

EASTER

APRIL 12, 2020

WELCOME TO St Xavier

A Jesuit Ministry "in the heart of the marketplace" Registered Historic site founded in 1819 Apostolate of the Jesuit Fathers since 1845

Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam

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Mrs. Mary Beth Fennell

MASS SCHEDULE (suspended)

Please see our website for other options for prayer and spiritual communion www.stxchurch.org

MASS INTENTIONS April 13 - 18

MON 13	6:00 11:30	+ Thomas Lickteig + Joe and Maureen Merten (Annv.) + Linda Hamilton (1st Annv.)
TUES 14	6:00 11:30	+ Mary Tenkotte + Gerry Merkes + Joe and Maureen Merten
WED 15	6:00 11:30	+ Jack Burns (Annv.) + Marietta Ginocchio + Marilyn Neesham
THUR 16	6:00 11:30	+ John Sansalone + Mary Jane Luckett (Birth.) + Kimberly (KJ) Baysinger (Birth.)
FRI 17	6:00 11:30	+ Bob and Kay Dietrich + Judy Dyer + Fr. Joe Casey, SJ
SAT 18	7:00	+ Ron Goyette (Annv.)

A Prayer Amid an Epidemic

By Kerry Weber (executive editor, America Magazine)

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care. Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders. Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace. Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace. Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace. Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth. Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of anxiety, give us peace. Jesus Christ, heal us!





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This is the day the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

A very happy Easter to everyone. This indeed is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad. Today's Psalm 118 refrain sounds so energetic and positive when sung in congregation or by yourself. These days when we stay at home, it might help to whisper or even hum this simple refrain. We have a great need to find gladness in these days. We have just experienced a difficult and solemn HOLY week, which included Holy Thursday, and Holy Saturday, and now the holiest day of all: Easter. But if you've also had an eye on the numbers in the news this past week, it seems the word holy has lost some of its sanctity. In such critical times, let's really search for holiness on this great morning. Let us look carefully and closely to find the Lord of surprises, where we least expect him.

For example, in your Easter basket! I hope the Easter bunny was able to travel, even though we humans have the stay at home orders. As you know there are two types of Easter baskets: ones that are full and ones that are empty. If your basket is empty this year, that's not all bad. Keep the empty basket, look inside it more closely, and see if you don't find a surprising answer to your "problem." A deeper more satisfying answer is there ... one that is more filling than Godiva chocolates.

Re-read the story in today's gospel: it's about three people: a lady and two men, who looked into the emptiness of a tomb until they were surprised by something incredibly unexpected and very fulfilling. It is the story of the first Easter people. It is also our story, for we too are Easter people. We too are people searching for answers where there seems to be darkness and emptiness. Question for your meditation: Which of these 3 Easter folks do you identify with?

First Mary of Magdala. She finds herself walking in the dark, and she approaches the tomb of her friend Jesus only close enough to see that the stone is rolled away. Maybe she was as far away as six feet, keeping safe distance. We are not told that she gets any closer, yet she runs real fast to tell the others that someone took the body of Jesus. That's what she expected ... that someone stole his body, but we are not told she even got close enough to look inside. Maybe she was afraid, and jumped to conclusions.

Or second, perhaps you are like "the beloved disciple" whom we presume is the young St. John. He arrives first at the tomb, but then he stops. He does not go in. He sees some garments but he doesn't get any closer. Why? What did he expect to see? Maybe the vandalized body of the one he loves. The mutilated corpse? Perhaps he was afraid and froze in his tracks, paralyzed to move any closer.

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Or third, maybe you are one like **Peter**. Arriving late, and with uncharacteristic courage, Peter boldly advances to the door of the tomb, enters the dark, looks more closely still, and notices some very helpful details: the body of Jesus is not there at all, but the garments are, and they are neatly placed in order.

Commentators suggest that this unusual detail about the arrangement of the burial clothes is a simple way of giving some evidence that the body of Jesus had not been stolen. The burial clothes are in order, and not disheveled as one would expect to find if some robbers had visited the grave. Peter didn't seem as afraid as the others, but he may have been very puzzled and frustrated. He as yet had not understood the Scriptures that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

Neither he nor the others expected a resurrection. That is important to keep in mind. Peter was a lot like someone staring into an empty Easter basket, or someone trying hard to figure out the meaning of inexplicable pain and suffering. All three of these figures stood in the darkness, faced with unanswered questions, until the God of surprises made his move.

Suddenly, with a short time to reflect on the whole scene, the beloved disciple finds the courage to enter the dark tomb after Peter. Inside the tomb, without the proof of physical sight, the disciple looked and love opened his eyes. He is the first believer. And he encourages us, for we often must look at the dead places, our tombs, our separations and solitary lives, and "see" the possibility for new life, a new beginning ... which will come!

