



The Crossroads Messenger

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

Summer 2026

Mark Your Calendar, Get Your Lucky Charm!



Super Raffle On-Line Ticket Purchases

Join the fun on Saturday, June 6, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., at St. Francis Xavier Church for an unforgettable evening packed with energy, laughter, and community spirit.

Come hungry and dive into the crowd-favorite Chicken Dinner, plus a lineup of tasty concessions that will keep everyone smiling. Feeling lucky? Spin the Cake Wheel, try your hand at Showdown Poker, take your chances

with Lucky Number Boards, and get in on the excitement with Split the Pots. Don't miss the beautiful Quilt Raffle, and be sure to explore the Gift Card and Bath & Beauty Booths for great finds and surprises.

Enjoy live classic rock from Five Below Band, bringing great music and high-energy fun to keep the night rocking! For the 21+ crowd, beer, wine, and seltzers will be available—perfect for kicking back and enjoying the evening.

Kids won't want to miss a minute of the action with games and inflatables guaranteed to keep the excitement going all night long!

And don't forget the biggest moment of the evening - the \$20,000 Super Raffle Drawing at 10:00 PM! Tickets are on sale now, and this is your chance to go home a big winner. Get your raffle tickets after all weekend masses, at the tent in the front lawn, or scan the QR code to purchase on-line.

From the first bite to the final drawing, SummerFest 2026 is where memories are made. Bring your friends, bring your family, and get ready for a night full of fun, prizes, and celebration you won't want to miss!

SummerFest

June 6, 2026

5-10PM

St. Francis Xavier Church
155 Stringer Lane, Mt. Washington, KY

Chicken Dinner & Concessions

\$20,000 Super Raffle

Wheel Games

Live Music

Kids' Games & Inflatables

Showdown Poker

Charitable Gaming Lic #ORG0001325

Lights, Camera, Action!



Father's Fingerprints

Pentecost is the grand conclusion of the Easter Mystogogy season which spans from Easter Sunday's celebration of Jesus' Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday's arrival of the Holy Spirit upon the Church. As promised, the Holy Spirit is sent by Jesus to empower the Church to bring to the world our witness of Jesus' Resurrection and New Covenant in his Blood.

This Holy Spirit empowered mission to witness has taken many forms throughout our history. Here at St. Francis Xavier, we are going to carry on this mission with the addition of some modern technology.



We have now installed a camera with which we can broadcast our Masses! This will allow us to bring our witness to our homebound, assisted living residences, college students, deployed military members and anyone else who wants to tune in. Now we will be able not only to read previous homilies but listen to them again (and invite others to listen to them). This ability to broadcast and record our celebrations will also be helpful for special services such as weddings, funerals,

and baptisms where friends and family want to participate but cannot travel to physically be present. Additionally, we will have the ability to record services such as First Communions and Confirmations for parishioners to have as keepsakes.

We intend to make this year's Pentecost Sunday Mass the inaugural broadcast of our witness with our new camera. Yet, as with every initiative of the Holy Spirit, we need people who will say "yes" to God's call to partnership. We are looking for volunteers to help us with this new ministry. Volunteers will guide the camera through its pre-set camera positions to create a smooth viewing experience during our broadcasts. No experience is needed; we will show you how to do it. Simply contact our Director of Worship, Carrie Gary (carrie.gary@sfxmw.com) and we will help you discern.

Fr. Jeff

A poster titled "Volunteers Needed!" for St. Francis Xavier Church. It features a church icon, a laptop with a "LIVE STREAM" button, and a Wi-Fi symbol. The text includes: "St. Francis Xavier Church is looking for volunteers to run the 9:00 AM MASS LIVE STREAM". It lists requirements: "Ideal for those interested in technology!" and "No prior video or broadcasting experience required! Training will be provided." It also says: "Help us continue sharing the Mass with those who can't be here in person." At the bottom, it says "INTERESTED? Reach out to Carrie Gary or call the parish office for more information." and includes the church's logo and name "ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH".



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



Deacon's Desk

Earl Baker

Listening To The Voice Of The Good Shepherd

There are many voices that we listen to on any given day. The voices of loved ones, friends and co-workers, and more. Then there's all the voices in those podcasts that we listen to. There is an unprecedented number of "voices" that reach our ears every day.

But which voice do we put our trust in?

In the Gospel of John 10:1-10, Jesus speaks of the shepherd who opens the gate and leads the sheep by name. He walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and his voice is not only trust-worthy, but it is also familiar, reassuring and distinctive to us. We can trust Jesus, our Good Shepherd, because he has laid down his life for us. As this scripture text refers, Jesus is the "gate for the sheep, and all who enter the sheepfold through him will be saved. They will come in and out and find pasture."

