



The Crossroads Messenger

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

Fall 2025

Fingerprints



I have now been with you here at Saint Francis Xavier since the beginning of July presiding at our Sunday celebrations. Ours is a vibrant community of praise and outreach that (as the Jesuit motto declares) “brings glory to God!” As my fingerprints begin to show on our liturgies, I want to share some of the vision that informs how I preside and why I do what I do.

The reason our Mass is the centerpiece of all we do as Catholics is that it is at Mass that our faith is born and nourished. Our faith is born from the preaching encounter and then we are nourished and strengthened with Holy Communion to bring our faith by our actions into the world. The Mass is our weekly “dance” with God.

Full and active participation of the assembly in the offering of Mass necessitates many hands volunteering as sacristans, acolytes, servers, lectors, hospitality ministers, cantors, and choir. All are orchestrated by the presider (me) to create an encounter with the Risen Lord through the collective praise of the assembled Mystical Body of Christ (you). I strive to create a simplicity of movement which amplifies the encounter. Cutting away the peripheral is like narrowing a channel of water; the result is a more powerful stream. I have come to believe over my years of presiding at Mass that “less is more.” To this end you will begin to see my “fingerprints” in the various ministries of our Mass.

During the Liturgy of the Word, you will begin to see the lectors approaching the ambo from the left side of the pews. As they will not be crossing before the altar you will not see them bowing, instead they will simply walk up to the ambo and proclaim, returning to their pew after. Also, our petitions will now include the Mass intention which the presider is holding on his heart so

the whole assembly can assist in this task.

The most apparent fingerprints will be found during our Offertory and Communion rites. Pre-poured cups and prefilled pattens will be placed upon the altar as the servers and acolyte prepare it. Hospitality ministers will continue to gather the tithe and secure it, however only the main patten and chalice will be walked up to me when I step down from the sanctuary to receive them. This will create a smoother “flow” of our gifts to God without unnecessary waiting. Servers will more time their movements to my own to also facilitate a smoother “flow” to our prayer.

During the Communion rite our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will line up on the floor in front of the altar so I can bring them Communion both creating a smoother “flow” and demonstrating the movement of God’s Gift of His Son from the altar to them, from them to you, and from you to the world. The sacristan will be at the altar with a replacement patten to swap out with any Extraordinary Minister before they run out of Hosts which will allow the Communion line to “flow” uninterrupted.

Finally, to enhance the “punch” of the dismissal I am sharing any community announcements just before Mass starts so that we can quickly go from receiving Holy Communion to being sent to bring our faith to our communities. (I encourage all to work at arriving at your pew at least five minutes before Mass to hear our highlights.) Our bulletin will now serve both as a worship aid for Mass and an information resource to be taken home. (This will save us the time and cost of printing separate worship aids each week.) Hopefully you may even find yourselves singing some songs throughout the week!

SFX Outreach Ministry Food Box:

A Way of Living Out The Call To Feed The Hungry

St. Francis Xavier Church
Outreach Ministry



Give What You Can
Take What You Need



Earl Baker

Deacon's Desk

In times of rising food prices and insecurity, community food boxes are making a quiet but powerful difference. Our outdoor pantry—located outside of our Parish Hall on the Stringer Lane side of the building —offers free, non-perishable food items to anyone in need. The slogan written

on the food box is clear and simple: “Give what you can--Take what you need”. Yet behind this simplicity is a profound message of compassion, service, and real faith in action.

Our SFX Community Food Box is a modern-day response to an ancient command. Throughout Scripture, Jesus calls His followers to care for the poor and feed the hungry. In Matthew 25:35-40, Jesus speaks of the final judgment, saying, “For I was hungry and you gave

me something to eat... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” This passage reminds us that caring for the poor is not optional—it’s central to Christian life and service.

Another example is found in Luke 14:13, where Jesus encourages, “But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed.”

These instructions reflect not only generosity but intentional inclusion and mercy.

The miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 (John 6:1–14) also shows how God can multiply small offerings. One boy’s lunch, shared with faith, fed thousands. Likewise, small acts of giving can ripple through a community, nourishing both body and soul.

Our food box allows us an opportunity to act on these teachings. A can of beans or a box of pasta might seem small, but to someone who hasn’t eaten that day, it means everything. The food box becomes a symbol of hope, dignity, and shared humanity.

