



SAINT XAVIER CHURCH JESUIT

Inward Reflection. Outward Action.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 3, 2020

WELCOME TO St Xavier

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Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam

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Email: office@stxchurch.org

MASS SCHEDULE (suspended)

Please see our website for other options
for prayer and spiritual communion

www.stxchurch.org

MASS INTENTIONS May 4—9

MON 4	6:00	+ Scott Sullivan
	11:30	+ O'Connor and Whalen Families + Carolyn Giesel
TUES 5	6:00	+ Bob and Kay Dietrich
	11:30	+ Wanda Riegler and Mary Jo Schwartz + June Bessette
WED 6	6:00	+ Mary Jo Schwartz
	11:30	+ William H. Thelen + Mary Lunsford
THUR 7	6:00	+ Debra Schulenberg Day
	11:30	+ Elmer McCloy + Joan C. Stewart
FRI 8	6:00	+ Mary Jo Schwartz and Jason Scott
	11:30	+ Betty Ferone + Margaret Elizabeth Hochleutner
SAT 9	7:00	+ Johanna Sievers (Birth.)



✠ST XAVIER PRAYER MINISTRY✠

Please offer prayers for the infirmed of our parish:
Austin Jacob Duesing, and family, Mike Moore, Danny Dell, George Lahner, Keith Uphaus, 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, Adelle 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, Cynthia Hogan, Carmelia 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, Sue Leeds, Chris Leeds, Edward Pestian, Erin Payne, TJ Ducklo, Doug Lange, Glenda Bauer, Betty Headsworth, Ron and Lynda Pierce, Bill and Nancy Santen, John Massman, Joseph Brehm, Josefa Navales, Gina Martin, Bob and Jean Scheid, Robert Miller, Barbara Meridieth, Sharon Dearwester, Joan Perone, Tomie Faye Weissinger, 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.

611 Sycamore Street Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 513-721-4045



ASK, SEEK AND KNOCK

The fourth Sunday of Easter, traditionally called, the Good Shepherd Sunday is also a day observed as the Vocation Sunday – a day of prayer for Vocations.

And when we think of vocations, we usually look at the vocation to the priesthood and consecrated life as the ultimate vocations.

What about marriage as a vocation? Family as a nursery of vocations? Isn't the marriage crisis the real cause for shortage of priests? For the first time in US history adult singles now outnumber married adults. Secular marriage crisis is a reflection of what is happening in the Church too. Could we not strengthen our vocation to family life so as to sow the seeds of vocations to priesthood and consecrated life?

The Church already has tons of things geared to creating new priests, hundreds of formation programs, vocation fairs, meet and greets, social media, and numerous books. Yet the shortage still exists and is getting worse. Why? Because these are not where priests are made. Priests first and foremost come from strong Catholic families, something the Church is failing to create. God cannot give us more priests if He doesn't have enough families to send them to. Are we listening?

As Peter was addressing the people, in today's first reading, listeners asked the apostles, "What are we to do?" Here are eight ways in which we could respond. For St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, "**desire**" is the beginning of everything in life. That holds true to most of us. Desire is the driving force to achieve anything. As parents and grandparents, do we desire in our hearts that our children be priests, sisters and missionaries? What about communicating this desire to our children as they grow.

When did you last invite a priest or a nun to your house for a visit? In the past, the pastor was a regular visitor to our families. He came to bless the home, anoint a sick person or casually dropped in to see. That was a friendship visit. Sometimes we termed it pastoral visit. It provided an opportunity to our children to see a priest from close proximity.

We have become slaves to modern technology. Just evaluate, how much time we spend on our cell phone every day? On an average, we spend four hours on surfing the internet, checking the emails, talking over the phone and watching the TV. That is an incredible one-sixth of the day! Did you ever calculate the time you spend on prayer? Approximately five minutes, that too, often you excuse because you had something else more important to do. Why not create an atmosphere of prayer in the family? Teach your children to pray, read the bible and pray the rosary as a family.

