Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church

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6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 14, 2021

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." - Mk 1:40-41

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

A NOTE ON ASH WEDNESDAY DURING THE PANDEMIC

On January 12, Archbishop Leonard Blair, Chair of the Bishops' Committee on Divine Worship, issued a memorandum to all Bishops of the United States. He wrote, "While Ash Wednesday is not a holy day of obligation and while there is no requirement for the clergy and faithful to receive the imposition of ashes, it is rightly observed as a celebration of high importance, and many will surely wish to participate even amid the current difficulties." Anticipating large attendance, in the interest of safety, Archbishop Blair shared the Holy See's modified method of distributing ashes during a pandemic, provided by the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments.

According to the modified method, the priest will bless the ashes with holy water, then address the congregation as a whole. As per the Roman Missal, he will say, "Repent, and believe in the Gospel", or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return". The priest will then cleanse his hands, put on a face mask and distribute the ashes …" As done in many countries, including at the Vatican, **the ashes will be "sprinkled" on the top of the head rather than imposed on the forehead.**

"The ashes are a sacramental. They help us be more in touch with the rituals of our faith; they are spiritual tools," explained Croteau. Like water and its recollection of our Baptism, "sacramentals lead us to the Sacraments… When used in ritual, the ashes become a sign of inner conversion," he said. That inner conversion also gives us courage to spread the Good News with those we meet.

The tradition of placing ashes on one's person pre-dates Jesus. In Gen. 3:19, after the fall, God says to Adam, "You are dust and to dust you shall return," –the phrase we hear repeated each Ash Wednesday. It is a symbol of our mortality. Later, in Job 42:6, Job repents "in dust and ashes," symbolizing mortality and repentance. Ashes also represent intercession. In Daniel 9:3, as Daniel prays for his people, his penance takes the form of fasting, ashes, and sackcloth. As the Maccabees entered an intense time of prayer, 1 Maccabees 3:47 states: "They fasted that day, and they put on sackcloth and sprinkled ashes on their heads and rent their clothes." The Church Fathers frequently refer to these examples, but it was not until 1091 that Pope Urban II recommended both clergy and laity continue the practice, so the rite of blessing and imposing the ashes became an important part of liturgical life.

The ritual of sprinkling ashes recognize we are sinners in need of repentance and this life is only preparation for eternity. Croteau notes the pandemic is providing us an opportunity to greater appreciate our faith. "How can you take a year of lived experience, of sacrifice, illness, death – and once it's over go back to normal? You don't want to do that. It's the nature of paschal living. You're different at the end." Although the pandemic is not over, he alludes to the interior transformation to which all are called during Lent. Looking ahead he said, "Hopefully it will be a world where the sufferings and pain of this past year will be transformed into new life, because that's what Christ does for us." https://www.orlandodiocese.org/e-scroll/archive/a-look-at-lent-in-pandemic-times/

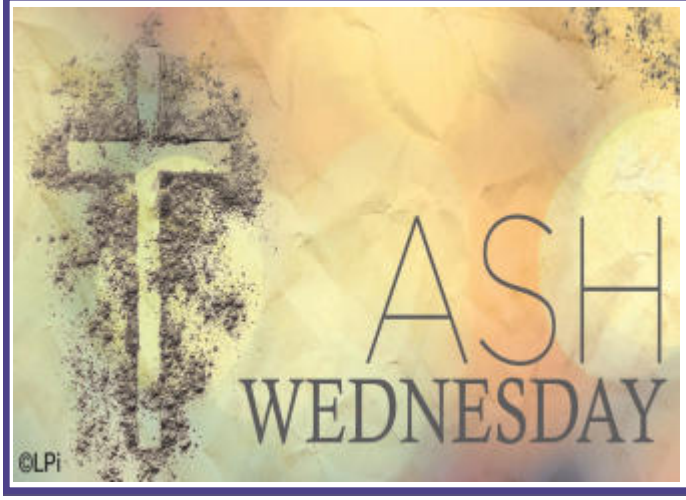
REGULATIONS ON FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021, and Good Friday, April 2, 2021, are days of fast and abstinence. **All Fridays of Lent** are also days of abstinence from meat. Fasting is to be observed on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday** by all Catholics between the ages of 18 years and 59 years (inclusive). On a fast day one full meal is allowed. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is to continue until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection.

Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics who are **14** years of age and older on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent, including Good Friday.

Note: If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, they are urged to practice other forms of self-denial that are suitable to their condition.

Fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. The faithful and catechumens should undertake these practices seriously in a spirit of penance and of preparation for baptism or of renewal of baptism at Easter.



Mass Times for Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021

7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

Due to the pandemic, the ashes will be sprinkled on the top of the head. Masks and social distancing are required

Sacraments of Our Faith

Rite of Baptism:
Please call the Parish Office for more information.

Rite of Anointing of the Sick:
The Anointing of the Sick ought to be requested only in genuine need for the dying.

There is a special collection on Ash Wednesday, February 17th, for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Please see the letter from Bishop Dewane on page 5.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 14, 2021

Sunday:
Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 [7]/ 1 Cor 10:31—11:1/Mk 1:40-45

Monday:
Gn 4:1-15, 25/Ps 50:1 and 8, 16bc-17, 20-21 [14a]/Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday:
Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Ps 29:1a and 2, 3ac-4, 3b and 9c-10 [11b]/Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday:
Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17 [cf. 3a]/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/ Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday:
Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [Ps 40:5a]/Lk 9:22-25

Friday:
Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19 [19b]/Mt 9:14-15

Saturday:
Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [11ab]/Lk 5:27-32

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

FEBRUARY 13 - FEBRUARY 21, 2021

† = Deceased
* = Living
SFX = St. Francis Xavier

The Mass Intentions listed below that are not a public Mass will be satisfied by a priest in private.

Saturday, February 13
7:30 A.M. † Sr. Anysia Riascos
4:00 P.M. † Forgotten Priests in Purgatory

Sunday, February 14
7:30 A.M. † Dorothy Geisel
9:30 A.M. † Sheila Ann Bast
11:30 A.M. †* Living and Deceased of Kelly family
4:00 P.M. † Sr. Anysia Riascos

Monday, February 15
7:30 A.M. † Sr. Anysia Riascos

Monday, February 16
7:30 A.M. † Sr. Anysia Riascos

Wednesday, February 17 **ASH WEDNESDAY**
7:30 A.M. † Sr. Hilda Maria Vargas
9:30 A.M. † Lou Nadreau
11:30 A.M. † Jeff Butler

Thursday, February 18
7:30 A.M. † Sr. Hilda Maria Vargas

Friday, February 19
7:30 A.M. † Sr. Hilda Maria Vargas

Saturday, February 20
7:30 A.M. † Sr. Hilda Maria Vargas
4:00 P.M. † Margaret J. Pantano

Sunday, February 21
7:30 A.M. † William and Martha Donaldson
9:30 A.M. † David and Patricia Walsh
11:30 A.M. * Adam F. Myers
4:00 P.M. † Sr. Hilda Maria Vargas

DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The special collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe will take place on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021. This annual collection provides aid to countries which continue rebuilding after years of suffering under the weight of communism. Religion and religious practices were openly persecuted and atheism was actively propagated and enforced.

The funds from this collection provide support for pastoral projects, scholarships and medical assistance to Catholic organizations in these countries that have been also deeply affected by the Coronavirus Pandemic. Catholic organizations further provide aide to homebound senior citizens using Church facilities to organize work and engage local volunteers; these volunteers prepare meals and deliver them to needy seniors. The Church collects and distributes protective clothing, masks, sanitizer, and other necessities to ensure the safety of health workers as they minister to the sick throughout the country.

