



Saint Francis Xavier

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Wednesday, November 9, 2022

A “Cradle Invitation”: Advent and Christmas Seasons at St. Francis Xavier

Greetings! I hope that this letter finds you well, happy, and healthy. November is a time of Gratitude. That is the first reason I am writing to you. **THANK YOU** for your continued support through prayer, time, talent, and treasure. Your presence (in-person and virtually) means a great deal. I am blessed to journey with you in these extraordinary times. Please always remember to be grateful for all the gifts we share, including our faith. I also am grateful of what we have accomplished this past year. From new Sanctuary Flooring to our Parish Mission and everything in between, I am grateful! The second reason I am writing to you; I would like to give you the comprehensive calendar for the upcoming Advent and Christmas Season that will start very soon.

Before we get there though, I would like to bring you up to speed on a few things:

1. **COVID, etc.:** Please read the updated “*Parish Operations Update November 18,*” for complete up-to-date information regarding our Parish on our website. Please remember, we have plans in place for any scenario that may face us. Depending on the circumstances, we may have to modify schedules, etc., from time to time. **Now more than ever: PLEASE STAY UP TO DATE BY CHECKING OUR WEBSITE, FACEBOOK, TWITTER, EMAILS REGULARLY, and downloading MyParishApp if you haven’t already. Also, figure out how you can get involved in your parish as we need you!**
2. **FINANCES:**
 - + Our Annual Report will be on our website in the coming weeks. Again, thank you for your continued support. We understand that this year has been difficult on many levels. The parish runs just like many households with bills and unexpected expenses. If you are able support us financially, consider committing to regular contributions or participating in #iGiveCatholic! on November 29th.
 - + **If you have not set-up EFT for ONLINE GIVING, please consider doing it in the new year as it will help us! If you currently participate in electronic giving, updates will follow.**
3. **PARISH EVENT SIGN-UPS:** With concern around the Pandemic as well as ease of accessibility, we continue to have **ALL SIGN-UPS WILL HAPPEN THROUGH OUR WEBSITE for ALL PARISH ACTIVITES.** From Adoration to RSVPs for special parish events, you can sign-up from the comfort of your home, and be aware of when Adoration times need filled. For Adoration, if a time slot is open, it’s a good indicator that you will likely be the only person/family in the church. **If you do not have access to a computer to do so, you can always contact the Church Office or see anyone at the Church Exit that may have the iPad.**
4. **FEAST DAY:** Please see the information posted on our website/sent via email/in the bulletin on the invitation to join Bishop Persico on **Saturday, December 3** at 6pm for Mass, Tree Lighting, and Dinner in honor of the 400th Anniversary of the Canonization of our Patron. Please RSVP for Dinner via the JotForm (<https://form.jotform.com/222994901185059>) that was sent to you via email and, again, see the our bulletin, emails, website, etc., for more details.
5. **REMEMBER, THAT OUR SATURDAY VIGIL MASS TIME HAS CHANGED TO 6PM.** Please see the website for the letter explaining this change. Our Sunday Morning times remain unchanged.
6. **Giving Tree of St. Francis Xavier:** Please consider bringing joy to a family in need by participating in this annual gift giving. This year we would appreciate all gifts to be wrapped or in gift bags.

We know that this year, again, was not a normal year, but what is normal is our Faith. Our Faith starts at the **Cradle** of Jesus at the Nativity. As you may recall from the Masses on November 12/13, I talked about our Mass Schedule for Christmas. Here is the Plan:

1. **Please see the schedule for our Masses** (on the lavender page). I am ready to add additional Mass(es) for Christmas and every Sunday if necessary.
2. Livestreaming Masses continues indefinitely.
3. **All are welcome** to worship with us at **any time**, including Christmas. There is no sign up and we will have overflow seating in the Gathering Space (and will add more if needed if circumstances warrant). Please plan to arrive 15-30 Minutes early to enjoy the Music and Décor.
4. **Remember, ALL ARE WELCOME**, we ensure everyone that we are following local, state, federal, and diocesan guidelines. Although we are not anticipating any change, should that happen, it will be communicated. But, again, our Masses are open to Parishioners and Non-Parishioners because Jesus is for everyone!

We know how busy Advent can be. Sometimes it passes and we don't feel like we're ready for the joy of the Christmas Season. We also know there are a lot of resources coming at you to change that. In an effort to help you "prepare the way," we are promoting *LIVING JOY*, an online video retreat that will change your life! Reserve your spot now. It's FREE!

Just go to <https://coaching.reallifecatholic.com/living-joy> and

1. Register with your name and email.
2. Get access to videos and written reflections on the website and delivered to your device.
3. Be sure to stick to the CHALLENGES! And if you can, invite FRIENDS so to hold each other accountable. If you need space to meet, contact Irene about using one of our classrooms on a day/time convenient for you.
4. **Also, please use the many resources on the FORMED App (also a free resource):**
<https://leaders.formed.org/advent-suggestions/>


As you will also see on the Schedule, there are many opportunities for **Adoration and Confession**. **PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES.** Regarding, Confession, I will be offering a few "Drive-Up" times as indicated on the schedule, so that you do not have to get out of your car. All you will need to do is stop in your car at the Main Entrance of the Church and I will come to you. If there are multiple people in the vehicle, members will need to exit and are welcome to come into the church. Remember, livestreaming is continuing, but nothing replaces being together. We do hope you can join us in person or livestream so Jesus will come to you as this is his "Cradle Invitation"!

Like the last few years, this one has been hard on everyone, but nothing can take Christmas, or more importantly, CHRIST from us. Please, make this the best Christmas ever, enter in spiritually, as you never have before, and do not let the craziness of our lives darken the light of this time.

Thank you again for your support; please continue to give as you can; and most importantly know of my (and Linus') continued love, support, and prayers for you in these joyous months!

May you have the most joyous Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and 2023!

In the Lord, I Remain,


Father Jason R. Feigh
Pastor