

# The Xavier Connection

Quarterly Publication of St. Francis Xavier Church  
Vol. 10, No 1 February, 2015

## St. Francis Xavier Church

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## Lenten Masses, Services and Events

**Ash Wednesday, February 18,  
9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. Masses**

**Communal Anointing of the Sick,  
Saturday, February 28, 10:00 a.m.**

**March, Minnesota FoodShare  
Month**

**Annual Fish Fry, Friday, March 13,  
4:00–7:00 p.m.**

**Stations of the Cross,  
Fridays during Lent at 5:30 p.m.**

**Rice Bowl, throughout Lent, return on Holy Thursday**

**Penance Service, Tuesday, March, 17, 6:30 p.m.**

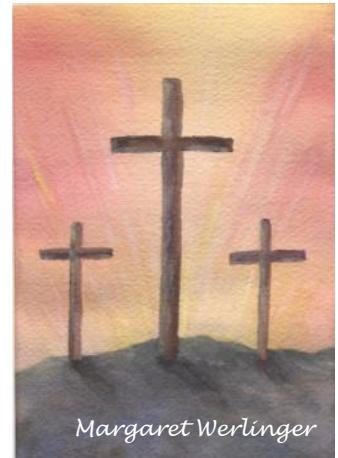
**Individual Confessions,** Check the Parish Bulletin for dates and times

**Holy Thursday, April 2,** 7:00 p.m. Mass, Adoration until 10:00 p.m.

**Good Friday, April 3,** 1:00 p.m. Passion of the Lord  
7:00 p.m. Passion of the Lord

**Holy Saturday, April 4,** 8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil, RCIA Reception, all are welcome

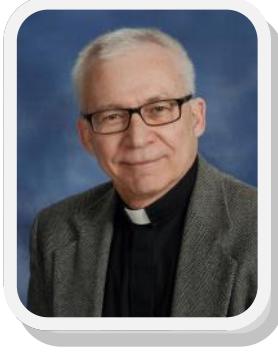
**Easter Sunday, April 5,** 7:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. Masses



Margaret Werlinger

From the Pastor:

Recently I had the opportunity to help staff a Together Encountering Christ (TEC) weekend. These weekends, designed for anyone 16 years old and older, invite participants to reflect on and experience the wondrous presence of Christ. They do so by reflecting on the heart of Jesus' ministry: his death, his resurrection and the sending of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. I am always struck by how people are caught up by the love Christ has for each one of them. Moved by such unbelievable love, they truly respond to Jesus' invitation: turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel. Each weekend is a mini Lent, Easter and Pentecost experience.



Shortly we will embark once again on our Lenten journey. This journey can truly transform our lives if we take seriously the opportunities the Lenten season offers us. At the heart of our Lenten journey is the realization of how deep God's love for us is. Ever aware of such love, we also recognize how we fall short of accepting such love and letting such love guide our lives.

We call this "falling short" sin. We kid ourselves if we are not honest that sin is at work in our lives. We kid ourselves if we believe that there is nothing in our lives that we need to let go. Our Lenten journey is about being honest with ourselves before God. Our Lenten journey is about letting Christ's love for us give us the courage to make the changes in our lives that are necessary so that Christ's light can shine through us.

Traditionally, this journey involves a number of things to help us draw closer to Jesus. In prayer, we have the opportunity to let God work in our lives. Personal prayer and community prayer provide us with the time to connect with God and let God's grace be at work in us. In fasting, we have the opportunity to let go of things in order to make room for God to be at work in our lives. This fasting often takes the form of "giving up" things. It often involves sacrifice because we let go of things that are often important and sometimes essential in our daily living. These sacrifices we embrace not for their own sake but because through them we are ever more aware of our dependence on God for those things that truly matter. At other times, the "giving up" can be a matter of working on bad habits that have crept into our lives, either through our words or in our actions. Giving them up is often difficult and takes time. Finally, our Lenten journey calls us to be ever more united with our sisters and brothers, especially those in need. Traditionally called almsgiving, through these acts we recognize how our love for God needs to give expression in our love for our sisters and brothers. Sometimes, our sacrifices or "giving up" things can help us to have more to share with those in need.

