



St. Francis Xavier

CATHOLIC CHURCH

◆ Seeking Christ Together ◆

2 Xavier Circle, Birmingham, AL | 205-871-1153 | www.sfxbirmingham.com

December 6, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent

Very Rev. Joseph Culotta, V.C., *Pastor*
 Rev. Brad Jantz, *Associate Pastor*
 Sr. Janet Marie Flemming, O.S.B., *Pastoral Assoc.*
 Deacon G. Neal Kay, M.D., *Permanent Deacon*
 Very Rev. Gregory Bittner, J.C.L., *In Residence*

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
 Friday 9:00 am to 12 Noon

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

MASS TIMES

Monday 8:00 am
 Tuesday 8:00 am
 Wednesday 9:00 am
 Thursday 8:00 am
 Friday 8:00 am
 Saturday 4:30 pm
 Sunday 8:30 am, 11:00 am & 5:00 pm

MISA EN ESPAÑOL

Domingo 1:00 pm
 Martes 7:00 pm

HOLY DAY SCHEDULE

Check the bulletin for Mass times.

MEMORIAL MASS

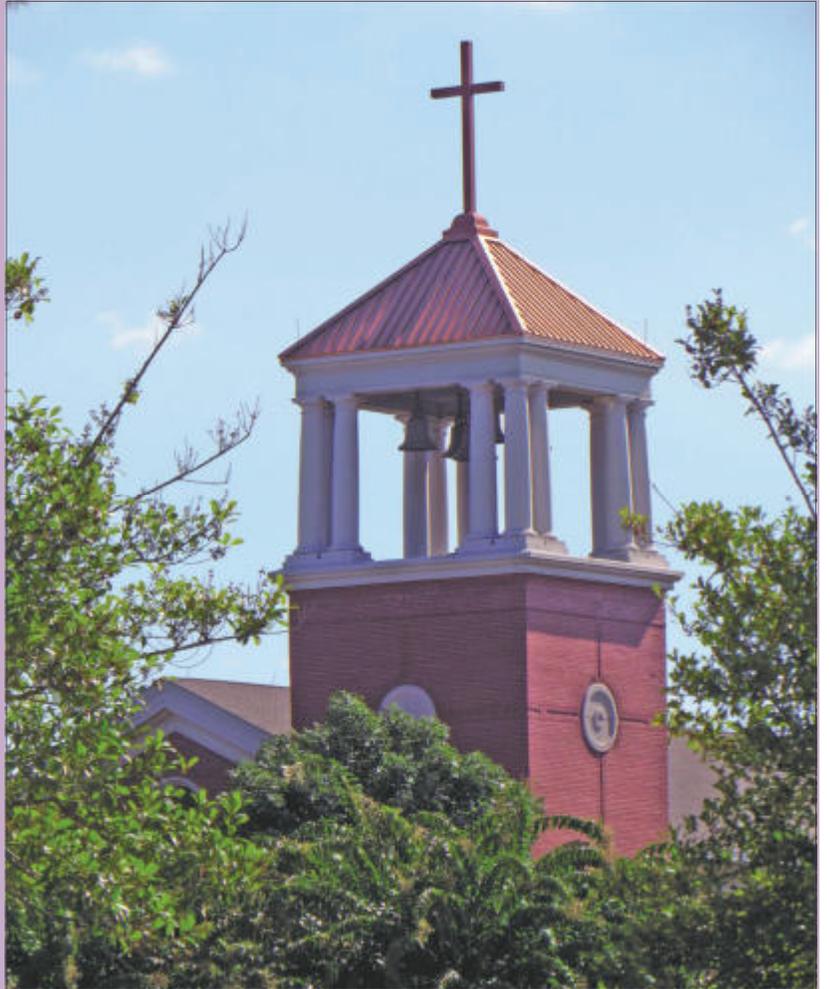
First Thursday 5:30 pm

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

First Friday 8:30 am–5:00 pm
 First Tuesday 7:30 pm–8:30 pm in Spanish

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:00–4:00 pm or by appointment



PARISH MEMBERSHIP

All families and individuals are welcome at St. Francis Xavier Church. Parish registration forms are located in the vestibule of the church, in the Parish Office, and on our website.