In a world filled with need, our food box invites us to be the hands and feet of Christ—offering not just food, but love, compassion, and the assurance that no one is forgotten. For over 175 years, people have come to our Church property to be fed both spiritually and physically. Let’s consider being a part of that fine tradition. The next time you’re at the Grocery Store, consider purchasing a few items for those in need, and drop it off in the Food Box before Mass next week.



St. Francis Xavier

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Mount Washington, KY 40047
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Office Hours

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

www.sfxmw.com



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Fall 2025

Paula's Ponderings



Paula Silliman
Pastoral Associate

“If you judge people, you have no time to love them.”

St. Teresa of Calcutta

Mother Teresa's simple yet profound words challenge us to reflect on how we approach the people around us. In a world filled with division and discord, judgment can come easily through our words, thoughts, or actions. As Catholics, we are called to something greater: love.

Jesus Himself reminds us in the Gospel of Matthew, **“Stop judging, that you may not be judged”** (Matthew 7:1). Judgment, when used to condemn, keeps us focused on the flaws and failures of others, preventing us from seeing them as Christ sees them. On the other hand, love opens our hearts, makes room for understanding, and seeks to build up rather than tear down.

Saint Paul speaks to this reality when he writes in Romans 14:13: **“Then let us no longer judge one another but rather resolve never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.”** This means that instead of looking for reasons to criticize, we should look for ways to support and encourage one another, bearing each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2).

In today's cultural climate—where cancel culture and polarization are widespread—Saint Teresa's words invite us to resist the temptation to judge. Social media often encourages quick opinions and harsh criticisms, but as Catholics, we are called to act differently. We are called to see the person before the flaw, to love before we criticize.



How Can We Apply This In Our Daily Lives?

Pause before responding. When we feel anger or judgment rising, take a moment to pray for the grace to see the other person through Christ's eyes.

Offer compassion, not criticism. Look for ways to love others, even when they fall short, and trust that God is working in their lives just as He is in ours.

Pray for a merciful heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you extend the same forgiveness and patience that Christ shows you.

Choose to love. In every interaction, choose love over judgment—whether in your family, at work, or in your community. As Jesus said, **“Love one**

another as I have loved you” (John 13:34).

In a world quick to judge, let us be quick to love. Let us not waste time casting stones but instead spend our energy showing mercy and sharing the love that Christ so freely gives us.

2025 VBS Recap



Lauren Battcher
VBS Coordinator

True North VBS 2025 was an exhilarating adventure! For four fun-filled nights, over 100 kids from our parish and community explored what it means to “trust Jesus in a WILD world”. Our church campus was transformed into an Alaskan wilderness, setting the stage and sparking kids’ natural curiosity.

Our True North VBS program included five action-packed and engaging stations, through which kids rotated under the leadership of adult and teen volunteers. Each night’s lesson focused on a main “Bible Point” with the theme of trusting our Lord Jesus!

Another key lesson that students learn at VBS is to look for “God Sightings” during VBS and in their day-to-day life. We celebrated how we see God in His amazing creation, in a hug from a parent, or a kind word from a friend.



During one of our closing celebrations, an intense thunderstorm hit our area and caused an unfortunate power outage at SFX. Our technology became useless, but God was still with us. By ‘coincidence’, we had glowsticks ready to distribute to each child that evening. What started out as scary and disappointing storm turned into a joyful glow-stick dance party as we sang our favorite VBS praise song acapella. Through this experience, we all learned that even in darkness, we are never alone - we can trust Jesus to always be our light! As kids were dismissed to their families that night, they walked outside to observe the most beautiful rainbow shining right over SFX! It was the most stunning “God Sighting” of the week!

For the third year in a row, DRE Lauren Battcher and parishioner Megan Shull teamed up as codirectors. They agree that this year was a success and want to give a HUGE shoutout to the incredible team of 60+ volunteers that made it possible. They look forward to next year’s VBS, which is already scheduled for next June!



HYSG Reflects On Fun Year

The High School Youth Group at St. Francis Xavier is a fantastic collection of young people that are a true asset to parish life. We are serious about stewardship and have made it a priority to become increasingly involved in service to our church community, while building lifelong relationships with each other. Since we work hard to combine fellowship and fun throughout the year, 2024-2025 was a great success!



