



The Crossroads Messenger

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

Winter 2025



TOSF Promises A Night Of Fun And Amazing Prizes

Wende Aubrey

The Taste of St. Francis is back again this year! Set to take place in the Xavier Center on February 22, this year's theme is "Deuces Wild" and will feature a lively casino theme. Nearly 20 local restaurants are expected to provide a tasting and there will be seating for over 250 guests.

The Main Event of the evening is the \$10,000 Taste of Saint Francis Raffle, which is scheduled for 9 p.m. A few other exciting online auction items include: a week-long Florida vacation, a three-night stay in Pigeon Forge, and a Jockey Suite at Churchill Downs. We also feature a silent auctions at the event, and everyone's favorite - bourbon & wine pulls and door prizes!

Check the SFX website (sfxmw.com) or use the QR code for more details or to purchase TOSF 10K Raffle tickets. Contact wende.aubrey@sfxmw.com for more information and to donate or volunteer.

**"Deuces Wild" at
The Taste of St. Francis**

Sponsored by First Harrison Bank

February 22, 2025

6PM - 10PM in the Xavier Center
155 Stringer Lane Mt. Washington, KY 40047

**Sample Tastings from
Local Restaurants**

**On-Line &
Silent Auctions**

Wine & Bourbon Pulls

Split-the-Pots

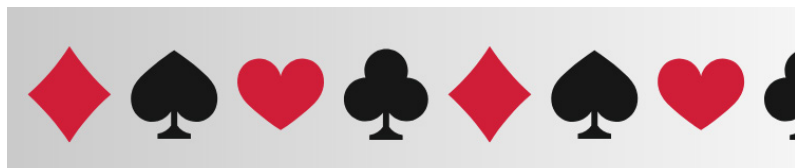
**\$25 Event Ticket
(21 and Over)**

TOSF Raffle
\$10 per Chance to Win
\$10K Grand Prize
\$500 Runners Up (2)

Draws at 9PM 2.22.2025

Charitable Gaming Lic #ORG1325

Scan for More Information



Reflections On The Holy Year of 2025



2025 AD ... a year of **Hope**... a year of **Pilgrimage**... a year of **Joy!**

Our *current* Holy Father, Pope Francis, is calling on all of us, especially Catholics, to celebrate *this* Jubilee year of 2025. When the successor of Saint Peter himself sets aside a certain time as **HOLY**, that's not just words. It *really* does

become a **sacred time** which changes us in real time as we know it. Pope Francis has called upon God to pour out extra graces and blessings during these 360+ days and make this a time of *conversion* and *renewal* for people of all ages.

The **gifts** of this Jubilee Year that are highlighted are **forgiveness, freedom, family** and **fullness**. For *forgiveness*, any Jubilee year is a great time to practice forgiveness in our own families, in our own circles of acquaintances. It is super opportunity to *spend some quality time with self, examining our conscience*... maybe to see if we are **holding a grudge** or a **resentment** or an **unresolved anger** towards anyone in our life. When done, we make the *interior* act of forgiving self **FIRST** and then onto an act to express forgiveness of another person(s) or event that occurred in our past. We are called to become **BETTER**, not perfect.

Now, back to the gifts: **Fullness** is the idea of learning how to **TRUST** God in providing for us. One great way we can *live* fullness is Honoring the Sabbath **beyond** what happens at the Eucharistic Table. Taking up **OR re-taking** up the practice of resting, spending the day with family (*on purpose*... **without an agenda**), preparing and enjoying a **meal** together, making space for **prayer** and maybe, God willing, some non-pious **spiritual reading**.

