



8880 MAIN STREET
P.O. BOX 317
MCKEAN, PA 16426-0317
PHONE 814-476-7657
FAX 814-476-0160

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

A “Cradle Invitation” 2023: 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 for what we have accomplished this past year. From our ongoing Organ Project to our Evangelization Opportunities like our Cemetery Walk 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. Please read the updated **“Parish Operations Update November 2023”** (available after November 15), 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 from time to time. **Now more than ever: PLEASE STAY UP TO DATE BY CHECKING OUR WEBSITE, FACEBOOK, TWITTER, EMAILS REGULARLY, and downloading MyParish App if you haven’t already. Also, consider 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, after November 15. 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 28th. Your generosity is always edifying and appreciated.**
 - + **There are many ways to support our parish. We know many people prefer donating using the traditional envelopes, but more and more people are moving towards Electronic Funds Transfer (Online Giving.) This is now an option for giving to the church. You can find links on our website under “Ways to Give” or by contacting the Church Office.**
3. **PARISH EVENT SIGN-UPS:** For ease of accessibility, we continue to have **ALL SIGN-UPS HAPPEN THROUGH OUR WEBSITE for ALL PARISH ACTIVITIES**. 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 is a good indicator that you will likely be the only person/family in the church. **If you do not have access to a computer, 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. Saturday, December 2 following the 6:00 p.m. Vigil Mass we will have our annual Tree Lighting. Please join Bishop Persico on **Sunday, December 3** at 10:30 a.m. for Mass and Brunch. Please RSVP for Brunch via the JotForm (<https://form.jotform.com/213196364780158>). All are welcome!
5. **PASTORAL PLANNING:** Thank you for all of your feedback in September. Please see our website, bulletin, and social media for continued updates. Remember, the final plan will be announced in the Spring of 2024. Your continued prayer and support are appreciated.
6. **EVANGELIZATION UPDATES:** One of our goals has been to continue to grow in Eucharist and Evangelization. Please continue to take advantage of the many opportunities we have, including the Small Group studies like the *Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary Study* that continues through the Advent Season. See the bulletin and website for details. You can also visit <https://www.therosaryseries.com> to be able to watch this series for free on your own or as a family. We also have re-vamped our Prayer Chain Ministry. If you're a "Prayer Warrior," consider becoming part of this ministry in addition to praying for those listed in our bulletin. Contact Lori Kruszewski (contact information on the bulletin) for more information.
7. **FACILITIES UPDATES:**
 - + We continue to work on the ongoing maintenance of our Campus and are getting close to moving on our Organ Project as we now have the pipes (from the Shea's Theatre in Erie) and the System (from a Baptist Church in North Carolina). Now we are working on securing a builder that can help us put it all together. Further, we are moving towards recarpeting the church. For both projects we are between 25-50% fulfilled on our financial goal (\$125,000) to make these happen. Your continued support through CSA, the lotteries, fundraisers by the Knights of Columbus, Erie Gives, etc. will help us move forward in the Spring of 2024.
 - + We continue to update our Cemetery records that has allowed us to find a bit more space. We are also still working with our cemetery neighbors to hopefully secure some more land as well.
 - + We hope you can take a trip to our grotto behind the Parish Center as we added a statue of Our Lady and continue to work on beautifying the area. There will be other updates coming our way as the projects unfold.
8. **SECURITY:** As you may recall from a few updates I have offered throughout the year, we continue to assure all that our campus is safe. We maintain one entrance into the Church with multiple exits available as needed. We have multiple cameras that monitor our property. Please remember to be mindful on Sunday mornings of the security procedures for our Faith Formation Students as well. The students' doors are locked shortly after nine and are asked to only enter through the Main Entrance Stairwell. Remember, that dismissal takes place through the Gathering Space and parents of our students K-3 are asked to meet them at their classroom doors (the doors are opened for them at 10:20 am.) We have other procedures in place and continue to modify as needed.
9. **Giving Tree of St. Francis Xavier:** Please consider bringing joy to a family in need by participating in this annual gift giving. You can choose a "tag" beginning the weekend before Thanksgiving. Gifts are asked to be returned by Friday, December 8 in a gift bag with original tag attached.

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' Nativity. As we look towards the start of our New Liturgical Year, here is our plan:

1. **Please see the schedule for our Masses** (on the lavender page). Because Christmas falls on a Monday, the day before is the **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**. **Remember, the obligation to attend Mass for both the FOURTH SUNDAY and CHRISTMAS is because they both are Holy Days of our Lord back-to-back.** Please plan accordingly.
2. Livestreaming Masses continues for those who are unable to join us in person.
3. **All are welcome** to worship with us at **any time**, including Christmas. We will have overflow seating in the Gathering Space (and will add more if needed). Please plan to arrive 15-30 Minutes early to enjoy the Music and Décor.

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" please see the following:

1. **Magnificat** – *Pick-up your free copy for December. January edition we will have additional copies for you to share with a loved one. The complimentary copies will also have a discount coupon code for a trial subscription to begin in March.*
2. **Kiosk**– *Please see the kiosk filled with books, etc. at the Main Entrance of the Church!*
3. **FORMED** – *Join via our free Subscription for hundreds of hours of Catholic Media (Videos, Audio Books, Short Commentaries, etc. You'll find content for the entire family. (Among many resources, you can also use: <https://leaders.formed.org/advent-suggestions/>)*
4. **AMEN App** – *This is free app by Augustine Institute, who also provides FORMED.*
5. **HALLOW App** – *We have partnered with HALLOW (The #1 Prayer App, not just Catholic) this season to give you access to the subscription content for Advent thru Easter Sunday for just \$1/month. Details will be coming soon, so please check your email, the website, and MyParish App on December 2/3 for the access code. If you have a subscription that is coming to an end, you can renew with us.*

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 2024!

In the Lord, I Remain,



Father Jason R. Feigh
Pastor