



For 200 years, Catholics in Cincinnati have been gathering to pray and to celebrate the Eucharist in a faith community that has become St. Francis Xavier Church. In fact, the first Mass celebrated was on Easter Sunday 1819. Therefore Lent is a special time not only in the life of the universal Church but also in the historical life of our parish. With that in mind, we offer this year a variety of programs and opportunities for people with diverse interests. Some of our Lenten activities coincide with our parish's Bicentennial celebrations. We hope you will take advantage of these prayerful moments to deepen your relationship with Our Lord as we walk the Lenten journey with Him who won salvation for us.

— Fr. Patrick Fairbanks, S.J., Pastor

Liturgies and Prayer

Mass

Weekdays at 6:00 AM and 11:30 AM. Saturday at **7:00 AM and 4:00 PM** (Sunday vigil)
Sundays at 7:00, 9:00, 10:30 AM, 12:00 noon and 5:00 PM.

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday at noon

Reconciliation Services

Monday-Friday, 12:00 noon-1:00 PM and Saturday 11:00 AM- 12:00 noon

NOTE: Confessions will not be heard after 12:00 noon on Holy Thursday until the Tuesday after Easter.

The Light is On for You!

Tuesday, March 19, 5:00-9:00 PM

This Archdiocese-wide Reconciliation Service is in its fourth year. St. Xavier is pleased to participate. Every parish will offer an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation geared especially for those who have been away for a long time. We will have several priests available for the Sacrament.

Freedom to Love: Theology of the Body for Young Adults

Wednesdays at 7-9 pm March 6, 13, 20, 27, and April 3 (starting Ash Wednesday). We are hosting a team from Ruah Woods to offer the basics of John Paul II's "Theology of the Body." Some may question: "Why does the Catholic Church not get with the times and support contraception already?" "Is it really that big of a deal to watch porn – I'm not hurting anyone?" "What is the problem with same-sex marriage? Love is love." These are honest questions which deserve honest answers. Join us on Wednesdays in Lent in our Parish Center. This class is presented to you by Ruah Woods and St. Francis Xavier Church. Cost is \$25 /person. Open to all adults, especially young adults! To register, please visit www.RuahWoods.org or call John David Kimes at Ruah Woods: (513) 407-8672.

Jesuit Retreat at Milford

This Lent consider making a retreat or day of prayer at the Jesuit Spiritual Center at Milford. On **April 12-14**, Fr. Matt Linn S.J. will offer a 3-day retreat: "Healing Our Relations on the Road to Jerusalem." Only if we have healed the hurts of past relationships, can we relate well to God, authority figures, our spouse, our children, and even ourselves. This Ignatian retreat will focus on how Jesus on the road to Palm Sunday in Jerusalem, helps us to heal our relationships with God, with those who have hurt us, and

where it is difficult to love ourselves and use our gifts. Each session will end with a prayer process we can use the rest of our lives whenever we encounter difficult relationships. For costs and reservation information about the many programs and offerings at the Milford Center, please see the website: www.jesuitspiritualcenter.com.

Novena of Grace

Beginning **Monday March 4 and extending to March 12** (the anniversary of the canonization of Ignatius Loyola and Francis Xavier) our parish will be engaged in communal prayer in this traditional 9-day novena in honor of our founding Jesuits. To conclude the Novena, we will offer a Holy Hour of Adoration, Rosary, and Benediction Tuesday evening **March 12** at 7:00 PM.

NOVENA PRAYER

St. Francis Xavier, in union with you, I adore the divine majesty. I praise God for the gifts of grace and glory He gave you in this life and after death. I ask through your intercession, the grace of living a holy life and dying a holy death. I ask also that you pray for me to receive this special gift from God: (here mention your special novena petition). But if what I ask is not for the greater glory of God and the good of my soul, please obtain for me what is more conducive to both. Amen

Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory Be...

Lenten Concert I – A Bicentennial Event

LOn **Sunday March 10**, starting at 3:00 PM in church and featuring the popular St. Ursula Academy Choir, this concert will fill up quickly as people enjoy hearing the voices of these young women along with our true pipe organ resounding in this sacred space.

Speaker Series II – A Bicentennial Event

SOn **Sunday March 17** at 6:30 pm (following the 5:00 PM Mass), we are pleased to present Fr. David Meconi, S.J. who will enlighten us with his ideas on the topic: "Surrender and Resistance in Ignatian Spirituality." Fr. Meconi is associate professor of patristics and director of the Catholic Studies Centre at Saint Louis University. A popular speaker, and veteran of St X Parish, Fr. Meconi always has unique insights to share. Refreshments will be provided.