Knowing we are loved, believing in God's love, enables us to trust in the life that will follow. Filled with the grace of the Risen One, the beloved disciple grows in faith that Jesus is alive! Risen to a new unexpected life. Transformed from a corpse into a glorified person. And he witnesses that faith to the others, and the Easter message spreads.

Where emptiness had prevailed, faith fills in the answers. Where darkness had surrounded, a new day dawns. All of this because these three Easter people had the courage to wait in the dark and empty places, until the God of surprises comforted their fears.

May we too be inspired with the virtue of HOPE as we await the passing of the virus and the arrival of a lasting comfort to those who lost loved ones. Keep your Easter basket, empty or full, and allow God to fulfill his promises in new life and new hope.

— Fr. Patrick Fairbanks, S.J. Pastor

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Sunday offerings for April 5

\$9,281

THANK YOU to all those who remembered to support St Xavier Church during these hard times. See our website for information about online giving.



CATHOLIC RELIEF

You can donate to the Archdiocesan Catholic Relief Services Collection to help Jesus in disguise. This collection helps six Catholic agencies to provide struggling communities with relief and support and to work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at

www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

FIRST COMMUNION and CONFIRMATION

Lift up these young children in your prayer as they prepare themselves for First Communion and Confirmation soon. Susan Stewart-Pirone, Margaret Mayers, Grace Sychay, Alexander Siller and Braxton Rhinehart for First Communion and Brennan Bucher for Confirmation. We are grateful to John Kollar, Emily Conklin, Mary Fetick and Clare Krumme for preparing them. May the grace of our loving God envelop these young people as they receive these sacraments.

RCIA: CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES OUR NEW CATHOLICS

In light of the alternative schedule for the Easter Vigil, the Archdiocese has advised parishes to look to the Solemnity of **Pentecost** (May 31) as the Sunday on which we welcome new members into the Catholic Church. Our 9 candidates and catechumens will receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at this time. Please stay tuned for more information.

FAREWELL MASS FOR FATHER FAIRBANKS

Fr. Patrick Fairbanks, SJ will have a final farewell Mass before he departs for Chicago later this spring. Given the shifting permissions, the date will be announced later. This final Mass will be followed by a reception in the Parish Center. Further details will come later as to the departures and celebrations for Fr. Gamber and Fr. Veigas.

Daily Mass Intentions

On the front of this bulletin, you can see the names of those souls for whom each daily Mass is offered. The little cross + indicates that the person has died, and the Mass is offered for the salvation of their souls. The letters SI indicates a "special intention" of prayers for that living person. These Masses continue to be celebrated in a private setting each day by our Jesuit priests. We encourage you to keep these names in your own personal prayer intentions. AMDG

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam

AST XAVIER PRAYER MINISTRY▼

Please offer prayers for the infirmed of our parish: Marty Yee, Special Intention, David Schwartz, Edward Merkes, Lora Lee, Joe Waters, Elaine Waters, Audrey Koester, Jeff Koester, Betty Holt, Don Sumner, Joe Albers, Joan Ludwig, Dave Sturgeon, Chelsea Rust, Daniel Helmes, Angie Fennell, Melissa, Christine Schoonover, Charley Verkamp, Tim Robinson, Harry Tenkotte, Gerry Walsh, Russ Williams, Mimi McGarry, Rosemary Kosky, Rick Hancock, Gina Spradling, Arnold Tepe, Adelie Eaton, Terry Lawrence, Mary Murphy, Roy, Anita Snider, Thomas Willis, Shirley Tolliver Hardin, Karen Blust, Jerry Wallman, Gloria Duncan, Carl Ladwig, JoAnn James, David and Carol Grosser, Steve Wolter, Angie Randy Paul, Tom Huenefeld, Cynthia Hogan, Carmeltia Schlueter, Joseph and Shiela MacDougall, Kevin Noble, Helen Sievers, Jewel Rossmann, Chris Arlinghaus, Beth Barney, Bob Wilkerson, Quinn Cobble, Diana DeVore, Lisa Spencer, Ellen Sole, Sheila Sullivan, Mary Ann Himmelmann, Karen Shaw, Bill Hughes, Sue Leeds, Chris Leeds, Edward Pestian, Erin Payne, TJ Ducklo, Doug Lange, Glenda Bauer, Betty Headsworth, Ron and Lynda Pierce, Bill and Nancy Santen, Shirley Riegling, John Massman, Joseph Brehm, Josefa Navales, Gina Martin, Bob and Jean Scheid, Robert Miller, Barbara Meridieth, Sharon Dearwester, Joan Perone, Tomie Faye Weissinger, Rose Elizabeh Sartin, Debbie Garnett, Tom Miller, Jeanne Miller, Tim Robinson, Kathy Link, Jane Melson, Steve Nieman, Lovre Dzolic, Plinio DeGoes, JoJo, Bill Robison, Arlene Fritsch, Ginny Wiltse, and Gregg.

2020 EASTER BASKET







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