Times have changed and with that our attitudes towards priests too. They are no more our friends, spiritual guides, mentors as they were once.

Media and some sections of the society has painted priests as villains because some priests did something wrong. Ninety percent of the priests are good, committed and holy. Try not to speak ill about priests and religious in the family. Tell stories of kindness, compassion, service you experienced through them in your life. That will change the attitude of our children towards priests.

Seeing is believing especially for small children. Sense of touch, smell, sight, feeling and taste are very important in the learning process of a young child. Encourage children to serve during the mass. Let them see what the priests are doing at the altar and be inspired by the mystery being celebrated. It won't be a surprise to know that every priest who celebrates mass in our churches today was an altar server during his childhood.

Sometime ago the Archbishop Dennis Schnurr wrote in the Catholic Telegraph that Prayer for Vocations recited during the masses in the archdiocese has yielded much fruit as the number of priests being ordained has gone up. Ask, you shall receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you. Let us pray for vocations in our own families.

Praying for priests is an integral part of Christian life. Not that priests are higher mortals, but that they need community's prayer more than anything. They are weak human beings like anyone, tempted, tested at every moment. The strength of the priest comes from the spiritual support of the people. Every time you meet your priest, you ask, 'Father please pray for us,' don't you? How about you praying for your priests, to make them holy, spiritual and faithful to their vocation?

If you want to have a good priest then we need to form him well, train appropriately. A half-baked priest will be a disaster to any community. Hence it is very essential to support and sponsor candidates for priesthood. Sometimes, it will be good even to adopt a candidate to be a priest. When a candidate knows, people are investing in him and in his training, he will be cautious and remain faithful to his vocation.

Fr. Jerome Veigas, SJ, Associate Pastor

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Sunday offerings for April 26 \$4,392

THANK YOU to all those who remembered to support St Xavier Church during these hard times. If you are interested to donate electronically, see our website for information about online giving.

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

MAY 2020 For Deacons

We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

**TRANSITIONS**

May 1—WELCOME to Father Robert Thesing, SJ!

June 1 — Fr. Cy Whitaker, SJ will serve as an assisting priest during the summer.

September 1 — Fr. Paul Lickteig SJ arrives after his tertianship in Australia.

We do not yet have dates for final Masses and celebration events for Fr. Fairbanks, Fr. Gamber, nor Fr. Veigas. TBA

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"GO TO OUR WEBSITE"

We apologize sincerely for all the many times you might see us direct you to the website for this or that piece of information. But in these trying times, we have no better way of communicating directly and quickly than through the various buttons and banners at www.stxchurch.org Until we see you in person we thank you for your patience.

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!

TENDER MERCIES

As you know we have not been able to donate food or serve food the last couple of months. St. Xavier has sent over a "tithing" check to support them. A Big THANK YOU to **Mike and Beth Reinert** for all their hard work and concern!

2020 WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CERTIFICATES

Married couples celebrating a significant wedding anniversary (25, 40, 50, 60, 65, 70, 75) in 2020 can request a personally signed certificate from the Archbishop. If these noteworthy milestones apply to you, please call Diane at the office. For couples celebrating 50 years, there will be a GOLDEN Anniversary Mass at St Peter in Chains Cathedral Sunday August 1 at 4:30.

ST VINCENT de PAUL needs YOU!

The St. Vincent de Paul group is in great need of **a few strong arms** to help when their visits resume. An hour or so of your time would be great! Leave your number at church office if you can help. We'll contact you.

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 Meyers, Grace Sychay, Alexander Siller and Braxton Rhinehart** for First Communion and **Brennan Bucher** for Confirmation. We are grateful to Mary Fetick, John Kollar, Emily Conklin, 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 month of April, 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 keep them in your prayers, and stay tuned for more information.

**Chelsea Cole, Chris Stratmoen,
Brittany Bishop, Paul Dieterlen,
Brittney Fernandez, LaToiua Foster,
Zachary Powell, Riley Sheehy, Emily Voll**

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam

jan kirlinger
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