In order for this region to continue to nurture and grow the Catholic Faith, financial assistance is needed. Your participation in the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe expresses your care and support for the people and their families in this region. Please be generous, and may God continue to bless you.

I take this opportunity to extend to you my continued consideration as well as my prayers on this Ash Wednesday, as we begin our Lenten Journey.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane

+ Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the Diocese of
Venice in Florida

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Knights of Columbus Annual Calendar Raffle: Now on Sale !

It's once again time for the annual "Calendar Raffle" from the Knights Council here at St. Francis Xavier. This year's effort is more important than ever, as with the situation of the past year, there have not been any events sponsored by the Knights, leaving this as the sole fundraising opportunity for our Council.

Most importantly, please know that the Pandemic did not stop the good work being done by our Council, with our focus on having a local impact. During the past year, thousands of dollars raised have gone to support these needs:

* Sanitation supplies and other needs for St. Francis Xavier Church and School
* Increased security at the church during the recent period of civil unrest
* Catholic education scholarship
* Lifeline Family Center
* Catholic Charities
* Homeless Veteran assistance through St. Vincent DePaul CARES
* An amazingly big "Coats for Kids" effort conducted with the Parish, the School and Catholic Charities

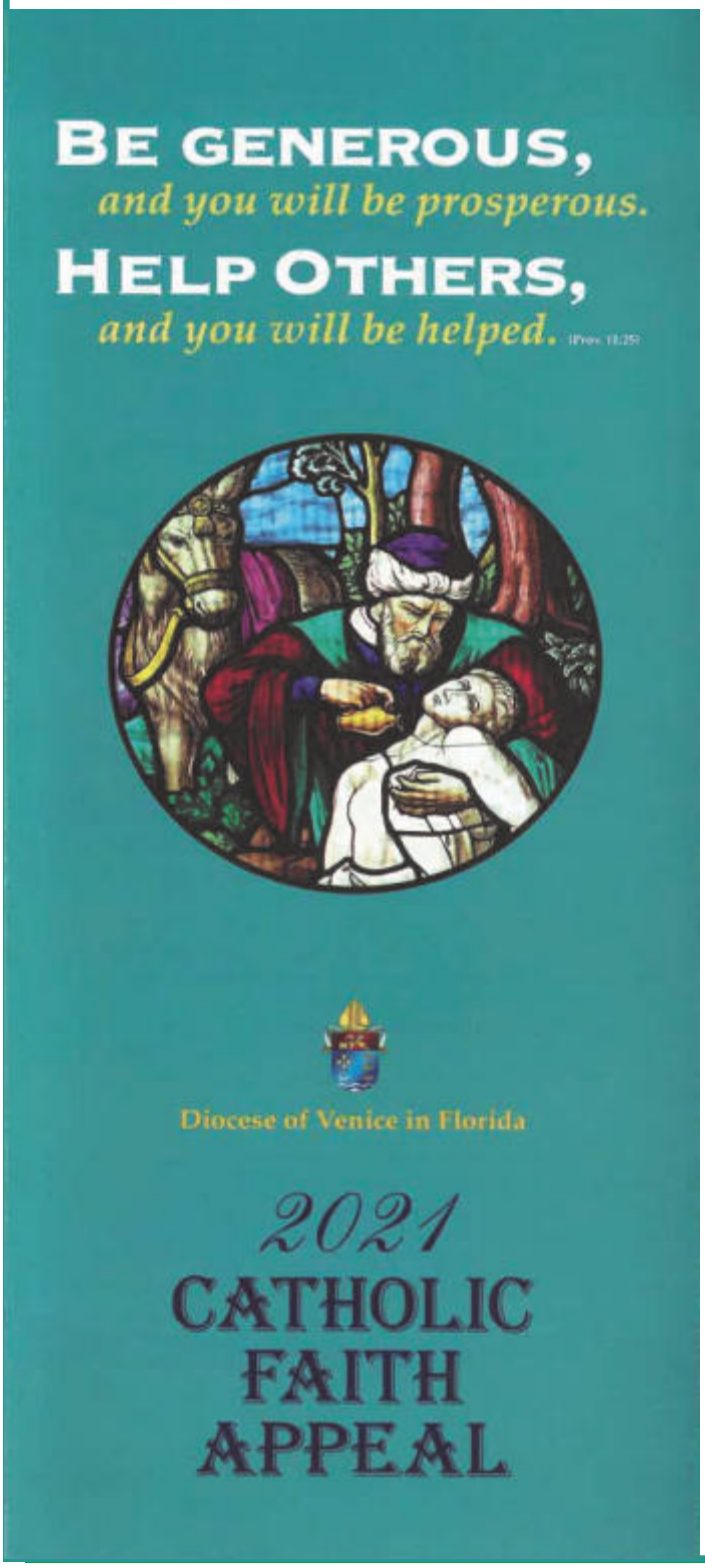
This year's ticket is our best yet, with many local businesses donating towards it, along with Council members making personal donations themselves. **For a Ten Dollar donation, you have 31 chances to win cash or other items valued from $50 to $100,** with a name drawn for each day of the month of March.

