



The Crossroads Messenger

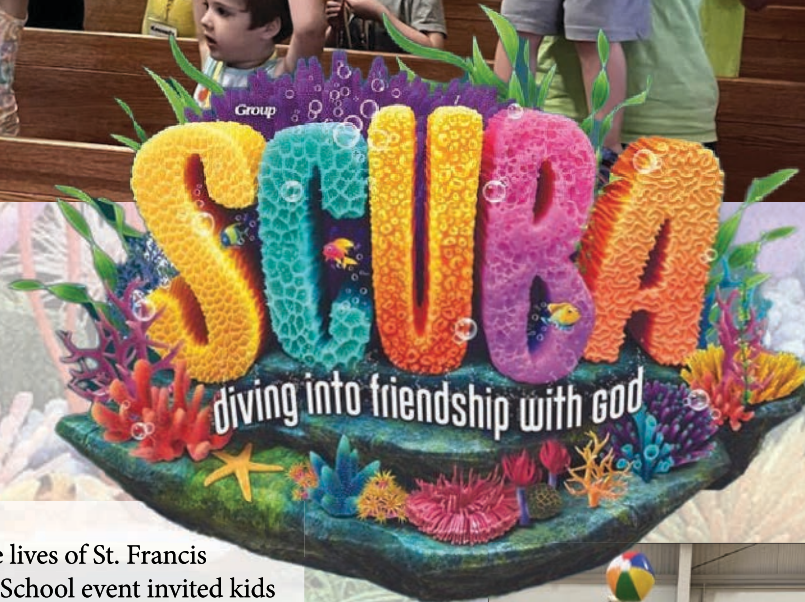
The official newsletter of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church • Mount Washington, Kentucky

Fall 2024



SFX Kids go

Miles Spaulding
Editor



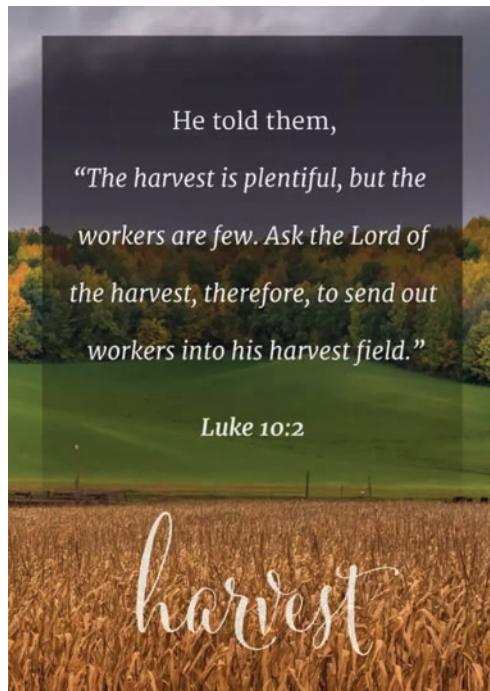
Scuba Vacation Bible School made a big splash in the lives of St. Francis Xavier kids this summer! Our 2024 Vacation Bible School event invited kids to “dive into friendship with God”. Evenings from June 17-21, SFX welcomed over 90 preK-5th grade children from our parish and community!

An amazing volunteer team of 60+ adults and teens enthusiastically and lovingly guided kids through five fun stations. In the “Deep Sea Bible Adventures” station, students listened to and interacted with stories of God’s love, and even explored the dark belly of fish as they learned about the prophet Jonah. The “Sticky Scripture” station taught kids to find and remember key verses in the Gospel of John. An “Imagination Station” used scientific phenomena to connect Bible Truths to the world around us. The high-energy games station allowed kids to have fun and play, while reviewing important Bible points of the day. Finally, the “Snack and Sing” station provided a refreshing ocean-themed snack, followed by singing (and dancing) praise to our God!

As a special treat, the Mt. Washington Fire Department joined the fun on closing night, and created a temporary “sprayground” and allowed the kids to joyfully splash in celebration of a fantastic week!

DRE Lauren Battcher and parishioner Megan Shull teamed up as co-directors again for this year’s event. They agree that this year was a success and want to give a HUGE shoutout to the incredible team of volunteers that made it possible. We look forward to next year’s VBS, which is already scheduled for next June!