The sheep become familiar with the voice of their shepherd and distinguish it from others by repeated listening. The is the

key. We hear the voice of the Good Shepherd in so many ways. We hear it at the Mass in the Gospel text, but his voice is also heard throughout the day in the situations and circumstances of our lives. The question is----are we listening to his voice, that is, the promptings of the Holy Spirit? If we are, it will lead us to abundant life and true happiness. If we don't, we become lost and disoriented in the world around us.

The tech world uses the term "gatekeeper" to describe software that detects intrusive malware to keep it out of our computer hardware. In the last few lines of our Gospel today, Jesus warns us that "a thief comes only to steal, slaughter and destroy". There are some voices in the world that seek to destroy your soul. Only Jesus, the divine "gatekeeper" can protect us, and lead us out to verdant pastures where our souls can be refreshed. And for the Catholic faithful, the table of the Eucharist is one such place where we find refreshment. May we always listen to his voice.





Paula Silliman
Pastoral Associate

A Simple Invitation

If you were at the Easter Vigil this year, you likely noticed the sense of wonder that fills the church as our four were welcomed into full communion. It is a powerful moment. It is worth wondering how that journey began.

For some, it did not begin with a class or a book. It began with a person. Someone noticed them. Someone took the time to listen. Someone stayed present. And at some point, someone extended an invitation.

That is often how evangelization actually happens.

We can sometimes think of evangelization as something formal or complicated. In reality, it is usually much simpler and much more relational. It begins with noticing. We become aware of the people around us and pay attention to their lives. We recognize moments of searching, of transition, or of quiet curiosity.

When we take a genuine interest in others, not as a project, but as a person, we listen, we remember and most importantly we need to follow up.

Follow up with an invitation.

People enter OCIA not because they have everything figured out, but because someone noticed them, cared about them, accompanied them, and invited them. It may be a spouse who begins to ask questions after years of quiet witness. It may be a friend who agrees to attend Mass from time to time. It may be someone who is searching for meaning and finds a Catholic willing to take that search seriously.

The invitation itself is often simple.

It does not usually begin with a formal process. More often, it sounds like this: Come to Mass with me. Would you like to come to a parish event? These are small steps, but they matter.

Many people are hesitant to invite someone to Mass or to learn more about our catholic faith.

Part of that hesitation comes from uncertainty. We may wonder how the other person will respond or whether we will say the right thing. It helps to remember that you are not responsible for someone's yes. You are responsible for your willingness to ask.

We can look to Mary. When she was invited into God's plan, she did not have every answer or see the full path ahead. She responded with trust. In our own way, we are asked to do something similar. We offer a simple invitation and allow God to do the rest.

The truth is that many people are more open than we assume. A sincere invitation to Mass or to a parish event can be received as a genuine act of care. Even when the answer is no, the outcome is usually not as difficult as we imagine. Often it is simply a polite no thank you.

So, consider one person.

Who in your life might be open to something more? A friend, a family member, a coworker, a neighbor. Someone you can begin to pray for each day. Someone you can notice more intentionally, care for more deliberately, and accompany more patiently.

And when the time is right, extend an invitation.

Keep it simple. Keep it sincere. Trust God with the rest.

Because every journey of faith begins somewhere. And very often, it begins with a simple invitation.





The Undoing

of Babel

Miles Spalding

We are coming up on Pentecost. The tradition of Pentecost is Jewish in origin. Shavuot, the term for the Jewish Pentecost commemorates the giving of the Torah to the Jewish people. The Jewish Pentecost occurs fifty days after the second day after Passover. Pentecost has been called the undoing of Babel, where man's unified pride was humbled and his speech confused by God. On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came as on a powerful wind with tongues of fire to the apostles to go out into the world and preach the good news. He comes to us to today

Pentecost may not point to the ability to speak and understand in many tongues, but the desire to do so. And maybe the emphasis should not be placed on speaking, but on listening to the disparate voices that may help us get closer to God. Let this thought land. It is hard to learn if you are speaking. Do we allow our preconceived notions to block us from the sunlight of the Spirit? The poor have something to teach us, the immigrant has something to teach us, the old

and infirmed have something to teach us, the child has something to teach us.

Using what we learn from the Holy Spirit through active listening, perhaps we will have the strength to follow Pope Francis' entreaty that "we do not give up, but tirelessly speak of peace to those who desire war, speak of forgiveness to those who seek revenge, speak of welcome and solidarity to those who bar their doors and erect barriers, speak of life to those who choose death, to speak of respect to those who love to humiliate, insult and reject, and to speak of fidelity to those who would sever every bond." The Holy Spirit gives us the strength and "without such power, we would never be able to defeat evil on our own, nor overcome the desires of the flesh." May 19 2024, Holy Mass for Pentecost | Pope Francis

The Holy Spirit may not come to us via a powerful wind or tongues of fire, but the Spirit does challenge us daily to go out into the world to spread the good news. Do you hear the call? Happy Pentecost!



