

CHURCH OF SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER

in the Diocese of Belleville

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M—Th: 9am—3pm

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Pastor: Father Robert B. Flannery

Pastoral Associate: Sister Barbara Blesse, OP

Director of Religious Education: Sister Barbara Blesse, OP

Secretary: Marilyn Bush

Bookkeeper: Jeff Chmiola

Choir Director: Arlene Transue

Musicians: Jamal Kinchen, Paul Transue, Joyce Hesketh

Custodian: Nic Duran



Newman

Catholic Student Center

serving SIU Carbondale and John A. Logan College

715 S. Washington Street, Carbondale, Illinois 62901

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M—Th: 9am—4pm

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Olivia Canavan, olivia@siucnewman.org

Custodian: Nic Duran

Sacramental Life



Baptism preparation is required for parents and godparents, preferably before the birth of the child.



Marriage preparation is required for every Catholic planning to get married—regardless of where or to whom. Please contact Fr. Bob **at least** nine months before the wedding to be made aware of proper guidelines.



Reconciliation is normally celebrated at Saint Francis Xavier on Saturday from 4:30-5:00pm and at the Newman Center on Tuesday after 5:15pm Mass.

Mass SCHEDULE

Saint Francis Xavier

Saturday 5:30pm; Sunday 9:00am (with Child Care and Kiddies Bible) & 12:15pm (Spanish)

Monday 12:15pm; Friday 5:30pm

Newman Center

Sunday 11:15am & (when SIU is in session) 5:15pm

Tuesday, and Thursday at 5:15pm

Wednesday, 9:00 am

Saint Andrew Church (618-687-2012)

724 Mulberry Street, Murphysboro, IL

Mass on Saturday 5:30pm & Sunday 11:00am

Saint Andrew Parish School (618-687-2013)

723 Mulberry Street, Murphysboro, IL



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 14, 2021

**Welcome, New Parishioners
and New Students!**
Please register.

Thoughts FROM...

Happy fourth Sunday of Lent! We're over halfway through Lent so I wanted to take a moment to challenge you to reflect on your Lenten sacrifice. How can you be better these next few weeks to help your heart prepare for the Easter season?

In the readings today, we read about God's endless compassion and desire to save his people. In the first reading, God sent messengers to his people to warn them and encourage them to change. The Lord's messengers were mocked, the Temple ended up being destroyed, and the Israelites were exiled to Babylon. But the LORD did not abandon his people despite their evil ways. He saved them from Babylon, led them back to Israel and remained true to them.

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, we also read about God's mercy and great love for us. God, "even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ." An unworthy redemption just like in the Old Testament with the Israelites. God's compassion, love, and mercy are so great that he can't help but to save us even we have done absolutely everything wrong. How beautiful is this statement from Paul, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God." The most perfect gift, a gift we get to choose to receive every single day. But what do we do with this gift? Paul goes

on to write, "for we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance that we should live in them." What has God prepared you for today? Who are you being called to love? How are you being called to serve? How is Christ asking you to grow closer to him?

The Gospel reading is the perfect ending to our readings today. We read about God's compassion in the first reading, his great love in the second reading and now we read about the extent of his love for us in the Gospel. "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." Can we wrap our minds around a love so extreme? Imagine sending your only child, who is infinitely perfect, to be sacrificed...no crucified, to save those who are let's say not even the slightest bit close to perfect.

I challenge you this week to reflect on God's love for you. I think we take his love for granted and often go about our day forgetting about how perfectly loved we are. Is there any extra sacrifice you can make this week in thanksgiving for God's love? Is there someone you need to reconcile with to feel/show God's love to another? Spend some time in prayer and thank God for his endless compassion, mercy, and love!

Jenette



Bible READINGS

Readings for the week of March 14, 2021

Sunday:	2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [6ab]/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21 or
Monday:	Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b [2a]/Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday:	Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 [8]/Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday:	Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 [8a]/Jn 5:17-30
Thursday:	Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Jn 5:31-47
Friday:	2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [37]/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/ Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Saturday:	Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/Jn 7:40-53
Next Sunday:	Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 [12a]/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33

Respect Life Corner- "For God did not send His son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him." In the holy Gospel according to John, 3:14-21, the Gospel of Truth highlights the promise of God's love and the suffering and darkness that transforms it into life giving salvation for the world. By gazing on a crucifix of Christ crucified, we are reminded that we are freed from a death we deserve. Instead, we are called into the light of God's love and made new. May we die to ourselves this Lenten season, so that we too may be made whole and rise with Him. **Learn, Act, Connect and Pray-**Sunday is the Lord's day with the Eucharist at the heart of the Church; many graces are received by attending Mass. Who in your life has fallen away from the faith? In supportive prayer, offer for them to attend Mass with you or help them find a Mass online and pray that they too feel the peace and joy of having a relationship with Christ, experiencing the love He has for us all.