Lisa Pence
Youth Group

We hosted and helped with many events this year; Donut Fellowship, Trunk or Treat, collecting food and assembling Christmas Food Baskets for Outreach Ministries, and our annual Trivia Night. We cooked and served food for Hear It for the Spirit and cleaned the Xavier Center after church and private events to earn money for our summer trip. This year

we plan to be involved in all of these areas and will also be working with the SFX Respect Life

Committee in their ministry with The Little Way Pregnancy Center.

For our annual HSYG trip and retreat, we visited Pigeon Forge, TN. We had many wonderful experiences, such as: going to Dollywood, Splash Country and added in some go-carts, miniature golf and laser tag. Our evenings were filled Scripture reading, praying the rosary and started a program that helps us to concentrate on how to be the best version of ourselves and become better Catholics. Our week concluded with Mass at St. Mary's in Gatlinburg.

HSYG meetings kick-off September 7th and are held every Sunday, unless noted on the church calendar. All students in grades 8-12 are invited to attend.

The High School Youth Group is a collection of very different personalities with different interests but, as a group, are all very welcoming and accepting of each other. We like to say, "We are better together." We hope to see many new faces and that our upcoming year will be the best ever!



Summerfest



Wende Aubrey

The threat of rain didn't stop the crowd from coming out to enjoy SummerFest 2025 at St. Francis Xavier Church. With support from our fabulous parishioners and neighbors, it was a day overflowing with fun and fellowship. The festivities kicked off with the SFX Volleyball Classic. Congratulations to the winning team and players and thanks to everyone that came out to cheer them on from the sidelines.

Flava Dave had the Valu Market grill sizzling, serving up burgers for hungry players and volunteers. The concession stand stayed hopping with all the deep-fried goodness we've come to expect. The Knights of Columbus never disappoint with their traditional Fish Fry, delivering deliciousness as expected. Birds Nest Sweet Treats added a new element to the food selection this year, offering ice cream and shakes to help beat the heat.

Music filled the air all afternoon and into the evening. "All That Band" returned to the SummerFest lineup, bringing spirited variety during dinner. "Bluegrass Conspiracy" followed with their crowd-pleasing tunes, perfect for lawn chair lounging.

Kids had a blast bouncing on inflatables, getting their faces painted, playing Pop-A-Shot, Plinko, Ring Toss, and splashing around the Duck Pond. The wheel booths buzzed non-stop, with the Cake Wheel and Gift Card booths keeping the crowds coming back for more. The Prayer Blanket Ministry showcased three beautiful quilts in their annual raffle. Split the Pot and

Lucky Number were joined by Showdown Poker this year, giving the \$1 & \$5 high rollers a chance at cash prizes.

The grand finale? The Super Raffle! Fr. Dale pulled the \$20,000 Grand Prize ticket followed by the 2nd and 3rd place runners-up, calmly leaving thrilling news on voicemail during a live stream when the lucky winners didn't pick-up late-night calls from an "Unknown Caller".

A gigantic thanks to all the volunteers tirelessly working behind the scenes to make SummerFest a success. Your dedication is recognized and deeply appreciated. To everyone who bought or sold Super Raffle tickets, your enthusiasm allowed us to award the big prizes. And to all who came out to celebrate, thank you! SFX is blessed with the most amazing parishioners and community neighbors.





Sign Up Fore Fun



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER Church
MOUNT WASHINGTON, KENTUCKY

GOLF SCRAMBLE



14 SEPT – 1 PM

THE CROSSINGS
205 LETTS ROAD, BROOKS KY 40109

\$70 Per Player / \$280 a Foursome
Includes Green Fee, Cart, and Meal

\$3 Mulligans & Skirt Shots

Raffles Split the Pot

Cash Prizes for Winning Teams, Longest Putt, & Closest to the Pin.



Register at sfxmw.com or Scan the QR Code

For information, contact wende.aubrey@sfxmw.com



Charitable Gaming Lic #ORG0001325



Wende Aubrey

Whether you are a scratch golfer or barely know your driver from your pitching wedge, you won't want to miss this year's SFX Golf Scramble at The Crossings on Sunday, September 14th.