Have you ever taken a **pilgrimage**? What makes any journey or trip a pilgrimage? The word's definition: "*an individual's journey through life, sometimes as a general description of **personal growth and exploration**, and sometimes, as in Christianity, outlining a particular spiritual focus or pathway which, it is believed, will encounter **God**.*"

Seeking out certain holy places **locally** can bring a person to a greater awareness of God and God working in one's life. Our archdiocese, the second oldest in the history of the United States (1808), is *especially* blessed with places like this. As a thought, it could become a rewarding trip to visit places of special grace and blessings in this Holy Year; such as the **Louisville Cathedral of the Assumption** on Fifth Street and, while there, touring **The History Center** that displays, in artifacts, the Catholic faith of central Kentucky. Another great spot could be the **Proto Cathedral Basilica of Saint Joseph** in Bardstown OR the **Proto-Abbey of the United States at the Abbey of Gethsemani** OR four motherhouses of religious nuns: **Sisters of Charity** in Bardstown, the **Sisters of Loretto**, the **Dominican Sisters** in Springfield and the **Ursuline Sisters** on Lexington Road. There are other places filled with graces waiting to be embraced such as the **Dominican of Saint Rose Priory** in Springfield OR **Saint Thomas Parish** and the **Bishop Flaget Log House** south of Bardstown which helps *us* stay in touch with our spiritual roots when we were an infant church in a beautiful, yet uncharted wilderness. There are so many other sacred Catholic spaces to explore, appreciate and understand. It is a picker's world... you and I are very lucky!

Friends, it is so easy to *'write off'* a visit to any of these places and experiences because they are **always with us... we grew up here**, we *think* we know them... but **do we... do we really?** Let's find out... make plans to visit at least one of these places... let me know what you think... seriously. Let's seek God in these places... Take it to prayer... **Take this Year of Hope, Pilgrimage and Joy** to Jesus and see what He would have us do. **He** is the best tour guide we will ever have, especially in these days of 2025... so don't wait until 2050 to seek Him!

In Christ the Cornerstone,

Fr. Dale



St. Francis Xavier

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

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

www.sfxmw.com

Lent It's Just Around The Corner!

We find ourselves at the doorstep of the Lenten Season. Lent holds a profound significance for us as a time of spiritual renewal and preparation for the glorious celebration of Easter. Spanning forty days, Lent mirrors the forty days Jesus spent fasting and praying in the desert, a period of deep reflection and temptation. It's a time for us to join in this spiritual journey, not only to recall Christ's sacrifice



Earl Baker

Deacon's Desk

but also to prepare our hearts for the ultimate celebration of His resurrection.

At the heart of Lent is the invitation to repent and grow closer to

God. The Church encourages prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—each of which serves to redirect our focus from worldly distractions and material desires to spiritual growth. Prayer strengthens our relationship with God, allowing us to seek His guidance, forgiveness, and grace. Fasting teaches us self-discipline and detachment, helping us to identify areas where we might be overly attached to comforts or excess, while almsgiving calls us to live out Christ's command to love and serve others, particularly the poor and marginalized.

Through these practices, Lent becomes a time of conversion. It invites us to examine our


lives, acknowledge our need for God's mercy, and make space for spiritual transformation. By entering into the suffering of Christ through repentance, we are better able to understand and appreciate His ultimate sacrifice on Good Friday, and we prepare ourselves to celebrate the joy of the resurrection on Easter.

Lent is not simply a time of penance, but also of hope and anticipation. By walking with Christ through His suffering and death, we are reminded of the incredible gift of salvation that He offers us. Lent prepares our hearts to rejoice fully in the victory of Easter, a victory that promises new life and the hope of eternal communion with God.

Simply put, Lent is an invitation for us to form life-giving habits that will lead us to discover the abundant life that God has planned for us!

