

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

626 4th Street • Alexandria, Louisiana 71301 • Phone: (318) 445-1451 • www.sfxcathedral.org

Volume XXXII, No. 8

February 21, 2021

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Father James Ferguson, JCL, Rector • Father William Gearheard, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Richard Mitchell • Deacon Luke White

INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, February 22:

12:05 p.m. Felix LaCaze

Tuesday, February 23:

12:05 p.m. Edgar J. Rachal

Wednesday, February 24:

12:05 p.m. Agnes Rita Roberts

Thursday, February 25:

12:05 p.m. Michael III & Paul Monsour

Friday, February 26:

12:05 p.m. Ruth Wilson

Saturday, February 27:

4:00 p.m. Hope Farrar Kramer, Leila C. Kramer, George & Betty Battalora, Robert Eberle, Galardo & LaCroix Families, Charles "Judge" Wallace, Angelo & Nina Carter D'Angelo, Weston Charles Johnson, Jr., Carl A. Jeansonne, Sr., Mott & Jones Family (living & deceased), Rachael Brouillette, Mark Young

Sunday, February 28: Second Sunday of Lent

9:00 a.m. Gilchrist & White Families (living & deceased), Luke Letlow, Clement F.X. Carroll, Md., Dennis Richard, Janelle Cecila Braquet, Vincent Ross Cicardo, Mark Young, Michael Francis Bradford

11:00 a.m. People of SFX Cathedral Parish

5:30 p.m. John Gauthier

WAY OF THE CROSS – FRIDAY, FEB. 26 – 5:30 PM

SANCTUARY LIGHT

The Sanctuary Light will burn for Jacob Williamson, please remember him in your prayers.

WEEKEND COLLECTION

Weekly Budget	\$8,500.00
Last Weekend's Collection	\$7,357.00
Over or (Short)	\$(1,143.00)
Restoration Fund	\$2,594.00

Thank you for your generosity!

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral,

This past week certainly was quite the week with the winter storm that left us with more snow and ice and cold temperatures than we have seen in several years. In the midst of the cold we begin the season of Lent.

We will hear about prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, the three spiritual practices that our Church especially recommends during this Lenten season. Prayer offers us all a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our baptism.

Praying first thing in the morning, while the house is still quiet, or talking to God while on your commute to work are simple ways to add prayer into everyday life. Read a chapter of the Bible every day, what better way to get to know the heart and mind of God.

Receiving the Sacrament of Penance, attending the Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent at 5:30 PM, praying the Rosary, or visiting the Blessed Sacrament are other ways to a healthy prayer life.

The Sunday Mass is how we "Keep holy the Lord's day," the greatest form of prayer because it is where we receive the gift of the Holy Eucharist the very real presence of the Risen Christ. Attending weekly (or daily) Mass is an excellent Lenten practice and an essential part of our daily walk with Jesus.

Fasting is a time to fast from those things or habits that may have become a roadblock to our relationship with God.

Almsgiving means making the needs of others our own, especially the needy of our world.

Lent is a time for deep reflection and spiritual renewal, a time to analyze our relationship with God and with others. I invite you to take part in any or all of what we are offering this Lent. Blessings and good health – Fr. Ferguson

Fr. Bill Gearheard would like to share his Lenten reflection that he gave to the students at Holy Savior Menard Central High School.

Ash Wednesday began our season of Lent. Ash Wednesday reminds us of two great motivating forces in life. They are love and fear. Those who wish to enter this season and become changed by it, must acknowledge most things we do are either out of love for God or we respond out of fear. We often fear the separation from God by our sin and our indifference. If our sin is serious, we should fear the pain of hell. Hell is eternal separation from God.

Many people have the idea Lent is solely about giving up things and self-denial. But what you may not know is

Lent is not meant to be a gloomy season. Lent is a time of growth, an interior change, a time to be closer to God by almsgiving, a concern for the poor or marginalized, and by spending more time in prayer for our broken world. We are to pray especially for those who are to be baptized at Easter and rejoice in their new founded faith. We are also to pray for those already baptized coming into the Church more fully. Historically, Lent was geared toward restoring those who had grievously sinned back into the fellowship of believers. Thus, Lent is a time for reparation for sin, a time to reflect on our own indifferent heart and our own responsibility for a sinful world. We are all giving a mission by Jesus to help redeem others. Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness praying for us and preparing for the intensity of his own mission with its trials and passion.

