St. Francis Kavier + St. Monica

Market St, Parkersburg, WV Weekend Mass Schedule Saturday, 5pm - Sunday, 10:30am & 5pm Harris Highway, Lubeck, WV Weekend Mass Schedule Sunday 8:30

MAILING ADDRESS: 609 Market Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101

DECEMBER 26, 2021

Baptism

A joyful celebration! To schedule class and a date please call the office. 304-422-6786

Care of the Sick

Please notify the pastor when someone is seriously ill or in the hospital. Sacraments or care of the seriously ill are administered at anytime, day or night.

Devotions

Miraculous Medal Novena, Wednesday – 6:50 Adoration – One hour before Mass: Mon, Wed, and Fri.

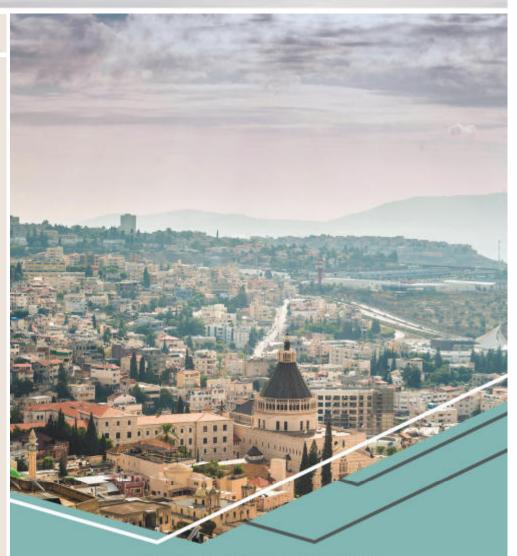
Marriage

Congratulations on your engagement! Please contact the Pastor to discuss arrangements before setting any date.
Preparation ordinarily requires at least six months.

Thinking of Becoming Catholic?

The RCIA process is for you! Come find out more about the Catholic faith! Call the office for details.

May the God who gives
endurance and encouragement give
you the same attitude of mind
toward each other that
Christ Jesus had.
Romans 15:5



THE HOLY FAMILY

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

- Lk 2:51-52

Excepts from the Lectionary for Mass 4 2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

*LP



fr. John Rice, Pastor
frjohnrice@aol.com Rectory 304-422-6786
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Doug Deem
Parish Office 304-422-6786 Fax 304-422-6789
Email: stxoffice@stx-pburg.org or secretary@stx-pburg.org
St. Francis Xavier Web Site: www.stx-pburg.org
St. Monica Web Site: www.stmonicaparish.org
Catholic Cemeteries Web Site: catholiccemeteriesparkersburgwv.org
Cemetery Manager: David Ferguson 304-422-6786

St. Francis Xavier

Weekend Masses Saturday, 5:00 pm Sunday, 10:30 am & 5:00 pm

Daily Mass

M & F-12:10; T & Th-8am; W-7pm Holy Hour 1 hour before Mass, M-W-F

Confessions

Saturday at 4:00-4:45pm and by appointment.

Prayer Request

Wanda Christopher, 304-485-5834 Sara Daniels, 304-485-5344

> Welcome & Hospitality Shirley Smith 740-516-9411 shirleys9411@aol.com

Children's Liturgy Leone Burd 304-482-2613

Parish School of Religion Jane Row 304-615-3950

Eucharistic Ministers to the Sick and Homebound

Sally McDonie 304-428-2651 Barb Fligor 304-428-8648

Catholics For Life Sunny Murray 304-482-6193 Katie Walters 304-481-0578

Rosary Altar Society Mary Beth Steinel 740-896-5003

Tuesday Evening Bible Study Judy Huddleston 304-488-0720

Ladies Friday a.m. Bible Study Becky Hines 740-423-5236

> **Music Ministry** Allan Zipf 304-482-5978

St. Monica

Sunday Mass, 8:30 am

Confessions

Sundays 8:10 am

Prayer Request Karen Barré 304-482-3199

Liturgical Ministries Tom Linder 304-863-6834

Parish School of Religion Kathleen O'Bara 304-483-2221

Food Pantry, Clothing, Cards Roger & Joyce Zipfel 304-863-6336

Maintenance/Custodial Care Dave Quattro 304-863-6664 Natalie Linder 304-863-6834

REMEMBER THE SICK AND **SHUT-INS IN PRAYER:**

*THE ARBORS: Ruth Baker

*LOVE & CARE: Mary Showalter

*THE WILLOWS:

*WYNGATE: Theresa Nedeff



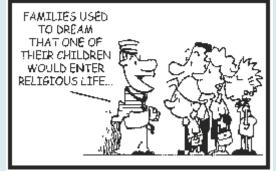
The second collection Jan 1st/2nd is for: To support recovery efforts related to the recent natural disasters that have occurred in Kentucky, leaving severe damage and loss of life. Donations can also be made on the diocesan website at www.dwc.org/disasterrelief.

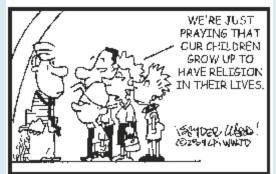
Online Giving



You can give greener by using our Online Giving Program. Simply go to our parish website at www.stx-pburg.org

HOLY FAMILY





Welcome to our Parish

If you are a visitor to St. Francis Xavier or St. Monica we want you to know how welcome you are. If you attend St. Francis Xavier or St. Monica on a regular basis, please be sure to register as a member of the parish. This will facilitate pastoral care for you and your family. Registration forms are available

online (www.stx-pburg.org), in the church, and in the parish office. You may place it in the collection basket or mail it to the parish office. If you need to

update or change your address, phone or email information please call the office (304-422-6786).

Bulletin Announcements

Please submit items for consideration 2 weeks before publication. Via email: secretary@stx-pburg.org or drop a type written announcement at the office.

Will or **Estate Planning**

Are you thinking of remembering St. Francis Xavier Church in your will or estate plans? A bequest



through a Last Will and Testament is the simplest way of creating a lasting legacy of support for

St. Francis Xavier Church. Suggested language for making a bequest is:

"I give and bequest to St. Francis Xavier Church, 532 Market Street, Parkersburg, WV, the sum of \$ % of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate for it's general purposes.



To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800.352.6513. *In addition to civil authorities, to* report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling -Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Diocese at 888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880. Please visit www.dwc.org under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods.

Sunday - 26 The Holy Family
St. Monica Mass 8:30 †People
St. F X Mass 10:30 †Bill Hull
(Mike & Cindy Spainhour)
St. F X Mass 5pm †Amy Occasio (Friends)

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Monday - 27 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist Holy Hour 11am Mass 12:10 †Linda Crum (John Crum)

1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday - 28 *The Holy Innocents, Martyrs*Mass 8am †Salvator Calgagno (Terry & Bernie Lyons)

1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday - 29 *St. Thomas Becket* Holy Hour 6pm Mass 7pm †Jeanne Stiefel (Al & Kathleen Stiefel)

1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

Thursday - 30 Mass 8am †Lynn Valet (Jim & Julie Emrick)

1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

Friday - 31 St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve Holy Hour 11am Mass 12:10 [†]Francis & Hilda Peters (Charlie & Joanne Stout)

1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18

Saturday - 1 New Year's Day Mary, The Holy Mother of God; World Day of Peace BVM Mass 8am †Tornado Victims

St FX Mass 5pm †People Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/ Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Sunday - 2 The Epiphany of the Lord Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

St. Monica Mass 8:30 †Ryan Allen (Al & Kathleen Stiefel)

St. F X Mass 10:30 †Leonard Galasso

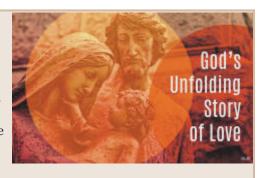
(Rosemary Shrewsbury)

St. F X Mass 5pm †Betty Doss (Fred & Kathy Esker)

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well.



Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spiritrobbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

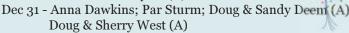
Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.