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the faith family of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, empowered by the Holy Spirit and strengthened by Prayer, Sacraments and the Word, are pilgrim people striving to become faithful and committed followers of Jesus Christ.

In response to our Gospel call, we seek to be a viable and welcoming community which ministers to the People of God through responsible stewardship of our time, talent and treasure.

Adopted by the Pastoral Council ~ January 23, 2006

Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And with your Spirit.

Penitential Act

Invocation...

Lord, have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

Invocation...

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Invocation...

Lord, have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

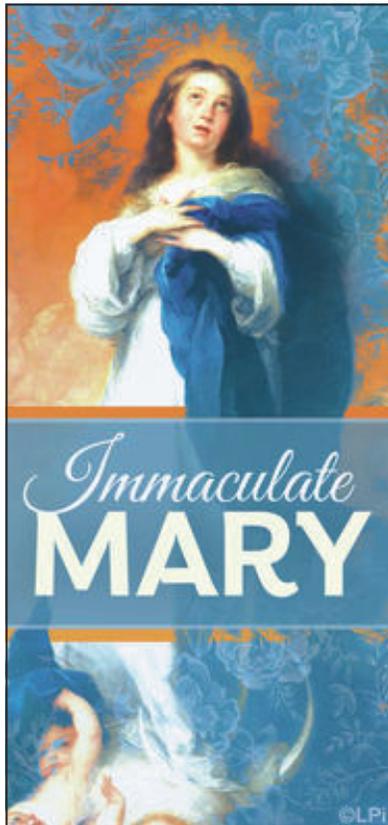
Mass Schedule

**Monday,
December 7**

5:30pm - Vigil
Mass

**Tuesday,
December 8**

9:00am;
7:00pm (Spanish)



First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

Comfort, give comfort to my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her
that her service is at an end,
her guilt is expiated;
indeed, she has received from the hand of the Lord
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

In the desert prepare the way of the Lord!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our
God!

Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill shall be made low;
the rugged land shall be made a plain,
the rough country, a broad valley.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Go up on to a high mountain,
Zion, herald of glad tidings;
cry out at the top of your voice,
Jerusalem, herald of good news!

Fear not to cry out
and say to the cities of Judah:
Here is your God!

Here comes with power
the Lord God,
who rules by his strong arm;
here is his reward with him,
his recompense before him.

Like a shepherd he feeds his flock;
in his arms he gathers the lambs,
carrying them in his bosom,
and leading the ewes with care.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Due to the pandemic, we did not order new Today's Missals for the new church year (2021). If you would like to receive the daily readings you may go to <https://bible.usccb.org>.

Once you click on that link there is an option to "Get Daily Readings E-mails". They will come to your email address each day.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 85

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what God proclaims;
the Lord—for he proclaims peace to his people.
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him,
glory dwelling in our land.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Kindness and truth shall meet;
justice and peace shall kiss.
Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

The Lord himself will give his benefits;
our land shall yield its increase.
Justice shall walk before him,
and prepare the way of his steps.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Please remember to follow our guidelines for attending Mass at St. Francis Xavier:

- Masks must be worn
- We must stay six feet apart (unless you are a family unit)
- Some pews have been roped off, please do not remove the ropes
- NO physical exchange of the sign of peace
- Communion will be received ONLY on the hand, not on the tongue
- Face masks must be lowered before receiving Holy Communion. If you wear gloves, they must be removed to receive Communion
- Please exit the church beginning with the back pews, followed by the middle and finally the front pews. DO NOT congregate in the vestibule or nave of the church

Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-14

A reading from the Second Letter of Peter.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.

Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight his paths;
all flesh shall see the
salvation of God.

Lk 3:4, 6

**R. Alleluia,
alleluia.**



Gospel Reading

Mark 1:1-8

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Glory to you, O Lord.

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

*Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way.
A voice of one crying out in the desert:
“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.”*

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY



Profession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of Heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ,
His only Son Our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into Hell;
the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into Heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God,
the Father almighty;
from there He will come
to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.
Amen.

ADVENT PENANCE



St Francis Xavier will be offering
the following opportunities for
Advent Penance:

Monday, December 14
7:00pm - 9:00pm
6 priests available

Sunday, December 20
3:00pm - 5:00pm
2 priests available

Prayer of the Faithful

Response:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Preparation of the Gifts

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right and just.

