

St. Francis Xavier + 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

JANUARY 2, 2022

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 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the
child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage.
Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold,
frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCC.

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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

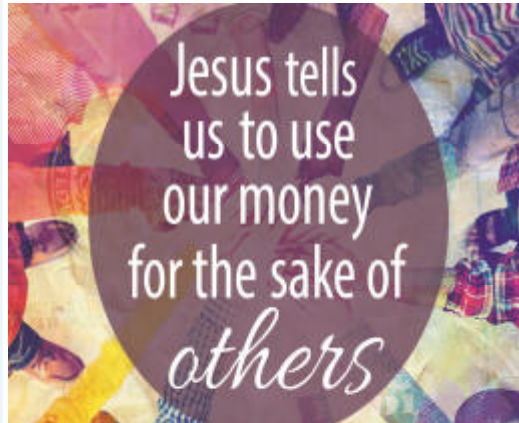
Parish School of Religion
Kathleen O'Bara 304-483-2221

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 Nedef



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

EPIP-MANY



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 \$___ (or) ___% 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 - 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

Monday - 3 *The Most Holy Name of Jesus*
 Holy Hour 11am
 Mass 12:10 Abandoned & Lost Children
 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday - 4 *St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*
 Mass 8am †Rick Rieser (Rieser Family)
 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday - 5 *St. John Neumann*
 Holy Hour 6pm
 Mass 7pm Fr. John Rice
 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday - 6 *St. André Bessette*
 Mass 8am †John Cullen
 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday - 7 *St. Raymond of Penyafort*
 Holy Hour 11am
 Mass 12:10 †Allen & Lima Stout
 (Charlie & Joanne Stout)
 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday - 8
 St FX Mass 5pm †Rosemarie Colberg
 (Terry & Bernie Lyons)
 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/
 Jn 3:22-30

Sunday - 9 *The Baptism of the Lord*
 St. Monica Mass 8:30 †Art & Mary Ann Sweet
 (Mike & Lita Doyle)
 St. F X Mass 10:30 †Mary Tomeh (Nedeff Family)
 St. F X Mass 5pm †People
 Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/
 Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
 or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

January 2, 2022
The Epiphany of the Lord

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI:

“Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.” Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, “Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God’s love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being.”

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

©LPi

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. -2 Corinthians 5:17

May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God’s blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy and joyful year!

✝	ALTAR SERVERS	Extraordinary MINISTERS	LECTORS	SCRIP
Jan 8 5:00 pm	G RICE	S RICHARDS	A STIEFEL	PURCHASE IN OFFICE
Jan 9 10:30 am	C BAILEY	V RIESER	S MCDONIE	PURCHASE IN OFFICE
Jan 9 5:00 pm	S LASKO	M EVANS	J HUDDLESTON	PURCHASE IN OFFICE
St Monica Jan 9 8:30 am	NEEDED	K O’BARA	F ALLEN	GIFTS J & D ESKER



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Jan 3 - Izabelle Bond; Philip Bonner; Jason Dawkins;
Richard Lohr; Lisa Stephens

Jan 4 - Megan Ferch; Maria Loiseau;
Wes & Clemencia McCreedy (A)

Jan 5 - Fred Esker; Fr. John's Ordination (A)

Jan 6 - Nathan Thornton; Joe & Mika Munoz (A)

Jan 7 - Briar Bailey; Alexis Collins; Lew Moyers

Jan 8 - Millie Mancini; Mary Showalter

Jan 9 - Missy Lantz; Joyce Wood; Bob & Mary Ward (A)



THE BOOK CLUB will meet 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.



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.



TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST

TEC is an international, spiritual-renewal 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.

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON | JANUARY 4

The patron saint of Catholic schools, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (August 28, 1774 – January 4, 1821) was born in New York City to a prominent family of the Episcopal faith. When she turned 19, she married a wealthy businessman with whom she had five children. He later died of tuberculosis in 1803, leaving her a young widow. After discovering the Catholic faith in Italy, where her husband had died, she returned to New York and converted to Catholicism in 1805.

After several years struggling as a single mother, Elizabeth moved in 1809 to Emmitsburg, Maryland, where she founded the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, the first community for religious women established in the United States. She also began St. Joseph's Academy and Free School, which started a chain reaction of Catholic-based education in the United States that continues today.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was canonized September 14, 1975 in St. Peter's Square by Pope Paul VI and was the first citizen born in the United States to be given the title of "saint."



DIocese of WHEELING-CHARLESTON

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.

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 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 mcdonald@adw.org or 301-853-4466

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. thformation.forlifeandfamily.org

The Children's Corner

Sharing the Gospel

Isn't God amazing? He made all the stars and planets to move, so every night the sky looks a little different. When God created the world, he planned exactly when the wise men would see the star. He wanted them to find Jesus.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for making the planets and stars so the wise men could find Jesus.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of stars and planets shining in the night sky.

Mission for the Week

Visit a planetarium to learn more about the star of Bethlehem.



