



First Sunday of Advent November 28, 2021

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Parish phone 513-721-4045

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Parish website www.stxchurch.org

Find the upcoming readings for weekday and Sunday here at the US Catholic Conference

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/index.cfm>

Most recent parish bulletin: <https://www.stxchurch.org>



***THANKSGIVING DAY MASS is a 9 AM.
Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!***

PLEASE NOTE:

We respectfully ask that people who wish to receive the Eucharist on the tongue would please come up at the end of the line, following those who receive the Eucharist by hand..

Advent Wreath Prayer – Week 1

As we prepare our hearts this Advent for the coming of Our Lord, we light one candle and pray for the people whom we see each day who live on the margins of society, and for those who live in the shadows, served by food pantries, shelters and social agencies in our city.



[DONATE HERE](#)

THANK YOU to all those who remember to support St Xavier Church during these hard times. Your generous support of St Francis Xavier parish has enabled us to give to these local charities: Catholic Charities of SW Ohio, Old St. Mary's Pregnancy Center, St Vincent DePaul Society & Tender Mercies.

Current COVID Policy

Please remember that *unvaccinated parishioners* are kindly requested to continue wearing masks when attending mass at St. Xavier Church. Also, based on the recent release from Hamilton County Public Health, the wearing of masks in enclosed spaces or areas of close contact is recommended even for fully vaccinated people. Parishioners of St. Xavier are encouraged to wear masks while in the pews due to being in close proximity with each other, but this is not a requirement.

Priests, Eucharistic ministers, and musicians at St. Xavier will continue to wear masks during times of close contact during mass. We will not return to a mask mandate or seating restrictions unless notified by local government or Archdiocesan offices. As conditions change, as they may from week-to-week, it is possible that former COVID policies will be reinstated. We are not there yet.

Please be kind to each other during these coming weeks as we try to respond to the current pandemic as a community. Remain attentive to public health recommendations, to the common good, and to our need to care for each other. Patience and compassion are not always easy, but they are the foundation of all we profess.

Fr. Paul Lickteig, SJ, Pastor



Caring for our Church

The restoration of our church's belltower and eaves is underway! Prior to my arrival as Pastor, it became apparent that the clock tower and box-gutters on our church need to be repaired. This work was delayed in part due to the changing of pastors and in part due to the pandemic lockdown. As it stands, the work is slated to be finished sometime in late November or early December. Please pray for the health and safety of all who are involved in this massive undertaking.

The planned restoration will address specific structural issues that have led to leaking and water damage, and it will also attend to the tower's edifice. The first stage of these necessary repairs will be to shore up any places outside where water might be entering the church. During the second stage, work will move inside to scrape away damaged material and refinish our beloved interior.

St. Xavier church is our place of prayer, our spiritual home. As with repairing any home, there may be times of inconvenience, and more than a little dust raised up. As work progresses from the outside to the inside, the parish staff is committed to keeping you updated. We look forward to a completed exterior restoration (first stage) by the end of this liturgical year!

Fr. Paul A. Lickteig, SJ, Pastor

This year the Society of Jesus celebrates the Cannonball Year: the 500-year anniversary of St. Ignatius' conversion. Until his thirties, Ignatius was dedicated to winning worldly acclaim, a pursuit that led him into a battle where his leg was shattered by a cannonball. Over the course of a nine-month recuperation, the far-from-saintly soldier experienced a conversion that altered his perception of how the Holy Spirit was at work in his life. This conversion would lead Ignatius into a way of prayer and action that would eventually affect millions of lives.

On our website, if you click on the box marked "Cannonball Year", you will find a document titled "Christ Plays in 10,000 Places", published by the Jesuit Conference. This line from a poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins, SJ speaks to the way in which God is constantly present in our lives, loving us, and re-creating us, if we only have the eyes to see. Even more than this, though, is the awareness that God has been with us all along.

Over the course of this year, the hope is that we all come to see those "cannonball moments" in our own lives: times when God has broken into our awareness, offering us a new path forward. Perhaps, as you take time to peruse these reflections, you will find your own moment of clarity and become aware of how you are called to change, grow, and deepen in your relationship with God. Through prayer, reflection, and the practice of good works, may we all come to see how "Christ plays in 10,000 places".