2025









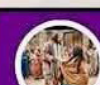

LENT & HOLY WEEK



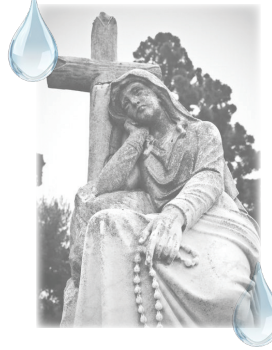
Ash Wednesday

March 05, 2025

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

 1st Sunday of Lent March 09, 2025	 Palm Sunday April 13, 2025
 2nd Sunday of Lent March 16, 2025	 Maundy Thursday April 17, 2025
 3rd Sunday of Lent March 23, 2025	 Good Friday April 18, 2025
 Laetere Sunday March 30, 2025	 Holy Saturday April 19, 2025
 5th Sunday of Lent April 06, 2025	 Easter Sunday April 20, 2025





Paula's Ponderings

Paula Silliman
Pastoral Associate

Embrace Spring's Showers With Faith

As the days grow longer and the sun begins to warm the earth, we find ourselves on the cusp of spring—a season that invites renewal and growth. It's a time when the world around us starts to shake off the cold and dreariness of winter, and new life begins to bloom. For us as Catholics, this season offers a unique opportunity to reflect on the spiritual renewal we experience through our faith.

Just as the earth is refreshed by spring rains, our hearts too can be washed clean and made ready for new beginnings. Life may not always go the way we expect. In fact, we often face difficult circumstances and challenges that can feel like the cold, unwelcoming winds of winter. But in the midst of these challenges, God offers us the grace to face a new reality with hope, just as the rain brings hope to the parched earth.

In the natural world, rain has a transformative power. While it might feel like a nuisance at first, it is essential for growth. Rain waters the soil, nurtures the plants, and helps them bloom into something beautiful. Spiritually, we can see this as a metaphor for the challenges we face. While difficulties may feel like they are weighing us down, they have the potential to cleanse and renew us, washing away the negativity and preparing us for new growth in our faith journey.

The Bible tells us in the book of Isaiah, "the rain and the snow come down, and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth" (Isaiah 55:10-11). Just as rain nourishes the earth, God's word nourishes our souls. When we open ourselves to His guidance, we allow His grace to wash over us, transforming us and renewing our hearts. It is through this spiritual renewal that we are empowered to face the new realities of our lives with grace and faith.

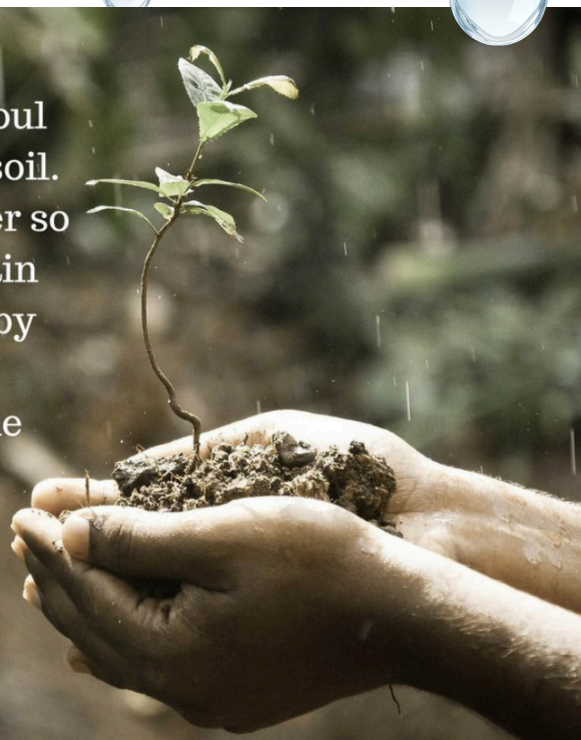
Embracing a new reality is not always easy. Change can be difficult and unsettling. But like the rain that softens the hard soil, God's presence in our lives softens our hearts and helps us navigate through the uncertainties of life. We can trust that just as the rain eventually gives way to bright sunshine and blooming flowers, our challenges will also pass, and we will emerge stronger in our faith.

So, next time you hear the pitter-patter of rain or see the first buds of spring, take a moment to reflect on the renewal happening both around you and within you. With grace and faith, we can face any new reality, knowing that God is always bringing about new growth, even in the most unexpected ways.