Unscramble these words from today's Gospel:

wise-men
child
born

king
star
worship

Mary
gifts
dream

wsie mne W i s e m e n

brno _ _ _ _

knig _ _ _ _

derma _ _ _ _ _

cildh _ _ _ _ _

wrsohpi _ _ _ _ _ _

Mrya _ _ _ _

gfsti _ _ _ _ _

srtat _ _ _ _

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>

Who were the three Wise Men? By Fr. Dwight Longenecker

Every Christmas the Nativity set is unpacked. The shepherds find their place, and the three Wise Men and their camels join them. It's likely that one of the Wise Men is Asian, one African, and one Caucasian. The best-informed children will tell you that the names of the three kings are Balthasar, Melchior, and Caspar.

The Magi not only take their place next to Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, the shepherds, and the angels; they also take their place among a whole collection of Christmas stories, legends, and myths. The Nativity figures might have pride of place, but they share that place with Santa Claus, Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, the Little Drummer Boy, and Bing Crosby dreaming of a white Christmas.

All these traditions and many more make the Christmas season special, but is there truth to any of it? Are the Wise Men legendary figures like St. Nicholas, or are they pure make-believe like Santa Claus and his sleigh?

Most New Testament scholars dismiss the story of the Wise Men as a pious tale invented long after Jesus' birth by the early Christians who wanted to make the birth of the Son of God more special. The story of the magical star, the angelic messages, and the long desert journey seemed too fantastical to be historical.

On the other hand, believers have held to the story handed down through the ages without question. For them the lovely tale of the Wise Men who humbled themselves to worship the Christ Child was beautiful, good, and true, and that was the most important thing. They have assumed it was true in a historical sense, and if the scholars are skeptical, they are believers with blinders.

Because of their simple assumptions, neither the skeptical scholars nor the believers with blinders have bothered to look further and discover who the Wise Men might be and where they came from. In fact, the discovery of the truth is a riveting story of detective work, and like most detective stories, the obvious answer is not the correct answer. To determine who the Wise Men really were, we first have to unpack the story as most people understand it.

The Wise Men and Lord of the Rings

In J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*, Galadriel says, "History became legend and legend became myth." This is precisely what happened to the simple tale recounted in Matthew's Gospel. The story Matthew tells has few details, but the details we have come to accept were added in the first three centuries of the Church. Gnostic writers of the day were similar to New Age believers today. They were enchanted by magic, esoteric theories and the occult.

The Gnostics wrote expanded accounts of the birth of Jesus that highlighted the miraculous element and the exotic origins of the Wise Men. As the center of Christianity shifted north and west to Asia Minor, Greece, and Rome, Matthew's indication that the Wise Men came "from the East" suggested that they came from Persia. Before long, the full-blown version of the story was circulating. Soothsayers and stargazers — kings from Persia, India, and Africa — followed a magical star across the desert sands on camels, finally arriving after a long and perilous journey to worship the infant Christ.

The problem is that very little of that version of the story is in Matthew's Gospel. Matthew doesn't say they are kings. He doesn't number them as three. He doesn't say they rode camels. He doesn't say they followed a magical star, and he doesn't say they went on a long journey. He simply writes, "Wise men came from the East" (see Matthew 2:1). They saw his star. They came to the court of Herod the Great. They brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

I began my investigation by asking if the Bible itself might yield any clues about the identity of the Wise Men. The writings of the Old Testament prophet Isaiah pointed the way. In chapter 60 we find a prophecy that is usually read at the Epiphany. It says:

For the riches of the sea shall be poured out before you, the wealth of nations shall come to you. Caravans of camels shall cover you, dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; All from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and heralding the praises of the LORD. All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered for you, the rams of Nebaioth shall serve your needs (Isaiah 60:5-7).

WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM



With a bit of digging I discovered that Midian, Ephah, Kedar, and Nebaioth were all locations or the names of tribes from northwestern Arabia. Starting there I discovered that during the time of Jesus' birth that territory was occupied by the kingdom of Nabatea. The Nabateans had close links with Herod the Great. Furthermore, their religion was rooted in astrology, and like many peoples from the time, they were looking for a messiah.


Diplomats and worshippers

This began an exciting quest to flesh out my theory. I was similar to an excited archeologist on a dig. The more I researched, the more fascinating the story became. Details fell together in an amazing way to unlock the secret that the Wise Men were indeed historical figures. If the believers with blinders were wrong, so were the skeptical scholars.

Just at the time of Jesus' birth the Nabatean king, Aretas IV, had a strong motivation to send diplomats to the court of Herod with rich gifts. Learning of the birth of a new king of the Jews by studying the stars, they set out on their historic journey. Coming from the neighboring kingdom, it was not very far, but it was significant because they were not only diplomats bearing peace offerings. They were Wise Men on a spiritual quest to find their true king and the source of true wisdom.

As it turns out, it is perfectly probable that there were wise men who had the motive, the means and the method to pay homage to Jesus Christ just as Matthew recorded.

The simple truth is that Matthew's account is factual not fictional.

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