Taizé Prayer



Carrie Gary
Director of Worship

Our Parish community was blessed this Lent with a beautiful and deeply prayerful Taizé service in preparation for Holy Week. The evening was both well attended and warmly received, offering a meaningful opportunity to step away from the busyness of daily life and enter into



stillness, reflection, and quiet communion with God.

Rooted in the tradition of the Taizé Community, this style of prayer invites participants into a meditative experience through simple, repeated chants, scripture, and extended silence. Founded in France during World War II, Taizé prayer has become beloved around the world for its peaceful, contemplative nature and its ability to draw people into a deeper awareness of God's presence.

Our service began in silence, marked by the gentle ringing of a bell, calling all gathered into stillness. Throughout the evening, prayer unfolded through familiar Taizé elements: repetitive chants such as "Stay With Me" and "Ubi Caritas," the reflective proclamation of Psalm 51,

intercessions sung together, and sacred pauses of silence that allowed each person to listen and pray from the heart. The simplicity of the format created a powerful space for reflection as we prepared spiritually for the journey toward Easter.

We are grateful to Fr. Jeff for his support and encouragement in bringing this prayer experience to our parish. Special thanks as well to Billy Blake for proclaiming the prayers, and to our gifted musicians—Lori Kerr, Bryan Kerr, Derrick Reed, and Trish Reuss-Phillips—whose talents helped lead us into a spirit of reverence and peace.

Given the positive response, we look forward to offering similar Taizé services seasonally throughout the year. These gatherings provide a unique and meaningful way for our community to come together in prayer, quiet our hearts, and draw closer to God in every season.

We thank all who attended and helped make this evening such a grace-filled experience.



Love The Hungry



An Afternoon Of Service



Wende Aubrey
Engagement Coordinator

On March 22, parishioner families of St. Francis Xavier came together for a powerful day of service, partnering with Love the Hungry to make a meaningful impact. Through their collective efforts, over 21,000 meals were packaged for those most at risk of starvation.

This incredible event was made possible by the generosity of the parish community through the 2025 #iGiveCatholic campaign. Because of that support, families were able to turn their faith into action—working side by side to fight hunger and serve others less fortunate in a tangible way.

The impact of this day continues beyond the parish walls. The packaged meals are now on their way to the Orphan Grain Train, where they will be delivered to Manna from Heaven in Myra, Kentucky, bringing nourishment and hope to those in need.

Thank you to all who gave, volunteered, and helped bring this initiative to life!





A Night To Remember

A Taste Of St. Francis '26



Wende Aubrey
Engagement Coordinator

The 2026 Taste of St. Francis was a night to remember—filled with great food, lively fellowship, and incredible generosity!

More than 200 guests gathered to enjoy a delicious Italian dinner, setting the stage for an evening of fun and giving. The energy continued with a successful online auction, raising over \$6,500, while the Silent Auction, \$1 Raffles, Bourbon & Wine Pulls, and Split the Pots brought in nearly \$3,500 more.

Thanks to the amazing support of the community, enough Taste of St. Francis Raffle tickets were sold to award the full \$10,000 Grand Prize—a milestone worth celebrating! In total, the event raised over \$25,000!

From start to finish, the evening was a wonderful reflection of the generosity and spirit of St. Francis Xavier parish. Thank you to everyone who attended, donated, volunteered, and supported this fantastic event!

And the excitement doesn't stop here—plans are already underway for the Spring 2027 Event, featuring a fun and festive Casino Night theme. Get ready to try your luck and join in another unforgettable evening!





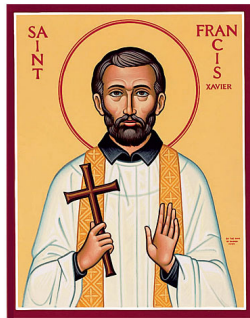
Spring Bunco Fun

On April 23rd, the Women's Club ladies sprang into action to welcome 156 BUNCO LOVIN' LADIES, and a few MEN!!! The Xavier Center looked like "Spring had Sprung!" Deacon Earl blessed those in attendance and the food before we ate. Everyone ate their fill of sandwiches, salads, appetizers and desserts! Then the dice rolled loudly and the excited voices grew even louder until you heard the scream, "BUNCO", time after time! There was plenty of FUN and EXCITEMENT, with that "special roll of the dice", along with chatting between partners, longtime friends and new friends, keeping score and having that last bite of pecan pie! To make things better, those in attendance hoped their name would be called to win an adorable door prize! The Split the Pot Ladies raced from table to table to help contestants pick that lucky card with a chance of winning some extra quick cash! At the end of play, twenty top winners picked their prize from an array of special items! Everyone was happy as they exited the Xavier Center, whether they won a prize or just enjoyed the night out. It was an evening of fun! Please mark September 10th on your calendar for the Fall Bunco excitement. We hope to see everyone again September 10th for our Fall Bunco and bring a friend!