This journey we undertake is not always an easy one. Though each one of us has to decide for ourselves what the journey will involve, we never make it alone. One of the gifts we have as disciples of Jesus is that we are members of the church. We have the support of one another on our journey. Christ's love is at work through them that each one of us can keep walking the journey even when it gets tough or we are tempted to give up. But the rewards are unbelievable. God's love in Jesus is so awesome, so freeing.

I pray that this Lenten journey will enable us to experience more deeply Christ's love for us.

*Fr. Tim*

**2015 ST. FRANCIS XAVIER ROCKS**  
FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL

**February 21, 2015**  
7-11 pm (Doors open at 6:00 pm)  
St. Francis Xavier School • Sartell  
\$25 per person

**6-7 PM - HAPPY HOUR: 2 FOR 1 BEER SPECIALS**  
**6-8 PM - APPETIZERS PROVIDED**  
Cash Bar • Soda • Water • Beer • Wine • Signature Mixed Drinks

**SPONSORS:** REMEMBER TO THANK THEM FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT  
PRESENTING SPONSOR: C4 WELDING • ENTERTAINMENT SPONSORS: LIQUOR STORE • LIBERTY INSURANCE • BLUE LINE FLOWERS • HOSPITALITY SPONSORS: DESIGN SPORTS ELECTRONIC DISTRIBUTION INC.

**TICKETS: 320.252.9940** TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ST. FRANCIS SARDIUS SARTELL OR ONLINE AT [www.stfrancisx.org](http://www.stfrancisx.org) • Seated tickets available

**CASH & "CARDS"**  
**BINGO**  
**For a Cause!**

**Sunday—March 8, 2015 1:00 p.m.**  
St. Francis Xavier School  
308 2nd St. No., Sartell, MN  
Doors open at 12:30 pm

This event is being sponsored by:  
**St. Monica's Christian Women**  
of St. Francis Xavier Parish



## "Be Reconciled to God"

By Deb Rudolph



To reconcile is to "restore right relationship" or "to cause to exist in harmony." How appropriate that our Lenten Journey would begin with this message imploring us to reconcile ourselves to God. For six weeks our Church will call its members to a time of reconciliation, to a time of reunion with God through Jesus Christ.

Initially we might understand our reconciling with God as an intimate and personal action for it is something we do for ourselves. However, that which distances us from God in the first place is very communal; it is sin. We would be hard pressed to identify a sin that affects only us for our sin affects all people with whom we share life. When we are able to reconcile ourselves to God, all people benefit.

What effect does your sin have upon others? How will you personally reconcile yourself to God this Lent? How will we as a Body of Christ reconcile ourselves to God and to one another? As Catholics we are gifted with the Sacrament of Reconciliation to assist our restoration of right relationships. In this sacrament we receive sanctifying grace; the presence of God's life in us that we might find the strength we need to live in harmony with God and His people. Take time this Lenten Season to "be reconciled to God" through the gift of Reconciliation. Then prepare to live in the joy of the Risen Christ this Easter!

## 2015 Facts: The Far Reaching Effects of Hunger



**Minnesota FoodShare**  
March Campaign

Support 300 food shelves across the state by contributing to the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign.  
[gmcc.org/minnesotafoodshare](http://gmcc.org/minnesotafoodshare)

Target, MCCA, THE TRAVEL CHANNEL, LAND O'LAKES, INC.

Thank you to our corporate sponsors and to our March Campaign Honorary Chair, Andrew Zimmern, host of *Bizarre Foods* on the Travel Channel.