+	ALTAR SERVERS	Extraordinary MINISTERS	LECTORS	SCRIP
Jan 1 5:00 pm	L RICE	JOE MCCLAIN	M VIERHELLER	PURCHASE IN OFFICE
Jan 2 10:30 am	J HALLOWELL	J CARPENTER	R Crum	PURCHASE IN OFFICE
Jan 2 5:00 pm	S Lasko	S LASKO	KALTENECKER	PURCHASE IN OFFICE
St Monica Jan 2 8:30 am	NEEDED	N LINDER	R ZIPFEL	<u>Gifts</u> K & C O'Bara

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Dec 27 - Vincent Post; Guy & Mary Freed (A); Paul & DeDe Myers (A)



Jan 1 - Jim Blanc: Susan Goss

THE BOOK CLUB will meets at 10am in the Parish Center Library the 3rd Monday of the month. Join us for lively discussions!





WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study meets every Friday at 10am in the large conference room in the Parish Center.

All ladies are welcome!



COAT DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus will be collecting new and gently used coats thru February. A barrel will be placed in the church for donated coats. Coats may

also be taken directly to Catholic Charities located in our Parish Center on the second floor.

ROSARY ALTAR RUMMAGE SALE

As you are cleaning after the holidays, remember Rosary Altar Society's rummage sale! Items for donation may be placed in the hall basement at any time.



Please remember no computers or televisions. Thank you!

DO OUR HEARTS ACHE?

"Are we moved by the suffering of those without shelter? Do we seek to alleviate the fear, confusion, and panic that women facing unexpected pregnancies may be experiencing? Do our hearts ache for elderly patients in nursing homes who feel abandoned and unwanted, having no one to visit them? Our mission is to show each person the love of Christ. As uniquely created individuals, we each have unique gifts which we are called to use to share Christ's love." — Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap.



PAINT PARTY with Mando's Studio on January 29th at 1pm at St. Francis Xavier Parish Center. Twenty dollars per painter and needs to be paid in advance. Notify Kim Meredith (304-494-3135) or Shirley Smith (740-516-9411) for details. We have 32 spots available.

Father John was nervous when he cast Jimmy, the middle school class clown, as Joseph in the annual Christmas pageant. His fears were realized when Jimmy decided to do a little improvisation by pulling out his cell phone in the pageant's opening scene.

The astonished priest, who was narrating, asked, "What are you doing with your phone?"

Jimmy smiled and replied, "This year I'm phoning that inn to make a reservation!"

THE WAY

Survivors of all forms of abuse across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are invited to attend a special retreat entitled, "The Way." The Way is 3-day guided meditation and prayer program for men and women crafted around the Stations of the Cross. It is an opportunity for healing and prayer and for survivors to reflect on God's plan for their lives through prayer and sacraments. There will be opportunities for individual counseling and spiritual direction. Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Washington, the retreat is free of charge and will be held February 18-20, 2022, for women. The location of the retreat is not being publicized to protect the privacy of survivors. For more information on the retreat, visit https:// adw.org/the-way-retreat. To learn more and to register, please contact Deborah McDonald at mcdonaldd@adw.org or 301-853-4466.



TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST

TEC is an international, spiritualrenewal movement in the Catholic Church that strives to bring young people and adults into a close, personal relationship with Jesus Christ. TEC is a community, led by the Holy Spirit, that gathers people into Christian groups of

faith, while attempting to incorporate its ministry into the overall ministry of their members' dioceses and parishes.

The primary method employed to gather people into Christian community and form them in the Christian life is that of the weekend retreat. At the weekend retreat, which usually runs from Friday evening to Monday afternoon, the participants are led into Christ's Paschal Mystery, through a combination of presentations, activities, talks, prayer, community building, and liturgy.

The next TEC retreat that will take place in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will be held from Friday, Jan 14th to Monday, Jan 17th, at the St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston, West Virginia. It will be free for all teens who are in their junior year of high school through first year of college.

You can register on the Diocesan website, at https://dwc.org/diocese/ministries/youth-and-young-adult-ministry/youth-ministry/tec/, or you can contact Jeanne McKeets to register: 304-233-0880, ext. 374 or jmckeets@dwc.org.



Together in Holiness Formation series
Presented by the St. John Paul II Foundation and
the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

To get involved, contact Daniel Maul at dmaul@dwc.org.
Also available for Spanish-speaking couples through
captioned videos and translated materials
thformation.forlifeandfamily.org

CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL

All monies will be kept in our Parish (tax exempt) because we met our goal of 100% in the CSA. Gifts can be made securely online at dwc.org/csa, or checks can be made payable to Catholic Sharing Appeal and mailed to PO Box 230, Wheeling, WV 26003. Donations can also be made at the parish office or placed in the collection basket for the parish to mail to the CSA Office.