Dear Parish FAMILY

Let us all *rejoice* as we celebrate together Laetare Sunday, the **Fourth Sunday of Lent!** The Latin word, *Laetare*, means rejoice, and we do indeed rejoice together as we our Lenten Journey is now more than half-way over as we approach the Easter Triduum beginning Holy Thursday, April 1st, Good Friday, April 2nd, and ending with the Easter-Vigil on Saturday, April 3rd, and Easter Sunday, April 4th. It's still not too late to invest more fully in the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

This weekend our Parish School of Religion students and those from our parish who attend Saint Andrew Catholic School celebrated their **First Reconciliation** along with their family members. Since we will have no Lenten Penance Service this year due to the pandemic restrictions, confessions will be heard during the remainder of Lent after the weekday Masses and from 4:30 pm to 5 pm on Saturdays.

You may have heard by now that on Tuesday, March 2nd and 3rd, several people at the Newman Center tested positive for COVID-19. Due to that fact, the Newman Center has been closed during the past weekdays for activities including the Masses, which were held here at Saint Francis Xavier at the regular Mass times. All the people infected and those they were in contact with, have been quarantined during this time by the Jackson County Health Department and will be released from quarantine this Monday, March 15th. Activities and Masses will therefore resume at Newman as usual. Please pray for them and especially for those who were actually infected.

This incident is an important reminder for each of us to closely follow the coronavirus protocols during our on-going pandemic: sanitize hands when entering the worship space and approaching the communion line; social distance in church and elsewhere when with people you do not live with; wear a mask properly at Mass and, whenever within six feet of other non-family-type individuals, wear a mask and observe social distancing six feet apart; finally, wash hands frequently. We must not let our guard down. Finally, as the Diocese requires, please register on the Newman Center website or at the office at Saint Francis Xavier so that a record can be kept for contact purposes in case someone tests positive for the virus. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated as we do what we can to be safe and keep safe. Generally, we are doing a good job, but sometimes are becoming lax in our observance of the protocols.

For your information, I have received both of my vaccine shots as of six weeks ago. All the parish staff at Saint Francis Xavier have received at least one or two of the **COVID vaccinations**. I strongly encourage people to take the shots when available to them. The Vatican also encourages vaccination as well, not only to protect oneself, but also as an act of charity for the common good. All the vaccines to date are approved by the Vatican, including the recent Johnson and Johnson. The Vatican determined that *"it is morally acceptable to receive COVID-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetuses in their research and production process"* and that *"all vaccines recognized as clinically safe and effective can be used in good conscience."* Though Pope Francis and his advisers stopped short of saying that getting the vaccine is a moral obligation, they did note that *"the morality of vaccination depends not only on the duty to protect one's own health, but also on the duty to pursue the common good."*

Pope Francis declared several months ago that this year is **The Year of Saint Joseph** as it is the 150th Anniversary of the Church being dedicated to Saint Joseph, patron of the Church. The Feast day is a Solemnity and as is such for all solemnities that falls on a Friday during Lent, the obligation to fast and abstain is negated. **Therefore, we can all eat meat on this coming Friday, March 19th**, Saint Joseph Day. Also, **Happy Saint Patrick's Day, March 17th!!** Try to wear some green and have some corned beef!

God's peace,
Fr. Bob
Pastor/Chaplain



Happenings Sr. Barbara Blesse

This weekend we remember to pray with and for the children of our parish (Grades 3-8) who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Saturday, March 13. We also express our gratitude to their parents and their catechist Nancy Compton who have shepherded them through the process to readiness.



Reconcile... the Lenten word chosen for our parish this year...printed boldly on wearable buttons and yard signs...and imprinted intentionally within our individual hearts. It is meant to motivate our efforts to be more aware of the depth and the quality of our relationships with God, ourselves, each other and the planet where we live. I'd like to share a personal thought on this powerful word.