- ◆ **One in 10 Minnesotans**, or more than 500,000 state residents, experience food insecurity on a regular basis. That is more people than attended Minnesota Vikings home games during the 2014 regular season.
- ◆ **More than 49 million Americans, including more than 16 million children**, live in households that do not have consistent access to nutritious food. That is the equivalent of the populations of California and Ohio going hungry.
- ◆ A grassroots food and fund drive, the Minnesota FoodShare March **Campaign** is the only statewide effort where every dollar donated goes directly to food shelves to purchase food for the hungry.
- ◆ **Almost 200,000 children in Minnesota live in poverty.**
- ◆ **In 2012, 8.6% of seniors in Minnesota reported being threatened by hunger.** Senior hunger is expected to rise as more baby Boomers reach 60.
- ◆ **Last year**, thanks to the help of individuals, schools, and congregations like yours, the **Minnesota FoodShare March campaign raised more than 48 million and more than 4 million pounds of food during March.**



Minnesota FoodShare is a program of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches

## New Parishioners & Sacraments Received

# WELCOME

### NEW MEMBERS:

**November:**

**Charlot & Sara Zerafa, Bella & Lydia  
Todd & Debra Miller, Claire & Elise  
Mason & Jennifer Adams & Jasmine  
Matthew & Ann Heitkamp & Nathan  
Christopher Warzeka  
Hannah Brenner**

**December:**

**Jill Nessa  
LeRoy & JoAnn Czech  
Todd & Kyoco Zaun & Emma  
Rachel Kiley, Autumn & August  
James Kiley  
Marie Muller**

**January:**

**Robbie & Julie Deters & Riley  
Shawn Hylla & Rebekah Mroz  
Ryan & Sarah Mecklenburg,  
Logan, Sophia & Ella  
Joseph & Jeanette Lusky & Nate  
Christopher & Sarah Thompson,  
Benjamin, Samuel & Sophia  
Nate & Megan Corrieri, Mason  
& Sophia  
Stephen & Christine Gerads**

### MARRIAGES:

Date	Names
12/13/14	Laura Wentland & Scott Kreutzer



### BAPTISMS:

Date	Name
11/01/14	Isabel Mary Marie
11/08/14	Lyla Marie
11/16/14	Elsa Jade
11/23/14	Brady Marvin
11/30/14	Grant Travis
11/30/14	Liam Tabias
12/13/14	Jack Andrew
12/20/14	Ella Ray
12/21/14	Kathryn Ruth
12/27/14	Isabelle Margaret
12/28/14	Penelope Constance
	Anne Marie
12/30/14	Brynn Ruth
01/11/15	Isaac James
01/11/15	Jasmine Marie


**Parents:**

**William & Janet Barthel  
Scott & Sara Bierwerth  
Brian & Holly Waldoch  
Ronnie & Kristi Carlboom  
Travis & Angela Kiffmeyer  
Brian & Theresa Voigt  
Daniel & Kama Lozinski  
Thomas & Angela Handeland  
Daniel & Rebecca Sebastian  
Vinayak & Elizabeth Murthy  
  
Walton & Amparo Cheung  
Stanley & Christine  
Weinberger  
Eric & Stephanie Oehrlein  
Mason & Jennifer Adams**

### DEATHS:



Date	Name
11/30/14	Frances M. Gaida
12/12/14	George L. Doeden, Jr.
12/31/14	Eugene C. Worster
01/30/15	Dominic Warzeka



### Sex Trafficking Program to be held on Saturday, April 18

Have you ever wondered "What is sex trafficking" and is it really happening here in Sartell or St. Cloud?

Find out the facts and learn how to protect our children and grandchildren from this terrible crime against them.

The program will take place in the St. Francis Xavier Gathering Place **from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 18**. There will be two presenters: **Joy Friedman** from **Breaking Free**, a program which is based in St. Paul. She will share information and talk about how **Breaking Free** helped rescue over 400 girls a year that were trafficked. **Tim Broda**, Sartell Police Officer, will follow up on what is happening in our community.

