psychologically and in any other way that affects the human spirit and soul. Not only from His lips, but our own, dare we speak, "Father, into Your hands, I commend my spirit". Have an honest Lenten talk with Him.

Father Dale

Epiphany Breakfast

Many thanks go out to the Women's Club for hosting the Epiphany breakfast following Mass on January 7th. Epiphany Sunday is sometimes referred to as Three Kings Sunday. This seems fitting because there was enough amazing food here to feed three kings and their retinue. Many thanks to everyone who brought a dish! Events like the Epiphany breakfast are a testament to the deep fellowship that runs through our community. Surveying those assembled, you could not help but appreciate that the St Francis Xavier family is a mixture of new families who energize our community and generations older families who give us a sense of roots and place. No matter old or new, a feeling of hospitality pervaded the room and complimented the amazing meal. If you have never taken the opportunity to join your faith family for breakfast or doughnuts following Mass, we invite you to join us next time. Who knows you may run into that old "faith" cousin you have needed to see for years.





Earl Baker



Humility....

It takes time and a lot of grace!

When Harry Truman was thrust into the presidency by the death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, his closet friend Sam Rayburn took him aside and said to him *"From here on out, you're going to have lots of people around you. They will try to put up a wall around you and cut you off from any ideas but theirs. They will tell you what a great man you are, Harry. But you and I both know---you ain't."*

We all need a friend like that who will remind us to be humble....

Humility is one of those things in life, that as soon as you think you have it, you really don't, you've become prideful. So, humility can be a little tricky to say the least.

In the Gospel of Matthew 23:1-12, Jesus takes up the of humility by first pointing out how prideful the Pharisees and the Scribes are living. They did teach people the way in which to live the law, but their own actions didn't match their teachings. *"The greatest among you"*, he reminds the community, *"must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."* Service to others with humility is one of the cornerstones of Christian daily life.

What is our attitude toward the virtue of humility? We know we need it, but do we dread it, like going for a physical? Perhaps we can look at humility from a different perspective. What is humility not? Humility is not hiding your talents and abilities. If you can throw a 95 mile-per-hour fast ball, humility will not tell you to sit on the bench and never tell your coach. Nope. Christian humility is not denying the gifts or talents we have, rather, true humility means admitting that all of our gifts, all our talents and all our accomplishments are from God.

It is his power through us, we do not generate it on our own. This is the essence of Christian humility; to know that God is the giver of all good gifts, all talents, all virtues, and that all comes from God. We are recipients of all that is good, and not the source of them.

If we understand that, then we are on the pathway of humility, at least in the way that Jesus describes it today. Humility is something that needs practiced every day. It takes a lot of grace and a lifetime of working at it. Humility is something that you will rarely hear spoken about in the world. The world outside will tell us to achieve, to accomplish, to be proud of ourselves and that you can do anything. The truth is, in one sense---they are right---but we can only do those things with God's help.

We need be reminded that although we may have many talents, we are not the source of those talents. Although we can accomplish much, we are not the cause of our accomplishments. And although we can, and often do, much to better ourselves, and the world around us, we are not the be-all or end-all of anything. As Catholics, we know that God is the source of all that we have, and all that we offer. Through us, and only with him, He can do much! But if it's left to our own ability-- well, we can do nothing.

May we pattern our life by Christ's example and consider that others are more important than ourselves, to empty ourselves of pride, power and prestige so that in our humility, His Spirit can fill us with loving care and compassion for all those in our midst.

Deacon Earl

Tax Season

Spirituality: Parallels Between Filing Taxes and Living a Faithful

Catholic Life

Preparation and Planning:

Tax Season: Before filing taxes, individuals need to gather financial documents, assess income, and plan deductions to optimize their tax situation.

Catholic Life: Similarly, living a faithful Catholic life involves preparation and planning. This may include regular prayer, attending Mass, participating in sacraments, and adhering to moral teachings.

Review and Reflection:

Tax Season: Individuals review their financial records, check for errors, and reflect on their financial choices over the past year.