Friends Of Saint Francis

With this issue of Crossroads Messenger, we continue our new series 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.



Miles Spalding

It is doubtful that you could spend much time at St. Francis Xavier and not cross paths with either Keith or Nina Meyer. They are active members in our parish family and key contributors to our parish's health and well-being. As our faith family gears up for SummerFest, we should thank God for the leading role that Keith and Nina are playing to bring this event about.

Keith and Nina are transplant Kentuckians, with Keith hailing from Ohio and Nina from Florida. Nina went to UK and met Keith in Cincinnati. They married in 2010. Nina is a civil engineer and Keith is a tool maker. The Meyers have been members of St. Francis Xavier for seven years.

They have three daughters, Makayla, 18, graduated this year from Bullitt East

and is going to UK to major in political science and pre-law. She just won the Pat French scholarship as a result of her activism at St. Francis Xavier! Samantha, 16, attends Bullitt East, is officer in the school's FFA group and runs cross-country. Sidney, 11, participates in archery and cross country at East Side. She is a frequent server at Mass. All three of Keith and Nina's exceptional daughters are adopted out of the foster care system. Keith and Nina are cradle Catholics and raised their daughters in the faith. Their kids have all attended religious education classes at St. Francis Xavier. They have aged out and Makayla and Samantha now teach religious education. Keith serves as the safety officer for religious education classes. As our patron St. Francis Xavier noted, it is not the greatness of works that pleases God, but the love behind them.

The Meyers center everything in their lives around their faith. They pray regularly as a family. They put their faith into action by staying active in parish life. They are greeters at Mass. This year, they are the chairpersons for the SummerFest picnic. This incredible commitment of time includes organizing the SummerFest which encompasses organizing the music, steering the various committees, assisting with the physical setup of SummerFest and helping with the Knights of Columbus dinner. This is their second year leading the SummerFest event. Like our patron St. Francis Xavier, the Meyer family shows that spiritual growth is achieved through prayer, work and humility.





Lauren Battcher
Director of Religious Education

The SFX Vacation Bible School team is getting ready for another unforgettable summer adventure! Our 2026 Vacation Bible School, “Rainforest Falls” is just around the corner, and we can’t wait to welcome children and volunteers for four exciting evenings of faith, fun, and friendship!

VBS will take place on campus on June 15-18 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., and is open to children ages 4 through those entering 6th grade in the 2026–2027 school year. Each evening, students will journey into the vibrant world of Rainforest Falls, where they’ll discover more about God’s character through engaging, hands-on experiences.

Guided by their crew leaders, children will rotate through a variety of interactive stations designed to bring faith to life:

Bible Adventures – where Bible stories come alive in memorable and meaningful ways

Imagination Station – where exciting science experiments connect to God’s Word

Sticky Scripture – where kids will explore the book of Psalms and receive their own take-home copy

Games – filled with high-energy fun that kids always love

Snack & Sing – featuring themed treats and uplifting songs complete with motions and praise

While VBS is an incredible experience for kids, it wouldn’t be possible without the support of dedicated volunteers. With around 100 students expected to participate, we need many helping hands! We specifically need volunteers - both adults and teens - to serve as Crew Leaders - Crew leaders work in pairs to guide small groups of children through each station. No lesson planning is required—just a willingness to encourage, engage, and enjoy the experience alongside the kids as our Station Leaders lead the activities. We could also use help with set design and decorations... transforming SFX into the Amazon rainforest will be no easy task!

Registration is now open for both students and volunteers on the church website. We encourage you to sign up early, invite friends and neighbors, and help us spread the word! If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Lauren Battcher, our VBS Director.

Join us as we explore the wonder of God’s creation and grow in faith together at Rainforest Falls—we hope to see you there!

Register now for this summer’s great adventure!

Kids in preK (age 4) through incoming 6th graders are invited to swing into Rainforest Falls VBS, this summer’s fun and faith-filled adventure! Under the jungle canopy, kids will explore God’s love through music, games, crafts, and wild rainforest adventures they’ll never forget!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
St. Francis Xavier Church
155 Stringer Lane, Mt. Washington
June 15-18 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Cost is \$10/child (payment due with registration).
Registration is required to ensure we have enough materials for all participants!

Scan the QR code above to register or volunteer!
Questions? Email Lauren Battcher (Director)
lauren.battcher@sfxmw.com.