Donations can be made anytime between now and December 31, 2021.



Already Catholic but want to know more about your Catholic faith? You're invited to join us for our weekly **RCIA** session on Sunday mornings at 9am in the parish center. Parents are especially welcome to join us while your child attends PSR. The topic presentation for Sunday, Jan 9, Mary, The Holy Spirit.



NPGP HOLIDAY BASKET RAFFLE

Looking for unusual Christmas gifts this year, looking for ways to support your favorite non-profit, looking for ways to help God's Littlest Ones; then please go to

Rallyup.com and find the Northern Programs Gabriel Project Holiday Basket Raffle. You will find regional gift baskets showcasing local artisans' wares. You are able to purchase raffle tickets for these baskets as well as support NPGP through other monetary contributions. We thank you for your support and look forward to you visiting our Northern Programs Gabriel Project Holiday Basket Raffle on Rallyup.com. Or text 855-202-2100 type in Babies, then you will be taken to the link.

FAITH FORMATION

Three five-week courses are being offered through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF). These courses are hybrid models. They are composed of both weekly live two-hour zoom lectures as well as a rich variety of online course materials and discussion experiences through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community For Faith Formation (VLCFF). The courses are being underwritten by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, who pays 100% of the tuition and the cost of the books associated with the courses. The course instructor is Dr. Rodica Stoicoiu. For further information or to register, please contact Jeanne McKeets at jmckeets@dwc.org with your name, address, and phone number.

THE NEW TESTAMENT CYCLE 1 JAN 17-FEB 20
This course explores the stories in and behind the writings we call the New Testament. Through the study of Biblical maps, articles and religious art present on authoritative websites, our text and class discussions students can grow in New Testament knowledge, understanding and application to their life and ministry.

The Children's Corner

Sharing the Gospel

When Jesus traveled to Jerusalem as a 12-year-old young man, he felt completely at home in the Temple. He enjoyed talking to the teachers about his Father in heaven. His questions and his answers showed how much he loved God.

Prayer

Dear God, help me to feel at home in my church like Jesus did.

Something to Draw

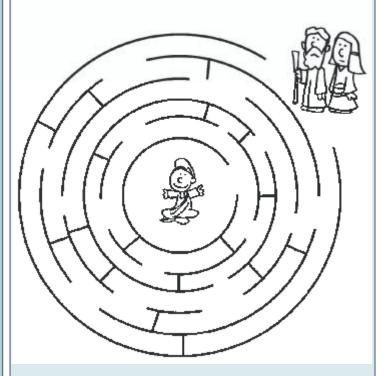
Draw a picture of yourself learning about God with your teacher.

Mission for the Week

Help visitors to your church feel welcomed.
As a family or as a class, make cards for visitors, asking them to come back.

Help Mary and Joseph find Jesus.





ARE YOU A PARENT WITH YOUNG CHILDREN? Check out these sites....

Catholic Sprouts –This site helps Catholic families build their Domestic Churches and raise "little saints". Their core values are the Eucharist, The Rosary, The Saints, and Scripture.

Catholic Icing — Catholic Crafts and More for Kids https://www.catholicicing.com



The History Behind "The 12 Days of Christmas"

To many people, the lyrics of the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" seem strange beyond belief. The odd carol's words might make one think it is a novelty song, in the vein of "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer" or "My Favorite Things." Though a host of modern internet sites and some magazine articles have tried to reduce "The Twelve Days of Christmas" to a little more than a silly Christmas carol, most scholars of the Catholic Church deem it a very important surviving example of a time when that denomination used codes to disguise their teachings.

Teaching the Catholic faith was outlawed in sixteenth-century England. Those who instructed their children in Catholicism could be drawn and quartered. Thus, the church went underground. To hide the important and illegal elements of their teaching, clerics composed poems that seemed silly to most people. But these verses were veiled works that taught the church's most important tenets. "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is said to be one of these teaching tools.