ADVENT RETREAT! Praying Together This Advent

For Advent this year, Bellarmine and St. Xavier parishes have invited Susan Stabile, spiritual director and specialist in Ignatian spirituality from Minneapolis, to lead us in prayer. (Check out Susan's website <http://susanstabile.com>). On the four Saturdays preceding the Sundays of Advent, beginning at 9am, Susan will offer (using Zoom) a presentation on the prayer theme for the week. Participants will have a booklet including daily prayer themes and prompts for reflection, and will meet weekly with a small group in person or on Zoom. Registration will be handled through Bellarmine Chapel, who has graciously agreed to host this event over Zoom and organize groups for meeting. We look forward to meeting members of our sister parish in each of our groups, though group participation is not required. Please contact Jane Myers myers@bellarminechapel.org if you are willing to facilitate a group. Please complete this form to register for an Advent Prayer Group: <https://form.jotform.com/213075473903051>

A Synod on Synodality?

Sounds strange, doesn't it? Yet, this is what the Holy Father has called. In its simplest form, synodality represents a collaborative approach by all people of God to address a particular issue for which the Holy Father seeks input. For this synod, he wants to hear from everyone on how the whole Church (not only the bishops and priests) can journey together in bringing the Gospel message to the world. To address this "synodal" approach, he has called for all diocese in the world to hold local consultative meetings to discuss this topic. Currently, our archdiocese is targeting Jan and Feb of 2022 for these meetings. Please carefully consider participating in your local deanery meeting. That opportunity will soon be available on our archdiocesan website.



TENDER MERCIES - November 28

Please call the office if you can donate a food item this month! Thank you!

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND CONFESSION



St. Xavier Church offers Adoration and Confession on Tuesday evenings from **6—7 PM**. Please come and pray with us!



PARISH BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Enroll deceased family and friends in the Saint Xavier Book of Remembrance. Those enrolled are remembered at Mass once a month throughout the rest of the year. Memorial envelopes will be at the back of Church. Fill out the envelope and drop it in the collection basket or the office or you can mail it in. We will add your name to the Memorial Book which is located at the side altar in the sanctuary during November. AMDG



YOUNG ADULTS – November 28 “Friendsgiving”

Please come join us for a belated pot-luck Thanksgiving feast. We will have brief meditation on the importance of gratitude and the nature of communal sharing followed by good food and great conversation. If you are in your 20's or early 30's, come join us in the Parish Center at 6pm (right after the 5pm Mass).

Ignatian Examen

Bellarmino Parish has invited parishioners at St. Xavier to join them in praying the Ignatian Examen on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm. All are welcome to pray this “simple life changing prayer” and spend 30 minutes reflecting and reviewing the day with God. Please [complete this form](#) with your name and email address and select if you would like to receive notifications of the weekly Examen prayer time/Zoom link. Login details will be sent to your email a few hours prior to the meeting.

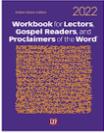
Marian Art Talk & Display

St. Francis Xavier Church will be hosting a collection of Marian art by the local artist **Holly Schapker**, with an opening on **December 12 at noon in the Parish Center**. The event will include a talk by the artist on Marian devotion and its intersection with devotional art. Light food and refreshments will be served. The collection will be on display through February. The Parish Center is located directly beneath St. Francis Xavier Church at 611 Sycamore St. in downtown Cincinnati. Enter beneath the scaffolding through the side door.

St. Xavier Book Club



Our group will meet on **Tuesday, January 4, at 3 pm** in the Parish Center. We will discuss our newest book *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger. This historical novel is the unforgettable story of four orphans who travel the Mississippi River on a life-changing odyssey during the Great Depression. Please join us!



READERS at Mass

The **2022 Lector Workbooks** are available in the Priest Sacristy for pickup after Masses this weekend. If you are a Reader at St. X, please pick up your copy.

MONTHLY ROSARY

We will meet at ST. XAVIER CHURCH on **December 15 at 7 PM**. We are also doing **ZOOM** Rosary on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays in November at **7 PM**. Contact Jan Meyer at jmeyer0555@gmail.com. She will send you the link.



Advent Blue Books are available at the back of Church. It contains prayers and reflections for Advent. A great idea for this season.