Several years ago I attended a lecture presented by Father Robert Schreiter, C.P.P.S., professor of theology at Catholic Theological Union. At that point Bob had been called occasionally to serve as a consultant in countries whose people were attempting to address deep seated differences that over the years had driven them apart, even to the point of civil war. Mention of forgiveness blended quite naturally into Bob's treatment of how people reconcile. He referenced Luke 23:34 where, nailed to the cross, Jesus cried out: "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." Then Bob pointed out for us that Jesus isn't quoted as saying, "I forgive" but rather he prayed: "Father, forgive...." Could it have been that Jesus wasn't quite ready to move to full forgiveness at the precise moment when he was suffering so greatly? He needed his Father's assistance.

On a human level it sometimes requires a humongous amount of effort to move to full forgiveness immediately. Full forgiveness is the Christian ideal but that it can happen instantaneously is an unrealistic illusion. God honors the desire of our human hearts manifested by our prayerful and actual efforts to reach the ideal. God understands all underlying circumstances. And God offers the grace needed. Perhaps it's important for us to be patient with ourselves as the process of moving to forgiveness unfolds. We keep choosing to move in that direction, remembering always that God is with us and will provide assistance.



Mass INTENTIONS

Saturday **March 13, Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Lent**
 5:30 PM Our Parish Family

Sunday **March 14, Fourth Sunday of Lent**
 9:00 AM Carl Mitchell
 11:15 AM Mass at Newman Center
 12:15 PM Spanish Mass
 5:15 PM Mass at Newman Center

Monday **March 15, Lenten Weekday**
 12:15 PM Patricia Vishio

Tuesday, **March 16, Lenten Weekday**
 5:15 PM Mass at Newman Center

Wednesday, **March 17, Lenten Weekday**
 9:00 AM For the Sick—Mass at Newman Center

Thursday **March 18, Lenten Weekday**
 5:15 PM Mass at Newman Center

Friday, **March 19, Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
 5:30 PM No Intention

Saturday **March 20, Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Lent**
 5:30 PM Patricia Balsano
 Our Parish Family

Sunday **March 21, Fifth Sunday of Lent**
 9:00 AM Dan Mulligan
 11:15 AM Mass at Newman Center
 12:15 PM Spanish Mass
 5:15 PM Mass at Newman Center



Prayer INTENTIONS

All that you ask for in prayer, believe that you will receive it and it shall be yours (Mark 11:24).

Newman CENTER: Please join us in prayer for Fred Marsh, Rebecca Cerven, Coleen McGrain, Brian Bruce, Mark Cornell, George and Carol Timson, Terry Silas, Antonio Henrique, the Newman Auxiliary, the Knights of Columbus, and all in our community in need of prayer. To add a name call 529-3311.

Saint Francis XAVIER: Wednesday is designated as a Day of Prayer for the sick and hospitalized parishioners and their families. Please remember: Jim Merkle, Mary Beckerer, Jeanine Maloney, Kimberly Murray, Jamie Yancy, Carmen Merod, Austin Chew, Richard Walsh, Marie Ice, Barb Grace, Jack Riley, Tracy Hall, Sheffield Boardman, Matt Murphy, Andrezej Mietelski, Harper Smith, John Huffman, Carolyn Huffman, Julia James, Douglas Laczynski, Jim Tarr, Audra Harrison, Howard W. Hesketh, Kay BA., Jesse Weaver, Diana Chervinko, Pat Volk, Helen McCormick, Pat Waters, Sarah Hefferman, Frank Smith, Rebecca Hernandez, Tristin Dooley, Shirley Reimbold, Marge Huffman, Steve Galt, Savy Knight, Gary Tretter, Lee Hartman, Harry Schauwecker, Patricia Broemmel, Marilyn Kilby, Father Joe Rascher, Bill and Linda Tolliver, Charles Lightfoot, Fr. Gary Gummersheimer, Ethan and Sara Hosmon, Mary Nell Chew, Sally Varsa, Thomas Margolis, Don Dougherty, Theresa Saporoschenko, John McCarthy, Jean McCarthy, Frances White, Michael Bracy, Sr. Barbara Blesse, OP, and all those in need of our prayers.

If you or anyone in your family is hospitalized, please let the parish office know so Father Bob can visit and administer the Anointing of the Sick.