Tickets are on sale after every weekend Mass outside the main entry to the church. Sales will be conducted in a safe and sanitary manner, and starting this year, in addition to cash transactions, you will be able to pay using a debit or charge card.

For those unable to attend Mass, you can pay securely by phone. Call Terry Austin at (239) 673-8350, or send an email to : knightsofcolumbus2596@outlook.com to make arrangements. We will gladly help with these sales **if you contact us first.** *You will never receive an unsolicited request for **anything** by phone, email or text message from the Knights of Columbus.*

CFA 2021 "Be generous and you will be prosperous. Help others and you will be helped."

Thank you for so much for your generosity and hard work. I am very proud of all of you who contributed to the 2020 CFA even through the first year of the pandemic. Although we did not make our goal, we were short over $30,000, it was still a good effort. The $30,000 will be taken from our savings to fulfill our commitment. I hope that we will we have a great year so that we will not have to take from our savings going forward.

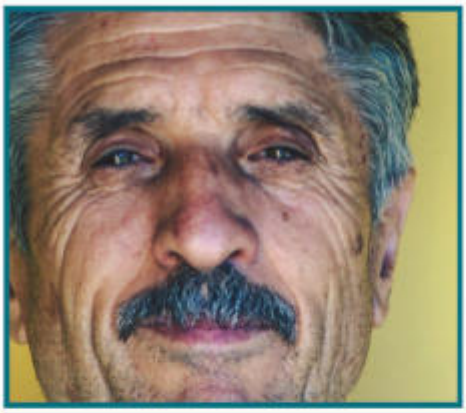


The **2021 Catholic Faith Appeal** has already begun. If you made a pledge last year it is possible that you have received early information by mail directly from the Diocese of Venice. I encourage you to submit your pledge for 2021 by return mail, using the forms which were sent to you. As you are contemplating your contribution to St. Francis Xavier please consider making a pledge to help us pay our diocesan assessment directly. The diocesan assessment is based on our regular offertory income at the rate of 26%. Our parish assessment this year is **$152,000**. Know that your contribution to the **2021 CFA** is the best and most efficient way to help our parish. In the memo line of the check please write **St. Francis Xavier- CFA 2021.**

Last weekend I gave the homily and spoke about the **2021 CFA** and the impact our donations have on the people within our diocese. The envelopes are on the tables at the entrance of the church and I encourage you to complete the envelope and drop it in the collection basket or bring it to the office. Every person counts in the positive for us. Even if it is a dollar, each individual donation is very important. Please use the envelopes and we will mail this for you.

May God continue to bless us all and the good work of our parish and school.

