

A.M.D.G
December 3, 2018
Feast of St. Francis Xavier



Dear parishioners and friends of St Xavier,

On this feast day of our parish patron, I send Advent greetings to you all! Not only is this a time for preparing the coming of the Lord on Christmas, but we are mindful of the many blessings given to us by our gracious God over these past 200 years. St Xavier Church recognizes 2019 as a bicentennial year!

Founded as the first Cincinnati Catholic parish in 1819, this faith community has grown under various patrons, in two different locations, and in several sacred buildings. We invite you to join us in 2019 for several celebratory occasions and events. I enclose a flyer detailing the many ways we hope to “**remember, rejoice, and reach out.**”

In addition to the many events on this schedule, we are also planning:

- ❖ to publish a definitive **history** of St Xavier Church (available November 2019)
- ❖ to offer a souvenir Christmas **ornament** (available for \$5 in the office)
- ❖ to provide in the bulletin 200 small **info bytes** from St X history (4 each week)
- ❖ to reproduce **excerpts** from our archives of “St Xavier Monthly Calendar” (the 19th and 20th century parish newsletter)
- ❖ to present free Jesuit **prayer cards** through various seasons of the coming year
- ❖ to offer **tours of the church** and reach out to those in the local area

My hope for 2019 is that you can:

REMEMBER with us. Help us call to mind the many names, faces, and souls who helped build this parish. If any individuals or families have souvenirs, photos, artifacts, even personal stories about our history, please contact me at pfairbanks@stxchurch.org.

REJOICE with us. Bring alive the Holy Spirit in the present day through all forms of liturgical worship, praise, fellowship and thanksgiving.

REACH OUT with us. Through our sharing of the Word, Eucharist, and social action to the wider community, we hope to continue the work started by St. Francis Xavier when he first left the coast of Portugal in 1540 to spread the Good News of the Lord “for the aid of souls.” Help us to continue as a community of welcome, service, and growth.

With every blessing for the season,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick Fairbanks S.J.".

Rev. Patrick Fairbanks, S.J., Pastor