Catholic Life: Followers may engage in regular self-reflection, examine their conscience, and assess their actions in alignment with Catholic principles.

Commitment and Discipline:

Tax Season: Filing taxes requires commitment to financial responsibilities and adherence to tax laws, often requiring discipline in financial matters.

Catholic Life: Living a faithful Catholic life involves a commitment to the teachings of the Church, maintaining moral values, and disciplining oneself to follow religious practices.

Community Engagement:

Tax Season: Some aspects of taxes involve community, such as filing jointly for married couples or consulting with tax professionals for advice.

Catholic Life: Being part of a faith community is integral to Catholicism, involving communal worship, support, and engagement in charitable activities.

Accountability:

Tax Season: Individuals are accountable for accurate and honest reporting of their financial information to government authorities.

Catholic Life: Believers are accountable to God and the Church for their actions, seeking forgiveness through sacraments like confession when necessary.

Seasonal Rituals:

Tax Season: It occurs annually and has specific deadlines, creating a routine for financial assessment and reporting.

Catholic Life: The liturgical calendar, with its seasons and rituals, provides a structure for the faithful to observe key events and reflect on the teachings of the Church.

Paula Silliman
Pastoral Associate



Paula's Ponderings

Lenten Reflections

Lent is the culmination of the great Christian hope. It is God's response to the Old Testament prophesy and the New Testament promise. A voice crying out in the wilderness. Some look with dread at Lent for its privations and austerity while others look forward to this season as an opportunity to meditate on the status of our Christian lives. What does Lent mean to you?

Lent calls us to ponder on Jesus' ultimate sacrifice for us. Jesus knew the purpose of His life, that through suffering on a cold cross, He could set us free. What is the purpose of your life? Is it driven by comfort, power or riches, which will have little significance when you die, or are you truly focused on the lasting reward of eternity with God? Do you put yourself first or God first? A steady and honest look in the mirror is required to answer these questions, and only you can answer them. If you are not satisfied by what you see in the mirror, do not fear. We worship a God who is all loving and all forgiving. "Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?" *Romans 8:32* Lent gives us an opportunity to think about the risk vs. reward of the Christian Way. It will inform you of your path forward.

To fully appreciate God's love and forgiveness, we have to let go of the fears of this world and trust God. So, take time this Lent to prayerfully consider practical steps you can take to become closer to Jesus. Here are some suggestions, search for Lenten meditations on Formed, the Catholic website, buy a meditation guide for Lent, form a prayer group with family or friends to discuss what Lent means to you on a personal level.

After you have prayerfully studied the mirror of your life and identified the gaps that prevent you from living free with Jesus, make some solid resolutions to identify the steps needed to follow Jesus. Write them down or tell loved ones your resolution, this will help you advance toward your goal. With some honest soul searching this Lent, you will reap the rewards of a glorious Easter victory.

Miles Spalding

I invite every Christian community to ... offer its members moments set aside to rethink their lifestyles, times to examine their presence in society and the contribution they make to its betterment. Woe to us if our Christian penance were to resemble the kind of penance that so dismayed Jesus. To us too, he says: "Whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting" (Mt 6:16). Instead, let others see joyful faces, catch the scent of freedom and experience the love that makes all things new, beginning with the smallest and those nearest to us. This can happen in every one of our Christian communities.

Message of the Holy Father Francis for Lent 2024

You're invited to VBS 2024!



Kids in grades preK-5 are invited to Scuba VBS! At Scuba VBS, we'll dive into an amazing undersea adventure and experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God!

Scuba VBS is FREE!

Preregistration is required to ensure we have enough materials for all participants!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL at

St. Francis Xavier!

June 17-21

5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Please consider **volunteering** for this event! We are in need of crew leaders, activity station assistants, safety/security, and various other roles! In addition to **adult** volunteers, **middle and high school students** are encouraged to join in the fun through service too!

No experience needed. Necessary training will be provided!

Scan the QR code to register or volunteer!

Questions? Email Lauren Battcher (Director)
lauren.battcher@sfxmw.com.