The priest continues with the Preface.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Mystery of Faith

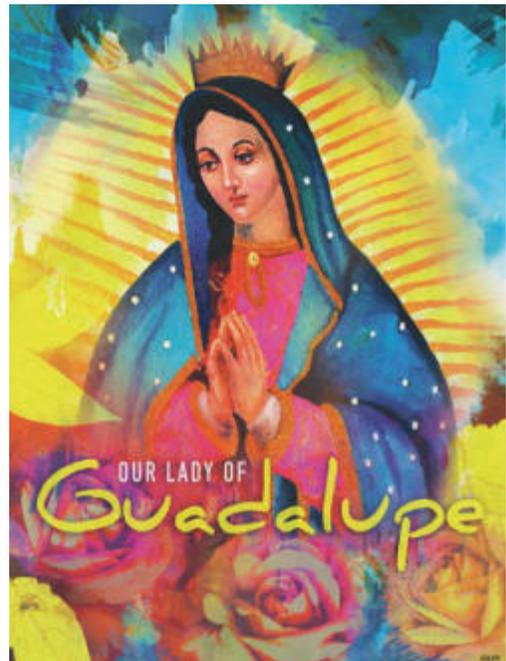
We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your
Resurrection until you come again.

The Communion Rite

Our Father, Who art in Heaven,
hallowed be Thy name;
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done
on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

Sign of Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And with your spirit.

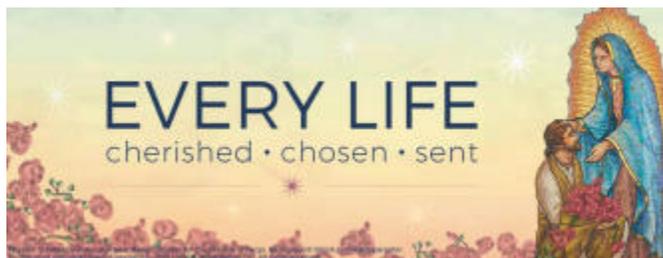


Breaking of the Bread

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.



Communion

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
**Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.**

Dismissal

Go in peace.
Thanks be to God.

Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition (c) 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970*

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BELOVED FORMER EMPLOYEE

Willie Mae Thomas, former long-time employee of St. Francis Xavier, passed away on Sunday, November 15th.

Willie Mae worked as the rectory cook for many years. She retired in the mid 90's. Some of you may remember stopping by the rectory and having one of her delicious oatmeal cookies.



HELP US HONOR OUR ST FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL ALUMNI

St. Francis Xavier School is proud to announce the dedication of the school's new Alumni Recognition Awards program in honor of Father Bob Sullivan, a 1978 alumnus of the school who recently completed his thirteen-year tenure as pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Birmingham. The St. Francis Xavier School Advisory Board announced the dedication of the awards program at the school's Mass on Wednesday, October 14, 2020.



The Reverend Robert J. Sullivan Alumni Recognition Awards program recognizes St. Francis Xavier School alumni who have excelled in academic and professional endeavors and who have made significant contributions to their community. Recipients will be selected for each decade in which the school has operated (1954 – 2020). Nominations will be accepted between October 26, 2020 and December 15, 2020 and can be submitted through the link below. For further information concerning the program or the nomination process, please contact the school at (205) 871-1687.



Worship & Prayer

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Fr. Henry McDaid, Nick Ash, John Bass, Joe Bischoff, Marshall Buford, Jane Byrne, Jean Carnaggio, Vincent Carnaggio, Richard Choat, Gail Clark, Frank Connery, Judy Coppage, Mike Coppage, Marye Ann D'Alessandro, Maxine Dacumos, Roland Day, Bob Doody, Steve Earwood, Chris Ellard, Jim Elrod, Betty Ann Faerber, Trina Feig, Michael Finocchio, Kay Frierson, Romaine Gaffney, Penny Gagliano, Paulette Gary, Aloysius Golden, Richard Greene, Claudia Guarino, Carol Henshaw, Barbara Lee Herman, Paul Hewitt, Joe Hinnegan, Chuck Hodge, Jamie Hudlow, Martha Jacobs, David Knall, DeLanne Ledbetter, Suzanne Long, Marie Lorino, Mia Lorino, Linda Mangina, Philip Mangina, Barbara Maxwell, Julie McAleer Martin, Eric Niemann, David Osinski, Perry Peterson, James Henry Porter-Walston, Betty Price, Catherine Pritchard, David Rockett, Sophia Rohling, Phyllis Scalici, Cindy Schultz, Juliana Sears, Lawrence Serio, Fe Smith, Rubina Valencia, Pete Williams, Jack Wooten, Jan Wooten, Wes Wurdel