Bellarmino Chapel Grief Support Group

Bellarmino Chapel's Grief Support Group offers an opportunity to meet with others on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Facilitated by a team of trained grief counselors, they are extending an invitation to St. Francis Xavier parishioners to join them. The next sessions will be on Wednesday, November 3 and 17, 7:00- 8:15 p.m. on Zoom. If you have lost a loved one or are experiencing other losses, please plan to join them for support and consolation. To receive the Zoom link by email please contact Angie Thorman Grimsley at angie.thorman@gmail.com



BEACONS UPDATE: **"FAMILIES OF PARISHES"**

For more information go to <https://catholicaoc.org/beacons-of-light>

CHECK THIS OUT

31 Days with St. Ignatius:

<https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/31-days-with-saint-ignatius/?bblinkid=252320737&bbemailid=32316144&bbejrid=2019588927>

LIVE STREAMING!



Sundays at 10:30 AM & 5 PM AND Weekdays at 11:30 AM

[Two ways to Watch: From the Parish website: www.stxchurch.org](http://www.stxchurch.org)
[\(click on "Live Stream" button\) or Youtube: search for](#) St. Xavier Church
Cincinnati



Support St. X through Kroger! Tell all your family, friends, and anyone else who has a Kroger Community Re-wards Plus Card to enroll and select St. Xavier Church (NPO number 60514). With all the food and gift cards that are bought throughout the year, it would be a great way to help support St. Xavier! **St. Xavier received \$455.82 this last quarter! Thanks for all your support!**

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Request: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

St. Francis Seraph Ministries (SFSM) is looking for Volunteers to help with their Cooking for the Family Program at the Saint Anthony Center located at 1615 Republic Street, 45202. Tuesdays from 4-9pm and on Saturdays from 9am-2pm. SFSM nourishes and nurtures anyone in need, and this Program teaches students to cook for a family of 4-6 for under \$10. Please sign up online [HERE](#) or contact Theresa for more information at tdiersen@sfsministries.org

MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA DINING ROOM

They offer the urban poor in Over-the-Rhine an opportunity of dignity with a safe environment to have a hot meal served by compassionate volunteers. Meals are served Monday through Friday Breakfasts (excluding major holidays) at 7am-9am and Dinners (excluding major holidays) at 4-6pm. Located at 1615 Republic Street. If you would like to volunteer, you can call Theresa Diersen at 513-549-0542 ext. 289 or tdiersen@sfsministries.org

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT SERVICES NEEDS YOUR HELP - Catholic Charities

Southwestern Ohio is recruiting **volunteers to serve as mentors** to refugee youth ages 15-24. Work with refugee youth to promote social and civic engagement and support academic and vocational advancement. Volunteers must be 18 or older and commit 2 hours a week. No foreign language skills required. Contact Donald Foley at 513.672.3824 or dfoley@ccswoh.org for more information. **Affordable housing needed** for refugees resettling in the Greater Cincinnati area. For more information, contact Annie Scheid at 513.672.3784 or ascheid@ccswoh.org.

LAST MILE FOOD RESCUE IS SEEKING VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE HUNGRY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR CITY

- Did you know that 35% of food goes to waste while 20% of Cincinnati's population struggles with food insecurity? Last Mile uses the power of technology to connect volunteer drivers to good food in need of rescue. Our simple app takes you every step of the way - from picking up food to dropping off at local non-profits. Would you donate an hour of your time to help us rescue good food and deliver it to those who need it most? To date, Last Mile has rescued 500,000 pounds of food in just seven months. Our goal is to hit one million pounds of food rescued by the end of 2021. Join us in the movement to #endfoodwaste and become a food rescue hero today! Get started by downloading the app! www.lastmilefood.org/our-app

"FRIENDS OF CISE" 41st Annual Raffle will be held virtually on December 17, 2021.

Grand Raffle Tickets are \$100 each. Prizes are \$10,000, \$2,500, \$1,000 and \$500. Tickets are \$100 each. Winning tickets will be drawn by Archbishop Dennis Schnurr. You can view a video of the live drawing at www.CISEKids.org after the drawing on December 17th. For more information or to purchase tickets contact the CISE office at 513.263.3472 or TMiller@CISEKid.org.

Proceeds provide tuition aid to low-income students attending ten Catholic inner-city, elementary schools in Cincinnati. Following the recent additions of St. William and St. Cecilia to our network of schools, enrollment is 28% higher allowing CISE to service 2,600 students in Cincinnati's inner-city. Please help us by supporting the raffle and the children of Cincinnati's inner-city. The schools supported by CISE are St. Boniface, Corryville Catholic, St. Francis de Sales, St. Francis Seraph, *Holy Family*, *St. Joseph*, *St. Lawrence*, *Romero Academy at Resurrection*, *St. William*, and *St. Cecilia*.