"Prayer is to our soul
what rain is to the soil.
Fertilise the soil ever so
richly, it will remain
barren unless fed by
frequent rains."

— Saint John Marie
Vianney

@CatholicBishops



A Moving Tradition

Following Jesus' Steps Through Interaction & Prayer

Lisa Reed

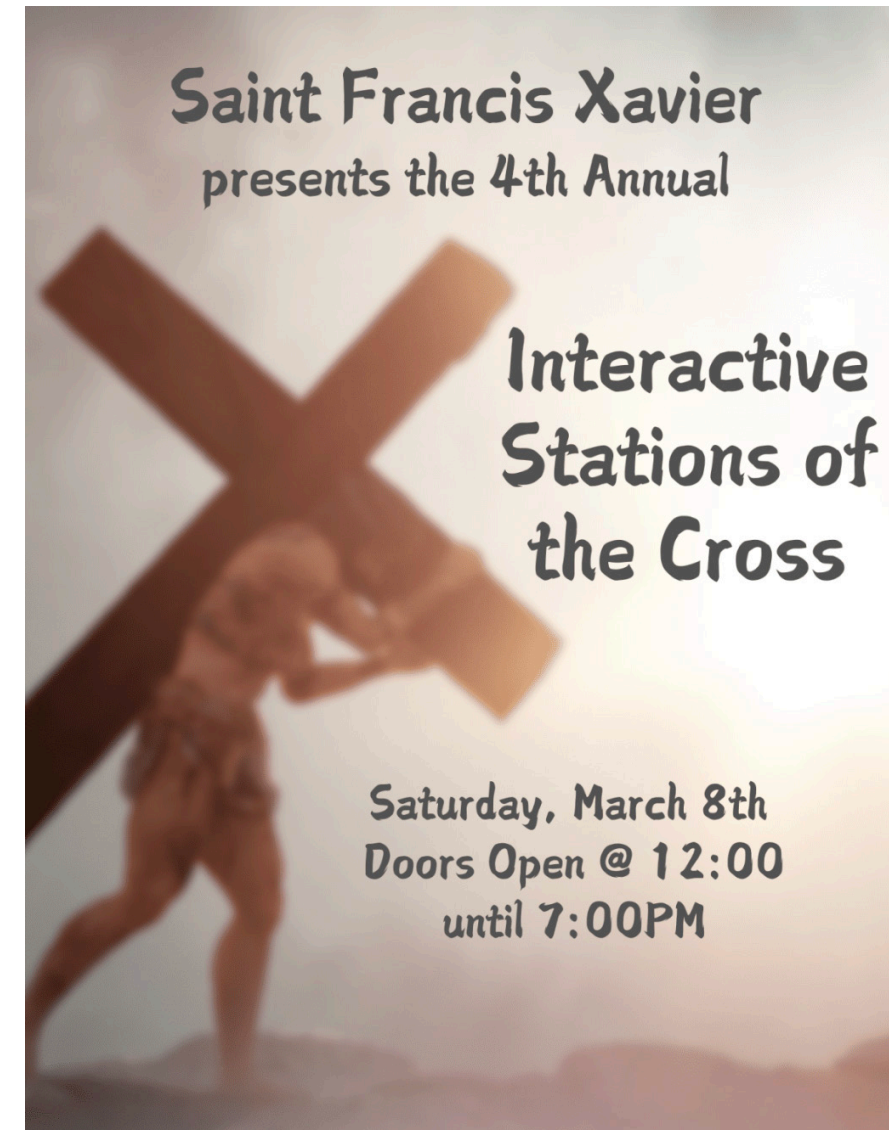
In humble appreciation, prayer and devotion, Catholics around the world honor Jesus through the Stations of the Cross. Here at SFX, we invite all Parishoners and members of our faith, and community to join together in the deeply moving experience that is our 4th Annual Interactive Stations of the Cross. Held March 8, from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m., in our Religious Education Building.

