



ST. XAVIER MONTHLY CALENDAR

CINCINNATI, DECEMBER

BICENTENNIAL RETROSPECTIVE EDITION – ISSUE NO. 12

Before the St. Xavier Church website, Facebook page and email blasts – even before the weekly bulletin – there was the ST. XAVIER MONTHLY CALENDAR. The first issue, dated October 1888, announced:

THIS CALENDAR is published to keep the people informed on matters of Church and School. It is entirely gratuitous; and should not under any consideration be sold. We shall endeavor to put it into the hands of our parishioners on the last Sunday of each month, in order to remind them of the feasts and fasts, the advantages and obligations and other important features of the incoming month.

For eight decades, the CALENDAR, did just that. But like the St. Xavier parish community it served, it also evolved. The articles, written both in-house as well as sourced from local, national and international publications, humor, and advertisements, reflect the prevailing issues, sentiments, fashions and technologies of the day, providing a window through which to view that community as well as a mirror through which to see reflections of our current community.

As a way of sharing these “views”, each month during our bicentennial year, St. Xavier has published selections culled from the 952 published issues. We hope that you have enjoyed these Retrospective Issues. – J. Thumm

Calendar Notes

Holy Days of Obligation:

Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8th

Christmas Day, December 25th

Days of Special Devotion:

Blessed Edmund Campion and companions, December 1st

St. Francis Xavier, 3rd

[December 1890]

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Saturday (3rd) is the titular feast of our Sycamore street church. It is the great festival of our great patron, St. Francis Xavier. There are thousands who drew the first breath of spiritual life in St. Xavier's Church on Sycamore street...There are hundreds of thousands who during the last fifty years or more have listened to the word of God preached from the pulpit of the same old temple. We accord the success of this church, whatever it may be, to the prayers of our grand patron in Heaven. Although all the city and its suburbs have availed themselves of the facilities for confession and of hearing Mass offered in the house of God and therefore many outside of the parish

must acknowledge the kind intercession of this great saint, yet more especially upon our parishioners devolves the duty of gratitude. This duty can be best evinced by offering one holy Communion on *his* feast, in *his* honor. Who is there that would refuse this token of kindly remembrance?

[December 1892]

* * *

Thursday, the 8th, the Golden Jubilee feast of the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast of the Church in the United States and a holy day of obligation, there will be a solemn High Mass at 10:30 o'clock and in the evening Vespers, sermon and solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

[December 1904]

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The pews in St. Xavier's at the 5 o'clock Mass on Christmas, will be reserved for the pew-holders. Much confusion will be avoided and less time lost, if those who receive Holy Communion at this Mass will kindly follow the directions of the ushers.

[December 1916]

Gather up your old numbers of the CALENDAR and have them bound. You will find that they contain much information and instruction that it may be useful for you to review now and then. If you will leave them with us, we will attend to it for you.

[December 1902]

* * *

If you are deliberating as to what you will give your friend for a Christmas gift, you will have no trouble if you consult our advertisers. They will help you out with first-class goods at lowest prices-anything from a fine gold watch to a fat turkey. Try 'em.

[December 1902]

* * *

In the name of the Pastors, and of the Fathers...to all the members of the congregation, and the readers of the CALENDAR and their friends, “A Merry Christmas,” one filled with all the choicest favors, both temporal and spiritual, which God can bestow on His loving children. We wish for you a *holy Christmas*. But it will not be a holy Christmas unless you begin it worthily, and pass through it in a worthy manner. To begin it worthily, receive Holy Communion.

[December 1923]

Do not forget the poor in your Christmas rejoicing.

[December 1908]

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Jubilee Offering

On the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the members of the League of the Sacred Heart will make a Jubilee offering of a costly and handsome Ciborium in honor of the Blessed Virgin.