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, December 7

8:00 am Antoinette Schilleci † (Fr. Joe)
5:30 pm For the Parish (Fr. Joe)

Tuesday, December 8

8:00 am Cathy Deering (Fr. Joe)
7:00 pm Hal Thomas † (Fr. Brad)

Wednesday, December 9

9:00 am DeAnn Kaplan † (Fr. Brad)

Thursday, December 10

8:00 am Howard Mann † (Fr. Joe)

Friday, December 11

8:00 am Eddie Davis † (Fr. Brad)

Saturday, December 12

4:30 pm Peter Tuong Nguyen (Fr. Joe)

Sunday, December 13

8:30 am Lucia Mickwee † (Fr. Brad)
11:00 am Anelia Howard † (Fr. Joe)
1:00 pm For the Parish (Fr. Brad)
5:00 pm Margaret Tolle † (Fr. Joe)

MASS CARDS

The Church considers the Mass the greatest possible prayer of intercession because it is the perfect offering of Christ to the Father by making present the Paschal Mystery of His death and resurrection. Masses may be offered for any person, living or deceased and can be requested by calling the Parish Office at 205-871-1153.



HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS

Whether you are temporarily or permanently homebound because of illness or Covid-19 precautions, please let us know. We want to stay in touch with you.



Father Culotta will schedule Anointing of the Sick visits with those of you who feel comfortable having him in your home.

Please contact Sister Sara Burress, OSB in the parish office, 205-803-5414.

WEDDING BANNES

December 19, 2020

Lauren Theiss &
Michael Flemming Gleason



PRAYERS FOR OUR BELOVED DECEASED

Herbert Jernigan,
Father of Herb Jernigan and grandfather of Thomas and Lauren Jernigan

THE MAGIS FUND

In the Spring of 2013, the Magis Fund was established to strengthen the continuance of Catholic education for families at St. Francis Xavier School. The **Magis Fund** assists those families and students, outside the normal financial aid process, who, due to change in circumstances beyond their control, are presented with an emergency need for financial assistance. The Fund provides assistance for students whose circumstances might otherwise force them to leave our school and lose the support of a caring, loving and Christian environment. Individuals are encouraged to donate to this important fund by calling the church office.

ONLINE GIVING

We offer online giving and text to give for your convenience! To use text to give, simply send a text to 205-390-2739. There is a one time set up. To give online, go to sfxbirmingham.com and click "Online Giving & Text To Give". Be assured that we meet the highest industry standards known as PCI as all information is encrypted the moment it is entered into the system.



"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10

LEGACY GIVING

Ensure the future of St. Francis Xavier Church and School. Please remember the church and school in your will and let us know when you do. For more information on Legacy Giving options, please speak with our pastor..

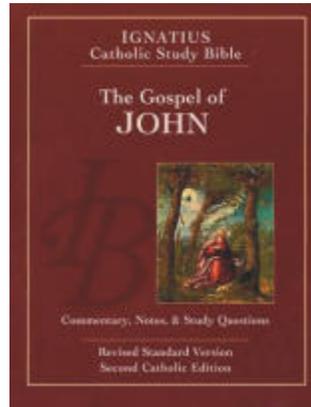


Parish Events

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship is studying The Gospel of John on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. via Zoom.

The study will be from the Ignatius Study Bible of the Gospel of John. Everyone is invited to join the group study. Women's Fellowship is a great way to meet fellow parishioners whom you have seen in the pews, but maybe never met. This is a diverse group of ladies with a common desire for faith enrichment. Come join us.