FALL

into
faith

Understanding and Reaching Out

Youth—Our young people are navigating a complex world filled with challenges and distractions. To truly accompany them, we must first strive to understand their experiences and the pressures they face. This fall, consider engaging with our youth. Offering mentorship and creating spaces where they can ask questions and express doubts can help build a deeper connection to their faith.

Young Adults—This group often finds themselves at a crossroads, balancing careers, relationships, and personal growth with their spiritual lives. Accompanying young adults means recognizing their unique struggles and aspirations. Providing support through small groups or one-on-one mentoring can make a significant difference in their spiritual journey.

Fallen Away Catholics—Reaching out to those who have drifted away requires both sensitivity and persistence. Our approach should be grounded in compassion and understanding. Consider initiating an invite to welcome them back through non-judgmental dialogues or personal invitations to parish activities. Reaffirming their place within the church and offering clear avenues for reconnection can help bridge the gap and renew their faith.

As we prepare for this fall season, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you who are already tirelessly working to support these important groups within our parish. Your dedication to mentoring, engaging, and embracing our youth, young adults, and those who have drifted away is a testament to the strength and warmth of our faith community. Your efforts are making a profound impact, and together, we can continue to build a parish that welcomes all and fosters a deep, enduring connection to Christ.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment and for being the living embodiment of our parish's mission to love and support every member of our faith family.

Paula's Ponderings



Paula Silliman
Pastoral Associate

As the crisp autumn air begins to settle in, our parish community is called once again to reflect on how we can best accompany and support some of our most vital members: our youth, young adults, and fallen away Catholics. This season presents a unique opportunity to renew our commitment to nurturing their spiritual journeys and drawing them closer to the heart of our faith.

Harvesting The Faith

- Create Welcoming Spaces**
In your structured groups, social circles and in the pew, a warm welcome makes all the difference.
- Foster Relationships**
Invest time in building genuine, supportive relationships. Actively listen and offer guidance that respects their individual journey and struggles.
- Encourage Participation**
Extend invitations to various Parish activities and social events. Even ask for help as a volunteer. Engagement leads to deeper involvement and sense of belonging.



SFX Ministry Fair Scheduled

Set aside Dec. 8, on your calendar for the 2024 Ministry Fair! Scheduled to begin after 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Masses in the Xavier Center.

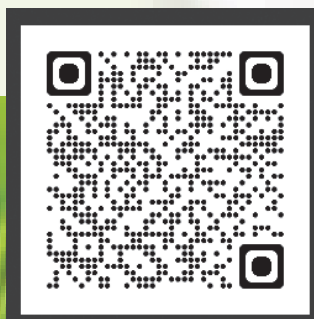
If you want to get involved at St. Francis Xavier but do not know where your interests and skills best fit, The Ministry Fair is the place to start. In the open house setting, all our major ministries are represented with answers to your questions.

This is a low pressure, but high reward opportunity. As Saint Peter said "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10.

The SFX Annual Golf Scramble is back again this year with some exciting changes. The scramble will be held on Sunday, September 15th at The Crossings Golf Course in Brooks, KY. Check-in will begin at 1 p.m. with a Shotgun Start at 2 p.m. The cost remains just \$60 per person and includes the green fee, cart and meal. The Crossings will be providing barbecue sandwiches, brats, sides, and dessert. There will be beer, seltzers and soft drinks available for purchase throughout the event.

Prizes will be awarded to the winning teams by score as well as by luck of the wheel spin, so even the most inexperienced teams have a chance to take home some cash! There will be Mulligan and Skirt Shot packages for sale, along with Split the Pots and Dollar Raffles. There will be a limit to the number of teams, so get registered NOW. You can sign up as a foursome or an individual. Single sign-ups will be assigned to teams by the event coordinator. You can register on-line or with a paper form. Registration forms are available on the St. Francis Xavier website or can be picked up in the back of church or in the office. Cash, check, and credit cards are all accepted.

For more information, contact Wende Aubrey at wende.aubrey@sfxmw.com or (502) 385-6716, or use the QR code.



13th Annual Scramble Sept. 15, 2024



We Had A SummerFest at

Wende Aubrey

The 2024 SummerFest and Super Raffle were great successes. Perfect weather and generous parishioners and neighbors combined for a wonderful day of fun and fellowship.

The morning kicked off with Volleyball and Pickleball. Over sixty athletes came together on the courts in friendly competition. Congratulations to the winning teams and players and thanks to everyone that came out to play and those that cheered them on.

