



ST. XAVIER MONTHLY CALENDAR

CINCINNATI, FEBRUARY

BICENTENNIAL RETROSPECTIVE EDITION – ISSUE NO. 2

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 will publish selections culled from the 952 published issues – We hope that you will enjoy these Retrospective Issues.

Parish Notes

Do you belong to one of the church societies—the Sodality, the Bona Mors, the League of the Sacred Heart? If not, ask yourself why, and listen to the answer your conscience gives. If you can hear its honest answer and continue as now, it is to be feared that God’s graces to you will have soon reached the limit.

[February 1901]

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Our parishioners may be interested to know the results of the spiritual works done by the priests of St. Xavier Church during the year ending July, 1902, which is as follows: 406 infants and 182 grown persons were baptized; 172,049 confessions were heard and 135,002 Holy Communion received; 94 marriages were blessed; 694 received the last Sacraments; 340 were prepared for First Communion and 381 for Confirmation. There are 3,247 names on the Sodality rolls and 7,446 registered in the League of the Sacred Heart.

[February 1903]

February 2d, is also Candlemas day. On Candlemas day, candles are blessed. Candles are blessed to protect the household, and the individual, to show our respect and revive our faith in the ministrations of the priest in the sick room, and to lend beauty and solemnity to the service at the altar. It is enough for us to know that the sacrifice of the Mass can not go on without the burning light; that save in cases of necessity the priest can not anoint the dying, or administer the Bread of Life without the presence of the lighted taper. It has been our faith of the Christian world for many centuries that the waxen candle duly blessed, according to the ritual of the Church, throws a mantle of protection over the abode, breaks the force of the tempest, drives away temptation, and to the dying gives a sweet and abiding confidence. Probably if the blessed candle were burned more frequently on our domestic shrines, the cry of “hard times” would not be so frequent.

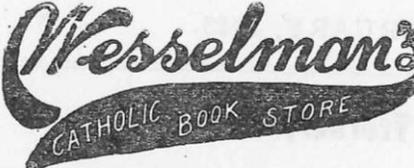
If you wish *your* candles blessed, bring them *on time*. Candles will be blessed on Candlemas day at the 8 o’clock Mass in St. Thomas Church,

and at the 8:30 Mass in St. Xavier Church. It is better to bring in the candles a week before than a week after. Endeavor to have them within the sanctuary railing not later than February 1st.

[February 1900]

BEESWAX CANDLES.

Buy Beeswax Candles here any time for February 2d and we will check them for blessing at St. Xavier Church. You take no chances about the quality.



610 SYCAMORE ST.

Second Floor,
One door south of old stand.
Opp. St. Xavier Church.
Phone, Canal 1668-X.

[February 1913]

Many if not most of the maladies prevalent in this neighborhood begin with the throat. Would it not be well to have your throat blessed? This blessing does not guarantee safety in cases of decided indiscretion. It is not intended to encourage fool-hardy self-exposure. But in the ordinary course of events, and even in events extraordinary of a necessary or useful character, "the blessing of St. Blase" has always proved to be salutary and protective.

[February 1893]

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Rather Alarming, But Very Edifying.

A sharp rap, and my door opened just an inch to let in the words: "There is a fire in the church."

The time: First Friday, 8:15 a.m., the day after New Year's.

Possibilities: All Christmas decorations still up and the Crib.

Dangers: The Blessed Sacrament exposed and a church well filled with people.

All this crowded upon me as the shortest route in the quickest time brought me to the scene of the threatened catastrophe.

A rapid glance showed the holly decorations on the main altar, north of the Tabernacle on fire, but being cared for by our fire boys of Seventh and Sycamore. The Blessed Sacrament had been removed.

All my anxiety had vanished and I could give myself up to a moment's admiration of the scene.

Father Leahy had gone to the Sacred Heart Altar to finish the Mass he had begun at the Main Altar. Father Bronsgeest, in surplice and stole, stood in the Sanctuary directing the Acolytes, and by his presence and coolness, keeping the panicky in check. There was not a sound in the church. The firemen were efficiently extinguishing the flames and stripping the Altar. Everybody was doing his part quietly and respectfully.

But most striking of all, the Communion rail was lined with people three deep, waiting to receive Holy Communion. They did not wish to miss their First Friday.

There was only one thing to do and Fathers Bronsgeest and DeSmedt, undisturbed by firemen, hose and fire apparatus, gave Holy Communion to the waiting faithful. And it was a real treat to give the food of angels to those who full of faith and devotion forgot their fears, confident in the protection of Him about to become their guest.

The 8 o'clock Mass was over. The firemen disappeared noiselessly, taking with them the debris.

Three funerals were to take place: At 8:45, at 9:30, and at 10:15, and they began on time, without disturbance at the Blessed Virgin's Altar. All that told the new congregation of the fire was the blackened surface of the Main Altar and the absence of the earlier decorations.

Thank God that things were not worse, and thanks also to the good firemen who worked so respectfully and efficiently.

A possible calamity was changed into a display of faith and courage.

NOTE.—One of the brave firemen who helped at the fire in St. Xavier's has since given up his life at the recent conflagration in the bottoms, and the funeral rites will be performed for him before the altar he helped to save. May his soul rest in peace. J.P.

[February 1920]

Larry's Service Station
LAWRENCE FUELL, Prop.
610 SYCAMORE STREET
(Opposite the Church)
Parking at Reasonable Rates

[February 1941]

Note: The Service Station address of 610 Sycamore Street was previously the location Wesselman's Catholic Book Store.

**FIREPLACE
FIXTURES**
See Us Before Buying
Largest Selection in City
BROMWELL'S
328 Main St.

[February 1941]

"In Dreamland"

The performance given at Music Hall on Monday, January 20th, was considered by reporters and critics as the most remarkably successful play ever produced by children in Cincinnati. The house was so crowded that the ticket sellers felt obliged to refuse to sell tickets, and many were turned away. Those who were present exceeded the number of seats by several hundred. It is doubtful if ever there was so large a multitude of people gathered in Music Hall. Although the expenses of the production were extremely high, at least one thousand dollars will be netted for the Brothers' house.

[February 1908]

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Monument Man—"What shall I put on your husband's tombstone, madam?"

Distracted Widow—"Only that he was my husband, and that he is happy now."

* * *

"Who was the world's greatest financier?"

"Noah. When the whole world went into liquidation he had no trouble in floating his stock."

[February 1905]

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Kind Words

Kind words are the music of the world. They have a power which seems to be beyond natural causes. There is hardly a power on earth equal to them. It seems as if they could almost do what in reality God alone can do, namely, soften the hard and angry hearts of men. Even quarrels give way to kind words, for an unforgiving heart is a rare monster. Words have a power of their own for good or evil. Hence, it is that an unkind word rankles longer in the heart than an angry gesture, nay oftener than a blow.

Kind words are like revelations from heaven unraveling complicated misunderstandings and softening the hardened convictions of years. ...

—Father Faber.

[February 1905]