Finally, all of you are very important to me, and you are in my Lenten prayers and sacrifices. – Fr. Bill.

2021 ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

As a Catholic community we are called to be one body in Christ and to live as His disciples. The Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA) offers each of us the opportunity to become one in His body by supporting the ministries of the local Church and contributing to the ADA.

YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

With the Apostolic Letter, "Patris corde" ("With a Father's Heart") Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as Patron Saint of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of St. Joseph" from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021.

Among the many exercises of piety practiced in honor of St. Joseph, there is one generally known, namely that of meditating on the Seven Sorrows and Seven Joys of St. Joseph, which come from Sacred Scripture. **We will pray this beautiful devotion after each daily Mass on Wednesdays, beginning on February 24, and the following three Wednesdays, ending on the feast of St. Joseph on March 19. Handouts will be available.**

We will keep you up to date on parish plans for the year. St. Joseph, pray for us. – Fr. Ferguson.

LENTEN REGULATIONS

Fridays of the season of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. The obligation to abstain from meat binds Catholics 14 years of age and older. The obligation to fast, limiting oneself to one full meal and two lighter meals in the course of the day, binds Catholics from the age of 18 to 59. Those who are younger or older may freely embrace these disciplines. But Lenten disciplines should never endanger your health.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY FEB. 26 & FRIDAYS DURING LENT THROUGH MARCH 26

Our local Knights of Columbus Council 3200 will have their annual Lenten Fish Fry in Xavier Hall **from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Friday, February 26 and each Friday up to March 26. Due to Covid regulations there will be no dining in the hall, and masks will be required for pick-**

up. For take-out delivery call 447-3663 with a minimum of three orders. Menu includes fried fish, french fries, hush puppies, and coleslaw. **(Please note that the Fish Fry will not be served on Good Friday)**

2021 RITE OF ELECTION - FEBRUARY 21

The Rite of Election of Catechumens and Call to Continuing Conversion for Candidates for Full Communion in the Catholic Church will be celebrated by the parishes of the Diocese of Alexandria on **Sunday, February 21, at 2:30 p.m., at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.**

BIRTHDAYS – FEBRUARY 21 – FEBRUARY 20

Robert Belgard, Melissa Bradford, Rebecca Dausat, Gail Deville, Louis Joseph, Kenneth Kemmerly, Amanda Lacombe, Rodney LeBlanc, Paul Riddle, Andrew Waldron, Sharon White, Msgr. Steve Testa, Feb. 14, Rev. Louis Sklar, Feb. 16

NECROLOGY – FEBRUARY 14 – FEBRUARY 20

Rev. Francis O. Couvillion +Feb. 18, 1978

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DEACON ASPIRANTS

Jason Lavergne, and Alex Mangini

FOR OUR MILITARY

If members of your family have been called to active military duty, or are already on active duty, please let us know, and we will place their names for prayer in the church bulletin. Please call the church secretary at telephone 445-1451, ext. 14, or you may email her at aryder@parish.diocesealex.org.

Known military are: Known military are Brent Marcus Barbour, Byron P. Barbour, Quincy Bordelon, Kevin Burnett, James Domzalski, II, Andrew Hill, Caleb Holloway, Jeffrey Kelso, Chad McCann, Co. G-2-238, Evan Nugent, Simon Pelto, Matthew Raines, Kevin Raines, Natalie T. Wall

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Glenn Andrew, Carol Brossett, Shree Bbye, Jerry Byles, Chere Carnahan, Linda Cazes, Jo Ann Cumella, Kathy Cumella, Kathryn Frey, Ruth Gilchrist, Carolyn Harger, Cody & Scott Lachney, Audrey Luczak, Melvin Mayeaux, Linda McCain, Ann McQuagge, Kelly Miller, Lou Ann Rigby, Andrew & Kemal Sanli, Wade Swart, J. B. Theriot, Mary Young

ADVERTISER FOR THE WEEK



Mexican Restaurant
To Go & Catering Available

Mon. - Thur. 11:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Fri. - Sat. 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
318-487-0001

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