Jesuit Morning of Reflection

JThe Jesuits again offer a morning of reflection on a Lenten theme, followed by lunch and fellowship. **Sunday March 31** from 9:00 am to 1:00 PM here at St. Xavier Church. This year's presentation features Mr. Mark Mackey S.J., a Jesuit scholastic from Loyola University Chicago. Presentation begins at 9:00 AM with Mass at 10:30 AM. Lunch will be provided afterwards. Register on-line at: www.jesuitsmidwest.org/JesuitPrayer2109.

Lenten Concert II – A Bicentennial Event

LStarting at 6:15 PM on **Sunday March 31** in church, our parish will present the All Saints Church Choir. This amazing harmony of male and female voices resonate with praise and worship in our beautiful worship space.

Holy Hour for Lent

HOn **Tuesday April 9** from 6:00-7:00 PM we will offer a Holy Hour, Stations and Benediction in Church. This is a time to join the parish and all Catholics for Lenten prayer, meditation, and a time to petition the Lord for what we need and for your own special intentions.

For Private Prayer

FAgain this year, St. Xavier will be providing

the **Little Black Book for Lent**. These very popular daily prayer and reflection books are perfect for busy people. The two-minute readings provide a great opportunity to maintain a prayer routine this Lent. The books are available in the back of church.

A daily prayer book of reflections is provided in the back of church titled **"Seeds of Hope" Stories for Lent and throughout the Year!**" This collection of brief stories by Fr. Jim Willig has been collected by Fr. J. Michael Sparough, S.J. and offers inspiration stories for your personal, group, or family reflection.

Look for free **Lenten Prayer Cards and Rosaries** at the back of church. These methods of prayer may find their way into your life to remind you of the obligations to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Please take only one, as we want others to share the grace.

Many Catholics use a daily on-line prayer experience called **"Pray As You Go"** it can be accessed on your computer or on your phone. <https://www.pray-as-you-go.org/home/>

Formed

Our parish's **FORMED** subscription makes thousands of Catholic movies, videos, audio books, Scripture reflections and daily meditations available to every parishioner **FREE** of charge. Go to formed.org, click on register, enter our parish code 2GNYN7, enter your email, and create a password. Now you can enjoy so much solid Catholic content on any device.

RCA Candidates

During the season of Lent, we ask you to keep in prayer those candidates who plan to join the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. Notice their faces and stories in the back of church and offer a prayer of support as they complete the journey to become full members of the Church.

On Line Retreats

Several ON LINE Lenten retreat opportunities are available for those on the go. Many Jesuits make use of these resources for their own private prayer. You may access these more easily on our own parish website.

An Ignatian Prayer Adventure

<https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/ignatian-prayer/the-spiritual-exercises/an-ignatian-prayer-adventure>

Lenten On line Retreat

<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/LentOnlineRetreat/>

Lenten Daily Devotionals

<https://missionandministry.georgetown.edu/lent>

Arts and Faith Lent

https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/lent/arts-and-faith-for-lent?utm_source=ignsp&utm_medium=blog&utm_campaign=lent2019

From Ashes To Glory

<https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/ignatian-prayer/the-examen/from-ashes-to-glory>

Greater Cincinnati Catholic Women's Conference

The 4th Annual Greater Cincinnati Catholic Women's Conference will be held Saturday, **March 9** at the Sharonville Convention Center. Join with women from around the area in this new expanded location to experience inspiring national and local speakers, 6 hours of Confession available, Vigil Mass with Archbishop Schnurr and Lunch, plus snacks throughout the day. Questions can be directed to Barbara Rose at barbara-rose@live.com.

Triduum Liturgies

Mass of the Lord's Supper: Holy Thursday, April 18, 7:00 PM

Celebration of the Lord's Passion: Good Friday, April 19, 12:00 Noon

Easter Vigil: Holy Saturday, April 20, 8:45 PM



Easter Sunday Masses

Sunday April 21, 7:00, 9:00, 10:30 AM, and 12:00 pm (There will be no 5:00 PM Mass)

Divine Mercy Sunday

Sunday April 28, 12:00 noon Mass for Divine Mercy followed by a luncheon at 1:00 PM. Guest presenter, Monsignor Frank Lane will talk on *"God's Divine Mercy: The Story of Our Lives."* A Divine Mercy Holy Hour from 3:00-4:00 PM with the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Penance. The day concludes with our regular 5:00 PM Mass.



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Lent 2019

St. Xavier Church

Our Bicentennial Year