This will be a shotgun start at 2PM with lunch provided at the 1PM check-in. The event will award Cash Prizes to the Winning Teams and will offer Raffles and Splits the Pots. Mulligans & Skirt Shots will be available for purchase. New this year is the addition of a Putting String given to each team as part of registration.

The cost is \$70 per player (\$280 per foursome) and includes course fee, cart, lunch, and a door prize ticket. Register through the SFX website (sfxmw.com) or scan the QR code. For more information, contact wende.aubrey@sfxmw.com.



Group Looking For New Members

Lisa Reed

The “Margaritas with Mary” book club is a welcoming community for adult women (18+) seeking fellowship and spiritual development. Hosted by Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Mount Washington, this club blends faith-based reading with candid conversation and, of course, a touch of fun—margaritas included for those 21 and older. The group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Xavier Center classroom, creating a cozy, welcoming, and accepting space for growth, reflection, and fellowship.

With a history of bold and heartfelt selections, including *A Heart Like Mary*, *33 Days to Morning Glory*, *Fervent*, and *My Badass Book of Saints*, the club invites participants to explore themes ranging from Marian devotion to spiritual warfare and saintly

empowerment.

Voting is currently open for the next book, offering newcomers a chance to help shape the fall reading journey by submitting their preferences through the official Google Form (<https://forms.gle/RJgMguHQQGwdQpwkB9>). Whether you’re a current member or thinking about joining, this book club offers a unique blend of reflection, faith, and spirited sisterhood. New members can sign up using the same link provided above to receive group emails and updates before the first meeting on September 23rd.



Trunk-or-Treat

Annual Chili Supper and Candy Swap Oct.25

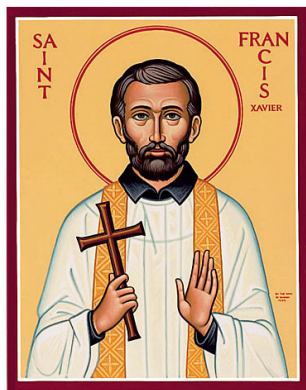
Wende Aubrey

Back by Popular demand – the SFX Trunk-or-Treat and Chili Supper will take place on Saturday, October 25th after the 5:00 pm Mass. Kids up through 5th Grade are invited to visit the decorated trunks, truck beds, and hatchbacks set up in the back parking lot. All parishioners are invited to partake in free chili and hotdogs served in the Xavier Center. Last year’s event saw a haunted campsite, an enchanted forest, Candyland, and many more creative scenes. If you would like to enter your “trunk” in the event, start planning your theme and watch the website and bulletin for more information and links to RSVP.



Friends Of Saint Francis

Miles Spalding



With this issue, we are beginning a new series in the Crossroads Messenger which focuses on individuals or families who pattern their lives after our patron, St. Francis Xavier. By living lives of strong commitment and deep spirituality, they deserve the title “friends of St. Francis Xavier.” We hope you will enjoy getting to know these members of our faith family.

If you have been a parishioner at St. Francis Xavier for any length of time, then chances are, you have worked, laughed or prayed alongside Tony and Doris Ann Bullock. They and their daughter, Beth, joined Saint Francis Xavier in 2006. When they came to St. Francis Xavier, Father Scott Wimsatt was the pastor. Being from Nelson County, they knew Father Scott since he was a young man. In addition to knowing Father Scott, they liked the proximity of their home to the church and the welcoming, loving vibrations they felt from day one. It was like coming home.

Both Doris Ann and Tony come from families with deep Catholic roots. Their parents instilled in them a love for God and their church family and by their example, a belief in “giving back” in its many forms.

Doris Ann and Tony are members of the 9:00am Mass choir. Doris Ann is a lector, Eucharistic minister, member of the bereavement committee, and on the cleaning crew for the church. They both have worked on the picnic and capital prize fundraisers. By their example, we can all learn to share our God given gifts to serve the needs of others.

When asked what makes St. Francis Xavier special, they quickly responded that it is the people. There is a strong sense of family in this parish. They constantly meet new people which keeps the church experience fresh and always evolving. They said that they feel appreciated and supported through good times and bad.

As in all life’s endeavors, Tony and Doris Ann stressed that you will get out of our church what you put into it. St. Francis Xavier has so much to offer, challenge yourself to discover all our great parish has to offer.



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