If you are new to Zoom contact Marianne Sharbel and she will try to help you connect. Contact Marianne for a Zoom invitation and information on obtaining the book.

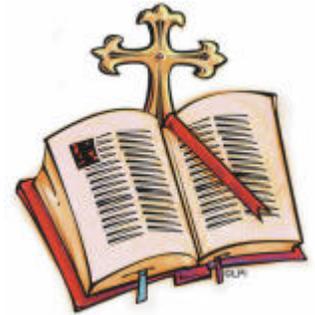
mbs41@bellsouth.net OR 205-879-8188

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's Fellowship Group meets every Wednesday at 7:00am Central via Zoom.

Topic: Upcoming Sunday's Advent Readings

The St. Francis Xavier Men's Fellowship is a multi-parish community of men dedicated to strengthening our Catholic faith and presence through prayer and the sharing of our real life experiences with one another in an environment of spirituality and mutual trust.



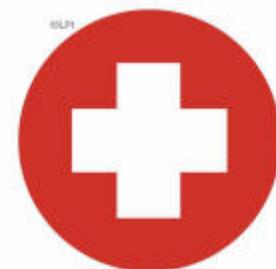
Please contact Tom Brinkley for a Zoom invitation and Information:

tbrinkley@maynardcooper.com or 205-254-1078

ST FRANCIS XAVIER BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, December 15
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
St Francis Xavier Parish Hall

For an appointment, please visit
RedCrossBlood.org
and use sponsor keyword
"Saint"
Or call 1-800-RED-CROSS



BLOOD DONATION
BE A HERO GIVE BLOOD

R.C.I.A. begins on Wednesday evening at 7 PM in the Parish Hall.

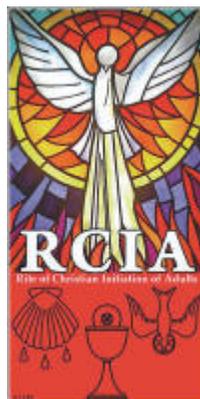
We will follow physical distancing, and all must wear masks.

Please notify Sister Janet Marie in the Parish Office if you are planning on attending so that proper planning can take place.

RCIA

The Spirit of God is continuing to move among us and touch the hearts of those God is inviting to find out more about the Catholic Church and the richness of our traditions. RCIA will continue to journey with those who are interested in knowing more about the Church.

If you or anyone you know are interested in knowing more about the Catholic Church and RCIA, please contact Sister Janet Marie, OSB at 205-803-5427 or sjmflemming@sfxbirmingham.com.



Youth Ministry



YOUTH GROUP



FORMING YOUNG LEADERS TO BECOME
LIFELONG DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 | 6:00-8:00 P.M.
GRADES 9-12 | FAITH & FILM: WALL-E
PLAYGROUND OR MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM (IF RAINING OR VERY COLD)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7 | 6:00-8:00 P.M.
GRADES 6-8 | WIRES & ROBOTICS: BEYOND WIRES & ROBOTICS
PLAYGROUND OR MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM (IF RAINING OR VERY COLD)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

P.S.R. FIRST RECONCILIATION FIRST COMMUNION CONFIRMATION
(4K-8TH GRADE)



CHECK OUT THE P.S.R.
ADVENT PAGE ON THE
CHURCH WEBSITE FOR
THE ADVENT LESSONS
AND ACTIVITIES!

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR HELP FILLING
STOCKINGS FOR THE
CATHOLIC
CENTER OF CONCERN!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CHILDREN 4K-5TH GRADE ARE
INVITED TO

Children's Ministry!

Come learn
about Advent
and how we
get ready for
Christ to come



WEDNESDAY, DEC. 9TH
5:30-7PM
PARISH HALL

DINNER PROVIDED. MASKS REQUIRED

PLEASE LET ME KNOW YOU'RE COMING!
EMAIL CHILDREN@SFXBIRMINGHAM.COM

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER



Our community celebrated the feast day of our patron, St. Francis Xavier, on Thursday, December 3.

St. Francis Xavier was a Spanish Jesuit who lived as a missionary in the 1500's. He was one of the first seven members of the Jesuit order and travelled extensively, particularly in India, Southeast Asia, and Japan, to share the faith. He died on December 3, 1552.

