



SAINT XAVIER CHURCH JESUIT

Inward Reflection. Outward Action.



4th Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024



WELCOME TO ST. XAVIER

Registered historic site founded in 1819
Apostolate of the Jesuit Fathers since 1845
Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam

Pastor: Fr. Paul Lickteig, SJ
Associate Pastor: Fr. James Ackerman, SJ
Associate Pastor: Fr. Jacob Boddicker, SJ

PARISH STAFF

Sam Aberle Bennie Barnard
Chris Crabb Dcn. Tim Crooker
Lisa Durr Tina Ernst
Mary Beth Fennell Kathy Heile
Trevor Kroeger Diane Roden
Sr. Whitney Schieltz Tim Severyn

www.stxchurch.org

MASS INTENTIONS

December 23 – December 28

MON 6:00 + Mary Jo Kiely (Birth.)
23

11:30 + Jack Lawler (Birth.)
+ Linda Klare (Birth.)

TUES 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE**
4 PM, 5:30 PM, &
Midnight Mass (12 AM)

WED 25 **CHRISTMAS DAY**
7 AM, 9 AM, 10:30 AM

THU 26 *No 6 AM Mass*
11:30 + Donald Greis (Birth.)
+ Annie Quehl (Birth.)

FRI 27 6:00 + Joan Robinson
11:30 + Carolyn Voss (Birth.)
+ Willis Whitaker

SAT 28 7:00 + Johanna Sievers (Annv.)
SI Richard Osuaqwu

MUSIC

Opening:

Praise We the Lord This Day #875

Responsorial Psalm 80:

Lord, make us turn to you; let us
see your face and we shall be saved.
#1002

Mass Parts:

#194, 198, 200, 202, 204

Offertory:

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming #451

Closing:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #395
vv. 1, 6, 7

Micah 5:1-4a
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

Art: *Detail from the Ghent Altarpiece*
by Jan Van Eyck (c. 1531)

Oil on panel

© St. Bavo Cathedral, Ghent

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses

Saturday
4 PM

Sunday
7 AM, 9 AM, 10:30 AM, 5 PM

Weekday Masses

Monday - Friday
6 AM, 11:30 AM

Saturday
7 AM

Confessions

Monday - Friday
Noon to 1 PM

Saturday
11 AM to Noon

Introducing the *CATECHETICAL CORNER*

Do you ever wonder why we say “consubstantial” in the Creed? Why there’s a pink candle during Advent? Or what’s the deal with Transubstantiation? We’re excited to announce a new bulletin section for next year: Catechetical Corner! This will be a space to explore the “why” behind the things we say, do, and believe as Catholics. No question is too small, too big, or too simple—we want to hear from you! Scan the QR code to send us your questions, and we’ll answer them in future bulletins. Together, let’s deepen our understanding of the richness of our faith.



Parish Family Winter Retreat

The annual winter retreat for our Parish Family of St. Xavier Church and Bellarmine Chapel will be **Friday, January 24, 2025**, beginning with dinner at 6-8:30 PM in the St. X Parish Center; and **Saturday, January 25, 8:30 AM-3 PM** at the Jesuit Spiritual Center at Milford. The theme is “Being transformed in the Body of Christ.” Please hold the dates and plan to join us for this time of reflection and prayer in the new year. Look for RSVP info in future bulletins.

Sunday Collection for December 8	\$15,103
Online Contributions	3,796
Total for December 8	\$18,899



Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to purchase poinsettia flowers for someone special, or as a memorial for a loved one, please use the envelopes at the back of church. Or, you can clip this notice and return it with your payment in the collection basket or mail it to the parish office.

Suggested donation: \$10. Thank you!

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

The Hills Are Alive...

....with the sound of...Mary, as the mere sound of her voice sets the Salvation Story in motion. John, still in the womb, leaps for joy at the sound. They say it was John the Baptist’s first homily. Prompted by Mary’s voice, Mary’s conviction, and Mary’s gumption, today we hear what a difference her “greeting” can make in the world. Talk about the “ultra of all ultrasounds.”

What does Mary’s sound, echoing through the hills, mean to YOU? How does it change you? This divine energy causes a combustion—ushering in a movement in our hearts and in our world. May we be stimulated to do what she demonstrates for she is “climbing every mountain and fording every stream; she’s following every rainbow ‘til she finds her dream” to do a “Visitation.”

And so it was back in 2007, in Mary’s footsteps, that I ventured out to Israel. Destination: the Church of the Visitation. I was inspired (with the help of two Jesuit brothers) to take two buses and huff and puff it through the “hill country” of modern Jerusalem to its Ein Kerem section to find where Mary climbed those hills. It was a hot day, but we made it to the church. Conclusion: Mary was no slouch. While we were sweating via modern transport, Mary had no bus transfer, let alone a bus. I felt the presence of our girl, Mary, on her way to becoming Our Lady.

We next traversed to the nearby Hadassah Medical Center with its in-house synagogue featuring Russian painter Marc Chagall’s fantastic twelve stained-glass windows representing Jacob’s twelve sons. The light shined through those magnificent windows and illuminated the amazing technicolor tribal history of Jacob and sons. The light also revealed the conviction of Chagall, who fought against all odds to be a successful artist when Jews were outcasts. And the light revealed Mary’s conviction. After all, she brought us all there. I felt the presence of Mary draw me closer to her vision, her integrity. Can we feel it? She is propelling us to be contemplatives in action—praying, moving, climbing, ascending, descending.