Most people today believe that the twelve days of Christmas start on December 12th or 13th and run through Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. But in fact, the first day of Christmas is December 25th and the final day is January 5th. Thus, for hundreds of years the Christmas holidays didn't begin until Christmas Eve and didn't end until Epiphany.

Why were these twelve days important? These dozen days were tied to more than just the teaching of the Catholic Church. A host of other denominations also celebrated the twelve days of Christmas. Some denominations celebrated Christmas in January and began to count the twelve days then. But whenever they began, the counting of the days became an important facet of each holiday season. Even in the Dark Ages, in some Eastern European churches, the twelve days of Christmas meant attending daily church services. For Christians who lived during this extremely difficult age, the twelve days were a time of rededication and renewal. It was also a period when small, simple, and usually symbolic gifts of faith were given to children. Thus, in both coded poems and public worship, the twelve days were considered a holy period.

For many Christians today, even the recognition of the twelve days of Christmas has been lost . . . for two reasons. The first is that when Epiphany lost out to Christmas as the day of giving gifts, many simply quit celebrating the twelve-day observance. The other reason is based more on the change in the fabric of culture than on overlooking the Christian holiday of Epiphany.

In ancient times, when most societies were rural, few people worked in the dead of winter. It was a time when many were spending long, dark days inside their homes, looking forward to winter's chill giving way to the spring thaw. So devoting a dozen days to prayer, reflection, and attending church was not a huge undertaking. Yet with the coming of the Industrial Age and the regular year-round work schedules it brought, finding time to continue the activities that had been traditionally associated with the twelve days of Christmas became all but impossible for most people.

So the passing of the twelve-days custom probably had as much to do with "progress" as with anything else. As fewer and fewer churches and families participated in the tradition, it was all but lost. Yet in the obscure poem that was later turned into a popular carol, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" live on. And the twelve days described are actually a wonderful and complete picture of the Christian faith.

The "true love" mentioned in the song is not a sweetheart but the Catholic Church's code for God. The person who receives the gifts represents anyone who has accepted Christ as the Son of God and as Savior. And each of the gifts portrays an important facet of the story of true faith.

So, just a silly song? On the surface maybe, but in reality, a refreshing reminder of the essential elements of Christian faith. The twelve days of Christmas may no longer be a widely recognized holiday tradition, but the days were an important bridge that connected persecuted believers of the past with the whole story of God's plan. In the complicated world of today, a trip back to the not-so-distant past when Christians celebrated the twelve days of Christmas would only enhance the meaning of Christmas for everyone. -*Ace Collins*

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9 St Monica Mass 8:30am St FX Mass 10:30am St FX Mass 5pm	10 Holy Hour 11am St FX Mass 12:10 Cemetery Cmte mtg 5pm	11 St FX Mass 8am Pastoral Council 6:30	12 Holy Hour 6pm St FX Mass 7pm	13 St FX Mass 8am	14 Holy Hour 11am St FX Mass 12:10	15 St FX Mass 5pm
16 St Monica Mass 8:30am St FX Mass 10:30am St FX Mass 5pm	17 Holy Hour 11am St FX Mass 12:10	18 St FX Mass 8am	19 Holy Hour 6pm St FX Mass 7pm	20 St FX Mass 8am	21 Holy Hour 11am St FX Mass 12:10	22 St FX Mass 5pm <i>March for Life</i> - Prayer for Protection of Human Life
23 St Monica Mass 8:30am St FX Mass 10:30am St FX Mass 5pm	24 Holy Hour 11am St FX Mass 12:10	25 St FX Mass 8am	26 Holy Hour 6pm St FX Mass 7pm	27 St FX Mass 8am	28 Holy Hour 11am St FX Mass 12:10	29 St FX Mass 5pm
30 St Monica Mass 8:30am St FX Mass 10:30am St FX Mass 5pm	31 Holy Hour 11am St FX Mass 12:10		May Christ Bless the House Peace be to this house and Bethlehem to adore the Lord- gold for the great King, incer	 lay Christ Bless the House Peace be to this house and all who dwell herein. From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord - and opening their treasures, they offered precious gifts - gold for the great King, incense for the true God and myrrh in symbol of His burial. 20 C + M + B 22 	herein. From the east c their treasures, they off ie God and myrrh in syn F B 22	ame the Magi to ered precious gifts - nbol of His burial.

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