He is the patron saint of the Catholic missions..



Parish News

JOHN CARROLL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Come and see us this December!

John Carroll Catholic High School is currently scheduling tours and student Shadow Days for the month of December!

8th graders and prospective transfer students are invited to Experience the Value of a John Carroll Education!

Contact: Tina Wos, Admissions Director, to schedule your tour or Shadow Day! twos@jcchs.org or 205-940-2400.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL 2020

If you would like to contribute to the floral arrangements for the Christmas season, you may access the order form at sfxbirmingham.com.

Christmas Memorial Honorees and Donors will be published in the Christmas, December 25/27 bulletin.



The deadline for submissions is Tuesday, December 15th.

BLESSED TRINITY SHRINE

**Advent Morning of Reflection,
Is Jesus with us in the boat this year?**

Wednesday, December 16th: 9:30-11:30am EST

Presenters: Sr. Nancy Walsh, MSBT and Sr. Chris Wiltrakis, MSBT. Both sister are members of the Trinity Ministries Team in diocese of Savannah, Georgia

Fee: Free Will Offering

To register:

Please contact Sr. Gail Lambert, MSBT, the BTR sponsored retreat organizer. You may reach her by phone at 334-855-4474 or email gail@msbt.org.



FILIPINO/AMERICAN COMMUNITY

The 6th ANNUAL SIMBANG GABI NOVENA 2020 will be at St. Stephen Catholic Chapel
1515 12th Avenue South,
Birmingham AL 35205

on

December 16-24, 2020 AT 7:00 pm
(except on Sunday, December 20)
at 10:00 am

and also on Monday, December 21 at 6:00 pm.

For more information please email or call Gabriel Sapalaran (Director, Simbang Gabi 2019) at gsapalaran88@gmail.com and (205)612-5938.

You can also check our Simbang Gabi Facebook page (Simbang Gabi in Birmingham AL).



Find Out More About Our Parish!

www.sfxbirmingham.com



New Parishioners:

Welcome! Registration forms are available in the vestibule of the Church or on our website at: www.sfxbirmingham.com Drop them by the reception desk located in the Parish Office or in the collection basket at Mass.

New address, name, or phone number?

Please notify us at sfxbirmingham.com/Parish-Registration or call the Parish Office at 871-1153 with any change in your membership information.

Baptismal Preparation:

Required class is held the second Sunday of each month at 6:00pm. Preregistration is required. Contact Molly Knerl at 803-5417 to register for the class.

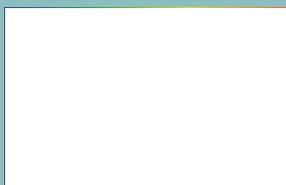
Sacrament of Marriage:

A six month preparation is required. Call the Parish Office at 871-1153 for information and to register for the preparation process.

CONTACTS

Parish Office	871-1153	Fax: 871-9831
Pastoral Care	803-5414	Sr. Sara Burress, O.S.B.
Secretary	803-5426	Windy Beals
Receptionist	803-5410	Cailan Bevel
Communications	803-5420	Hope Guerena
Finance	803-5418	Kathy Kononchek
Liturgy	803-5417	Molly Knerl
Adult Education	803-5427	Sr. Janet Marie Flemming, O.S.B.
Religious Education	803-5425	Shaun Byrne
Music Ministry	803-5415	Nancy Grundhoefer
Youth Ministry	803-5402	Kelsey Burgans
Children's Ministry	803-5422	Madeline Mitchell
Hispanic Ministry	803-5421	Brenda Bullock
Family Life Ministry	803-5411	Doug & Sheri Zimmerman
Knights of Columbus	356-1989	Chris Beals
SFX School	871-1687	Frances Finney
Center of Concern	786-4388	

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www.theStruths.org

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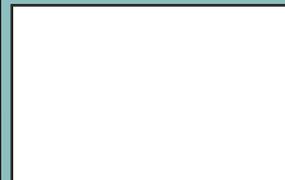
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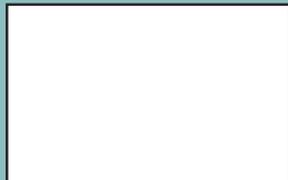
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