This cherished event is profoundly emotional, and is one way to enrich your individual Lenten spiritual nourishment.

Each visitor will embark on a personal journey through the Stations. Each Station encourages an engagement in meaningful tasks, reflections, life connections, and prayers. Seating is available at each Station, allowing participants to pause and reflect as they choose, making this a truly self-paced experience.

Traditionally, most participants complete their journey through all 14 Stations in roughly 15-to-30 minutes. However, you're encouraged to take as much time as needed to fully embrace the devotion and this intimate time with Jesus.

We look forward to seeing you and pray for your own deep emotional and spiritual connection that this event offers in such an important time of our Catholic Liturgical Calendar. For more information, please contact Lisa Reed: derrick.n.lisa@gmail.com



TRIVIA NIGHT
Saturday, March 8th
6-10PM in the
Xavier Center

Cash Prizes!
Split the Pot
Dead or Alive

\$20
per person /
max of 8
people per
team

Fiesta Concessions, Beer, Wine, & Seltzers
available for purchase.
No Outside Alcohol Permitted

Proceeds benefit the SFX
High School Youth Group's
Summer Retreat

Register through the QR code, Pay at the
Door, Contact Eva.Pence@sfxmw.com for
more information.



Charitable Gaming Lic #0001325

Margaritas with Mary

The SFX Margaritas with Mary book study group meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday at 7 p.m., in the Xavier Center Classroom. You don't need to be a SFX Parishioner – or Catholic – we'd love to see you there! All females 18+ are welcome! Of course, the margaritas are reserved for those 21 and older.

Pro-Tip: You don't need to have the current book read to join in the discussion!



Happy St. Patrick's Day! Seniors' Dinner

Our 8th grade Faith Formation students, with the leadership of the Weikert family, invite our senior Parish members to the 2nd Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner! This delicious, free meal will be served at 2 p.m., March 16 in the Xavier Center and is open to all of our beloved SFX Senior Citizens! Register on the SFX Website!



Get Moving At The Xavier Center

Miles Spalding
Newsletter Editor

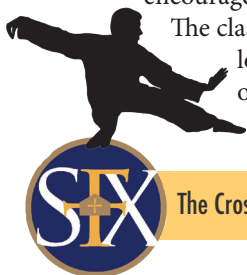
At St. Francis Xavier, we're excited to offer fitness classes in the Xavier Center designed to promote both physical and spiritual well-being. Classes are open to all, regardless of fitness level, and provide a supportive and inclusive environment for participants to focus on their health while nurturing a sense of community.

Led by Tonya Deetch, these classes blend a variety of exercises that are easy to follow, helping to build strength, flexibility, and moxie. Tonya has a wealth of fitness training experience. This ensures you have a fun time, while providing modifications to meet you where you are in your physical fitness journey.

Each session usually starts with a warmup leading to kickboxing, rhythmic exercises, strength related exercises, palates, and yoga all set to energizing music.

It's not just about exercise—it's about building relationships and supporting one another through shared fitness goals and encouragement. So, come for the fitness, stay for the fellowship!

The classes cost \$5/class or \$20/5 classes. The Xavier Center also hosts gentle yoga and tai chi classes. Whether you're looking to get more active, stay fit, or simply enjoy a fun way to connect with others, these classes offer a great opportunity to prioritize your wellness. Join us every Tuesday at 7 p.m., or Saturday at 9 a.m., at the Xavier Center for a workout that energizes both body and soul! We look forward to seeing you in class.



The Crossroads Messenger
Winter 2025

Snowmageddon '25



Miles Spalding
Newsletter Editor

Winter brings its own set of challenges, and for churches, ensuring that the parking lot and sidewalks are safe and accessible for Parishioners is a top priority. Many people probably walk into church and do not slow down to think about all the work that goes into making St. Francis Xavier safe and welcoming place.