May you experience a visitation from Mary and be prompted to do your own visit to someone who could use a lift. Just like baby John got a lift via Mary—may we do a similar star turn as the sound of music beckons in Mary’s deft navigation of the hills of life. She leads us like she did Dominic, Francis, Ignatius, Bernadette, and Juan Diego from a hill. Mary, the name she calls herself, please lead us far, a long, long way to run—as she brings us back to *know*...that Jesus is on the horizon.

- Fr. James Ackerman, SJ
Associate Pastor



Christmas at St. X

DECEMBER 24

4 PM* 5:30 PM 12 AM
(Midnight Mass)

DECEMBER 25

7 AM 9 AM 10:30 AM*

* Livestream

CHRISTMAS EVE PRESIDERS

4:00 PM Fr. James Ackerman, SJ
5:30 PM Fr. Jacob Boddicker SJ
12:00 AM Fr. Paul Lickteig, SJ

CHRISTMAS DAY PRESIDERS

7:00 AM Fr. Jacob Boddicker, SJ
9:00 AM Fr. James Ackerman, SJ
10:30 AM Fr. James Ackerman, SJ

St. Xavier Book Club

Our group will meet on **Tuesday, January 7**, at 2:30 PM in the Parish Center. We will discuss our newest book *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann. In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Nation in Oklahoma. After oil was discovered beneath their land, the Osage began to be killed off. The newly created FBI and their young director, J. Edgar Hoover, took up the case to expose one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history. Please join us for a great discussion of this book!

Collection Envelopes

Parish collection envelopes are still available in the back of church. After this weekend, you can find them downstairs in the Parish Center. If you have any questions, please call the office at 513-721-4045.

Accessibility at St. Xavier Church

Handicap seating is available in the front of the side pews and in the back of the church. Please ask an usher for additional assistance.

SOCIAL MISSION

Thank You For Your Generosity!

Many thanks to everyone who contributed food and gifts to our holiday collections. Altogether we collected about 10 barrels-worth of food for St. Vincent de Paul, over 500 gifts for seven different organizations on our Giving Tree, and over 80 dozen cookies for Transforming Jail Ministries! Your generosity has helped spread Christmas cheer to countless families in the Greater Cincinnati area.



If you can donate a food dish for Tender Mercies this month, please call the office or drop it off by 11 AM on **Sunday, December 29**.

Young Adults Group

St. Xavier Church's Young Adults Group meets multiple times each month for socials, reflections, and days of service. To learn more, please visit www.stxya.com/events.



Men's Spirituality Group

You are invited to a prayer/discussion group designed for men to contemplate and process issues pertinent to men as they relate to the Bible and selected popular books. The next meeting is Friday, January 3, from noon to 1 PM in the Parish Center. Meetings occur every other Friday. For more info, email Fr. Jim at jackerman@stxchurch.org.

CONNECT WITH ST. X!

Sign up to receive St. Xavier Church's weekly email newsletter by completing the form on the homepage of the website.



Scan the QR to support St. X's ministries:



PRESIDERS FOR THIS WEEKEND - DECEMBER 22

4:00 PM Fr. Jacob Boddicker, SJ
 7:00 AM Fr. James Ackerman, SJ
 9:00 AM Fr. James Ackerman, SJ
 10:30 AM Fr. Jacob Boddicker, SJ
 5:00 PM Fr. Paul Lickteig, SJ

PRESIDERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND - DECEMBER 29

4:00 PM Fr. James Ackerman, SJ
 7:00 AM Fr. Bill Murphy, SJ
 9:00 AM Fr. Bill Murphy, SJ
 10:30 AM Fr. James Ackerman, SJ
 5:00 PM Fr. Jacob Boddicker, SJ

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 24** Parish office closed until Dec. 30
- December 29** Tender Mercies
- December 31** Parish office closed until Jan. 2
- January 3** Men's Spirituality Group - Parish Center
- January 7** St. X Book Club - Parish Center
- January 16** Thursday Parish Social - Location TBD
- January 24** Jesuit Parish Family Winter Retreat - Parish Center

Contact the parish office to learn more.

ST. XAVIER PRAYER MINISTRY Please offer prayers for the infirmed of our parish.


Susan Anderson, Adelle Eaton, Jeff Krohmer, Wendy Welsh, Phyllis Madix, Les Bunker, Mary Burwinkle, Norma Litherland, Jerry Kastner, James Hogan, James Linhard, Tim, Carol Moore, Frank & Sandy Fieler, Ella Grace Hiltz, Donna Engelhart, Sharon Dearwester, and Marguerite Kron.

Please call the parish office at 513.721.4045 to add a name to the list.

Support St. X Church by purchasing ad space in this weekly bulletin!

# of Spaces	Annual Price
1	\$474
2	\$874
3	\$1304
4	\$1665

1 SPACE 1.5 x 1 inches	2 SPACES 3 x 1 inches
4 SPACES 3 x 2 inches	



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CONTACT
 Lisa Durr
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 513-721-4045

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Jesuit Parish Family: Being transformed in the Body of Christ, to bear hope and healing, in the Ignatian tradition.