Flava Dave fired up the Valu Market grill to feed the hungry players and volunteers. The concession stand stayed hopping all day, making a few unexpected trips to the store to restock. The Knights of Columbus put on a wonderful Fish Fry, but then we have come to expect nothing less from them. They did not disappoint!

We had great bands playing all afternoon and into the night. All That Band was a new addition to SummerFest and provided a lively variety of music during the dinner hours. Bluegrass Conspiracy followed up with some traditional rocking chair (or lawn chair) favorites.

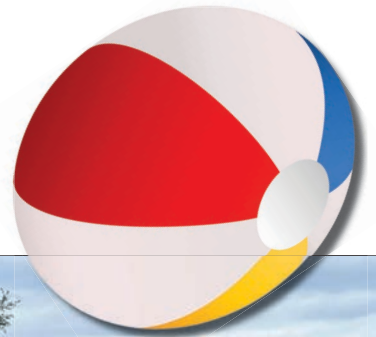
The kids stayed entertained all day with inflatables and enjoyed face painting, Plinko, Ping Pong Toss and of course the Duck Pond. The wheel booths stayed busy all afternoon and evening. The Cake Wheel continues to be a popular choice for both kids and adults. The return of the Gift Card booth was well received – running out of cards by 8:30. Candy and Little Debbies rounded out our wheel booths, giving everyone something to enjoy. Split the Pot was a



favorite with the volleyball players and kept the sellers and announcers busy throughout the afternoon.

And of course, we had the Raffles. The Prayer Blanket Ministry raffled off three beautiful quilts. The High School Youth Group helped fund their program by raffling off hand painted wooden door hangers. We used donations from Club Fitness, Keeneland, and Louisville Metro Parks and Recreation to hold a few special raffles and drew the \$500 Lucky Number winner. Then came the grand finale – the Super Raffle. Fr. Dale drew the \$20,000 Grand Prize winner followed by the 2nd and 3rd place tickets. He made the phone calls while we live streamed and listened to him calmly leave the exciting news on voice mail! Seems no one heeded our advice to answer an unknown caller at 10 p.m. on the June 8th.

Many thanks go out to the volunteers that put in countless hours to make SummerFest a success. Your willingness to serve is very much appreciated. Thank you to all who bought or sold Super Raffle tickets! Your efforts allowed us to award the \$20,000 Grand Prize along with a 2nd and 3rd place winner. To all who came out to support and enjoy SummerFest, Thank You! SFX is truly blessed with the best parishioners and community neighbors.



Happenings:

Lift Your Voice, Raise Your Heart



The SFX Music Ministry is looking for additional members for any and all masses. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to worship through song. Adult Choir/Musician rehearsals begin Wednesday, August 14 at 6:45 p.m. in the church.

Children/Youth Choir practice starts Wednesday, September 4 from 6:15-6:45

p.m. in the church.

Contact Carrie Gary with questions or for more information: carrie.gary@sfxmw.com / (502) 931-2193.

Children's Church Returns

Children's Liturgy of the Word (aka "Children's Church") will resume on August 25 at both 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Mass! Children ages preK through grade 3 are invited to a special liturgy that simplifies the Sunday readings and includes interactive discussions for kids! We are so grateful for the existing volunteers that make Children's Church possible and are seeking a few more volunteers for the 2024-25 year. If you'd like to volunteer for this important ministry, please contact Lauren Battcher at lauren.battcher@sfxmw.com.



Starting the week of August 19th, Volleyball and Pickleball sessions will move to 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. to make room for a new Yoga class being offered in the Xavier Center those same evenings.

Trunk or Treat! Oct. 26

Start making your October plans to attend the SFX Trunk-or-Treat and Chili Supper on **Saturday Oct. 26**, hosted by the High School Youth Group. Fun and festivities begin **immediately after the 5 p.m. Mass**, in the Xavier Center and our Parking Lot!

If you haven't participated in a Trunk-or-Treat before, it's a great way to get involved with the youth of the Parish. Pop your trunk, add some decorations, and fill it with treats. The kids love to see all the different spooktacular decorations, almost as much as they love the candy! Dress up to match your theme if you want to, there is no reason that the kids should have all the fun.

So as not to fill up only on sugary treats, the event is coupled with a Chili Supper. Come enjoy a selection of chili and various toppings along with hotdogs and chips. Kids are welcome to wear costumes to mass, adults - use your best judgement!