When nine inches of snow fell on January 5, 2025, our Parish and surrounding community were tested severely. Fortunately for St. Francis Xavier, we have a top flight facility manager in Brian Rueve. Brian joined the SFX Facilities Team on January, 2024 after working thirty years at Ford.

When Brian learned of the impending snowfall, he ensured that the snow removal contractor Quick Kutz was queued up to clear the parking lot while he and Zac Cleary took care of the sidewalks. Not one to take the credit, Brian was quick to praise all the help he received in this recent snow event. Brian is fortunate to have been preceded by Bobby Grace who laid down the foundation for managing snow events like we experienced. It takes a village to manage a campus as large as the St. Francis Xavier. Brian praised the contributions of Parishioners like Chris and Justin Hall who consistently step up to help. You do not need to possess special skills to volunteer, just a willing heart. If you would like to support St. Francis Xavier by supporting facility projects, you can reach Brian Rueve at brian.rueve@sfxmw.com or call the Parish Office.

Lent Fish Fry

Michael Zygmunt
Grand Knight

On March 7, the Knights of Columbus St. Joseph Council will start its Lenten Fish Fry season. For six weeks, each Friday, from 4 p.m.-7 p.m., you can join fellow Parishioners and members of our community in the Xavier Center for delicious food and a welcoming atmosphere. Keep it on your weekly calendar for Dine-In and Carry-Out options through April 11.

Besides fish dinner and fish sandwiches, the menu also includes french fries, onion rings, green beans, mac and cheese, hush puppies and grilled cheese sandwiches. Drinks included with each meal are: iced tea, lemonade and coffee. Soft drinks and beer are sold separately by St. Francis Xavier Church. You do not want to miss out on the dessert table! Each week, there is a sea of homemade

desserts ranging from cookies to pies to cakes. These items are available separately for purchase.

Last year the Knights nearly doubled their Dine-In business, and its suggested you arrive early to enjoy some great food and fellowship with friends and family.

The Knights of Columbus is non-profit and proceeds from the fish fries allow them to continue their work helping our parish, the community, and the people of Eastern Kentucky. Together, the Knights are empowering Catholic men to live their faith at home, in their Parish, at work and in their community. For more information contact Grand Knight Michael Zygmunt (716) 319-4967.

Seek Hope, Faith This Jubilee

Jubilee 2025 will be an occasion for deep spiritual reflection, prayer, and pilgrimage, as Catholics from St. Francis Xavier and around the world come together to renew their faith and seek reconciliation and hope.

An excerpt from **SPES NON CONFUNDIT**: BULL OF INDICTION OF THE ORDINARY JUBILEE OF THE YEAR 2025 BY POPE FRANCIS I

The coming Jubilee will thus be a Holy Year marked by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God. May it help us to recover the confident trust that we require, in the Church and in society, in our interpersonal relationships, in international relations, and in our task of promoting the

dignity of all persons and respect for God's gift of creation. May the witness of believers be for our world a leaven of authentic hope, a harbinger of new heavens and a new earth (cf. 2 Pet 3:13), where men and women will dwell in justice and harmony, in joyful expectation of the fulfilment of the Lord's promises.





The Christmas Cantata

A Musical Celebration Of The Season

Miles Spalding
Newsletter Editor

The St. Francis Xavier Christmas cantata has become a cherished tradition that combines music and spiritual reflection to celebrate the birth of our Savior. The word “cantata” comes from the Italian word cantare, meaning “to sing.” Rooted in traditional Christian music, the St. Francis Xavier cantata consisted of classical and contemporary choral compositions that featured duets and ensembles with piano, harp and flute accompaniment. A special thanks to Lori Kerr, Carrie Gary, Faith McGovern and the adult and youth choirs!

The beauty of this performance is the way it brought our community together by offering a chance to reflect on the meaning of Christmas through the universal language of music. Whether you’re a performer or a listener, the Christmas cantata is a beautiful way to embrace the spirit of the season. This cantata’s music and heartfelt message remind us of the boundless love of our God and the power of music to unite and inspire us.