Father Anthony



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DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 2021

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

In the Gospel of St. Matthew and his presentation of the Beatitudes, we hear *"For I was hungry, and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink"*. The annual Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowl faith-in-action program shines a light on the Catholic community's commitment to poor and vulnerable families.

CRS Rice Bowl provides families, parishes, and Catholic schools with resources to assist on their Lenten journey. Sharing the daily Lenten calendar, making meatless meals, along with almsgiving, unites us with the less fortunate in our communities and across the world.

Our Catholic Community participates in this program to give families around the world the tools they need to rise above poverty and provide for themselves and their communities. Not only do families receive food, but they also receive training and resources to allow them to learn a trade to move beyond poverty.

During this Lenten Season, I encourage all to participate in CRS Rice Bowl to help our brothers and sisters in need. On behalf of those who benefit from your participation, I express their appreciation and add my acknowledgement of your support.

I continue to pray for the safety and health of you and your family, and may you be blessed during this Lenten Season.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane

† Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the Diocese of
Venice in Florida

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS) RICE BOWL

Rice Bowls are available in the main entrance of the church. **Please turn in all rice bowl collections in the form of a check. Please do not turn in loose coins.**

You can put Rice Bowl checks (made out to St. Francis Xavier with "Rice Bowl" in the memo line) in the collection basket prior to Palm Sunday (March 28th).

Mass Times

Daily Mass:
7:30 am (Monday-Saturday)

Saturday Vigil:
4:00 pm

Sunday:
7:30 am

9:30 am

11:30 am

2:00 pm (Polish - 1st Sunday of month)

4:00 pm (Mass in Creole)

Confessions:
Saturday 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Pastor
Father Anthony Hewitt, JCL

Parochial Vicar
Father Augustine Twum Obour

Priest Assigned to the Haitian Ministry of Parish
Father Fritz Ligonde

Religious Sisters
Sister Nisla Young
Sister Rosemary Le

Parish Office:
Monday—Friday
8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
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St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

For Pastoral Emergencies, please call the Parish Office: (239) 334-2161

2020 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE

Statements are given out only by request.

If you would like to obtain a copy please call the office at 239-334-2161

or you can email us at info@stfrancisfm.org.

Thank you for your generous offerings.

Parish Staff

Director of Religious Education & Youth Director:
Michael Reardon
Tues, Thurs, Fri 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Phone: (239) 223-4757

Accountant:
Abby Castellanos

Parish Secretary:
Freda Himschoot

Music Director:
Shana Richardson

Maintenance: Ron Taylor

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Youth Ministry / Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion / Altar Servers
Michael Reardon 223-4757

RCIA Coordinator 223-4757

Lectors Pat Himschoot 872-2752

St. Vincent de Paul Society
Angela Austin 334-9225
SVDPSFXC@gmail.com

Catholic Charities 334-4007

Ministry to the Homebound
Freda Himschoot 334-2161

Prayer Blankets
Marilyn Pelusi 278-0791

Prayer Line
Ann 995-3283/ Ruth 939-4287

Parish Library
Bryan Mulcahy 533-4626

Respect Life Antoinette Holmlund
toni@defendingtheunborn.com
850-4534

Rosary Makers
Gabriela Pedroza 979-665-5898

Knights of Columbus San Carlos Council of SFX
GK Terry Austin 673-8350

Legion of Mary
George Sahyouni 565-8474

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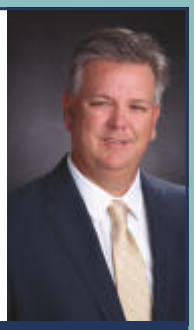
A graduate of St. Francis Xavier Catholic School and Bishop Verot Catholic High School



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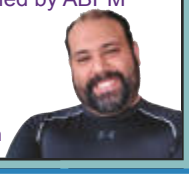

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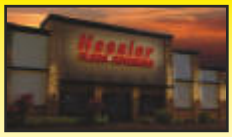

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