The Ciborium is made in gothic style, the total height being 15 inches. It is of solid silver, all parts heavily gold-plated, and substantially made. It is a most magnificent work of art in every detail. The cup will hold 700 to 800 particles, and is mounted with a richly chased relief ornaments of grapes and wheat, and is set with three beautiful garnets and amethysts. The lid is also very richly chased, and the cross is set with two beautiful garnets. The foot is divided into six fields and is ornamented with three fine enameled medallions, representing the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate heart of Mary, and St. Joseph. In the front field is a cross, set with very rich and beautiful garnets, the other two fields are set with two large amethysts. On the narrow end of the foot is a fine ornament with grape leaves, set with six garnets. On the base is the inscription "Memorial of the Jubilee of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M., 1904, donated by the League of the Sacred Heart to St. Xavier's Church.

The Ciborium, which is one of the largest made, will be solemnly blessed by the Rev. President of St. Xavier College, at the closing exercises of the Novena, on the night of December 8th, 1904, in St. Xavier Church. It is a work of art, and was placed on exhibition at the November meeting of the Promoters of the League of the Sacred Heart.

[December 1904]

Note: Unfortunately the whereabouts of this ciborium are unknown.



IN WINTER'S FOND EMBRACE

or in Summer's torridity there isn't a soul who doesn't want a certain amount of simon-pure jewelry—certainly not a feminine soul. For Christmas jewelry, watches and silverware are always acceptable. No better place in Cincinnati to purchase anything in that line than

A. & J. PLAUT,
JEWELERS,

14 East 4th Street. Opp. Pike Opera House.

[December 1901]

Noted Clergyman's Creed on America

Framed on the wall of Fr. Finn's office are these words:

AMERICA FIRST

Not merely in matters material, but in things of the spirit.

Not merely in science, inventions, motors and skyscrapers, but also in ideals, principles, character.

Not merely in the calm assertion of rights, but in the glad assumption of duties.

Not flaunting her strength as a giant, but bending in helpfulness over a sick and wounded world like a good Samaritan.

Not in splendid isolation, but in courageous co-operation.

Not in pride, arrogance and disdain of other races and peoples, but in sympathy, love and understanding.

And so, in that spirit and with these hopes, I say with all my heart and soul, "AMERICA FIRST."

[December 1928]

Note: On November 2, 1928, Fr. Francis J. Finn, S.J., noted children's book author, Director of the St. Xavier Parochial School, and long-time editor of the CALENDAR died. Fr. Finn served the parishioners of St. Xavier parish and the people of Cincinnati for three decades; he was loved and esteemed by Catholics and non-Catholics alike. The above is one of the many remembrances included in the December 1928 CALENDAR.]

Can You Say "Yes"?

Did you buy a Catholic book this year?

Do you ever, on one of these fine autumn mornings, rise at six of a week day and attend an early Mass?

Do your children ever hear you talking on a religious subject or doctrine at the dinner table?

Do you ever start out of a morning to live this day as if it were to be your last? Good men advise the practice.

At the end of the day, do you think of any little deed you did to make a baby smile or a sad man feel better.

We hope you can answer, Yes to at least one of these six haphazard questions. They suggest the important matter of making our religion vital and bringing our faith into play as a factor in our daily life.

[December 1911]

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Christmas Greetings

Peace has come at last, a peace following the most fearful war that ever devastated the world....It is proper, then, that we should lay aside hate,...turn to works of mercy, that we should try ... to love all men.

May the nations of the earth forget ancient wrongs, and sing with the angels, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will."

And may the peace of the Divine Infant fill our hearts with love and gratitude. So shall our coming Christmas be the gladdest, happiest day of all our lives.

May this peace link nations together and states and cities and families, and friends in a bond of love which will be a foretaste of heaven. - F.J.F.

[December 1918]

Fruit Cake. Plum Pudding.

CHRISTMAS CAKES PACKED IN FANCY BOXES. Largest Assortment,

MUTH'S 20TH CENTURY **CAKE SHOP,**

(Formerly LANGDON'S)

'Phone: Main 3296.

429 RACE STREET, Between Fourth and Fifth.

[December 1908]