Weekly OFFERING

Your gifts to God & parish
 Contributions for the weekend of February 27 & 28, 2021

Income received: \$5,980.14

Vocations CORNER

This week is the feast of St. Joseph. “When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him.” (Matt 1:24) “It was grace that moved Joseph to embrace his vocation as the guardian of Israel’s Messiah. It’s the same grace that empowers us to accept God’s call and wisdom for our lives. Joseph’s yes in faith changed the world. God also has a plan for your life. You don’t know where your yes might lead and how God might use it. Ask Joseph to help. Then, like Joseph, go out in faith to be a “doer of the word” (James 1:2d2d).” (The Word Among Us)



Liturgical MINISTERS

For the Weekend of March 20 & 21, 2021

Minister of the Word: Scott Thorne
 Minister of Hospitality: Mary Mechler
 Communion Assistant: Sandy Warhausen

Sunday, 9:00 AM
 Minister of the Word: Bob Drone
 Minister of Hospitality: Jimmy Karayiannis
 Communion Assistant: Julie Draper



Weekly EVENTS

at St. Francis Xavier

at Newman Center

Sunday, March 14	
<p>9:00 am Mass (NO Babysitting in Xavier Hall) 12:15 pm Spanish Mass</p>	<p>11:15am Mass 5:15 pm Mass</p>
Monday, March 15	
<p>Office Open 9am-3pm 12:15 pm Mass and Holy Hour</p>	<p>Office Open 9am-4pm</p>
Tuesday, March 16	
<p>Office Open 9am-3pm 10:30 am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>Office Open 9am-4pm 6am Men's rosary 5:15pm Mass, Holy Hour, Reconciliation 7:30 pm JustFaith Group (at Newman) 8pm Men's Group</p>
Wednesday, March 17	
<p>Office Open 9am-3pm</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>Office Open 9am-4pm 9:00am Mass 7:30 pm Women's Small Group 7:30pm Grad Student Group</p>
Thursday, March 18	
<p>Office Open 9am-3pm</p>	<p>Office Open 9am-4pm 6:30am Student Women's Group 4pm-5pm Adoration 5:15pm Mass 6pm Student Dinner</p>
Friday, March 19	
<p>Office Closed 12:15 pm Stations of the Cross 5:30 pm Mass</p>	<p>Office Open 9am-4pm 4:30pm Stations of the Cross</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
Saturday, March 20	
<p>Office Closed 5:30 pm Mass</p>	<p>Office Closed</p>
Sunday, March 21	
<p>9:00 am Mass (NO Babysitting in Xavier Hall) 12:15 pm Spanish Mass</p>	<p>11:15am Mass 5:15pm Mass</p>

Examination of Conscience based on the Confiteor

I confess to Almighty God

Do I sincerely want to be set free from sin and turn again to God?

Do I seek a deeper relationship with God in this sacrament of reconciliation?

And to you my brothers and sisters

Do I have a genuine love for my family and friends, neighbors and co-workers, or fellow students?

Have I contributed to the well being and happiness of others at home?

Am I aware of my global relationship to those suffering and dying in other parts of the world?

Am I committed to seek peace and promote justice for every person?

That I have sinned through my own fault

Do I blame others for my wrongdoing or for the misfortune that befalls me?

Do I accept responsibility for my commitments I have made to others - my spouse, my parents, my children, my parish?

Do I accept that society's evils are within my power to change?

In my thought and in my words

Have I ever harbored ill thought against another person?

Have my addictions affected my judgment or behavior?

Have my fears or prejudices prevented me from speaking out on behalf of the poor, the unborn, or people of other races?

Have my words caused others hurt? Has my silence caused others harm?

In what I have done

Do I seek to be the center of attention? Have I imposed my will on others without respecting their needs or freedoms?

Am I focused on my needs to the detriment of the needs of others?

Am I obsessed with having the perfect body, making more money, or having the latest technology?

Do I need to be in control of all people and all situations?

Do I work more than is healthy for my mind or body?

In what I have failed to do

Have I neglected my responsibilities to my family?

Have I neglected my health?

Have I neglected my prayer life?

Do I use the earth's resources wisely?

And I ask Blessed Mary, ever virgin and all the saints

Do I appreciate the gift of the Eucharist?

Do I worship with my community each Sunday?

Do I reflect on what God is calling me to do?

And you my brothers and sisters

Do I fail to ask for help or let others assist me?

Do I support and defend other members of my family?

Do I give others the opportunity to share their gifts and talents?

Do I treat those who wait on me or who work with me the dignity they deserve as fellow human beings?

To pray for me to the Lord our God

Do I promise prayers for people and situations and not follow through?

Do I remember to pray for others in my parish, especially for those who are preparing to receive the sacraments?

Do I pray for the living and the dead?

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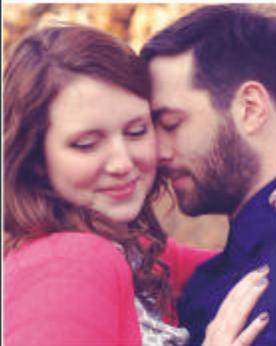
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