Members from area Sartell churches, as well as nearby Catholic parishes, have been invited to attend. It is our hope that many of our own parishioners will make an effort to attend, especially the **men** of our parish. This problem needs the understanding from all of us. Remember this is about protecting our children and grandchildren from exploitation!

The program is free. Please mark this date on your calendar. The program is sponsored by St. Monica's Christian Women and the Social Justice Concerns Committee.

## Church of the Week April 27—May 4th



This spring, St. Francis parish will be joining the many churches in the St. Cloud/Sartell area that participate in a program called Church of the Week, which serves those who are homeless in our area. As Catholics, we are called to serve the poor. The U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops has highlighted several key themes that we call Catholic social Teaching, that are at the heart of our Catholic tradition. One of these instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first. Church of the Week is one of the ways we, as a parish, can respond to this call.

Here at St. Francis, Church of the Week will provide an opportunity for people of all ages within our parish to actively serve those in our community struggling with homelessness. Through this program, we will prepare and serve meals at Place of Hope. We will then provide an evening snack and overnight shelter at our church. Finally,

we will provide breakfast the following morning at Place of Hope. We have committed to provide these services from April 27th through May 4th. **We need people to serve supper for the homeless at Place of Hope, evening snacks at our church, and breakfasts at Place of Hope** during our week. We also need **contributions of food** and **volunteer chaperones** during this period to provide food and supervision. Any donations of time, food or funds to help during this period are needed and need not be for the entire seven day period. All contributions, whatever form they take, will be greatly appreciated.

It is through personal encounters like this that we begin to put faces on the struggles of those in our communities and begin to realize that, but for our many blessings, we could be among them. So think about how you might like to be involved as a single person, a family, or a group of friends or neighbors!

If you need further information, contact:  
Deb Weinberger 253-1490 or Ken Wendinger 251-2774

### Gathering In the Arts News By Ruth Brattensburg

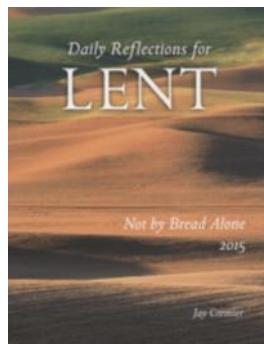
- ◊ A congenial crowd filled the Gathering Place on Sunday, February 15, 2015 for the 10th Art Fair sponsored by Gathering in the Arts. Thirty artisans displayed their wares ranging from paintings, pottery, dishware, jewelry, wood carvings, cards, photography, scarves, mittens and much more. A special feature at the event was the appearance of musician, *Paul Imholte*, known as the “string man,” who played throughout the afternoon on the dulcimer and other stringed instruments. Visitors appeared to be having a good time as they wandered through the various venues. Art was “for sale.” Refreshments were served. The GAB’S thank all who attended and supported this event.
- ◊ St. Nicholas (Jerry Hettwer) appeared at all Masses the weekend of December 6th, to present the offertory gifts. Much to the delight of the children, he stayed after the 10:30 a.m. Mass to pass out candy canes and pose for family pictures. Cookies and juice were served.
- ◊ Accompanied by resident camel, Baruch, the Magi (Chuck Haselkamp, Jerry Hettwer, Steve Buley) arrived to present offertory gifts at all Masses Epiphany weekend, January 3rd & 4th. Brothers Ben and Nate Miller gave animation to Baruch.
- ◊ Kudos to the Environmental Committee and the Gathering in the Arts Board for their work in beautifying the Church and the Gathering Place for all seasons.
- ◊ As you pass through the Gathering Place, take a moment to notice how the décor changes from season to season. Notice the enhancements—banners, signs, furniture, table centerpieces, pictures that are added from time to time. Much of the expense is paid for with funds from the GIA account. Gathering in the Arts is a self-supporting ministry, not covered in the parish budget. The Christmas silent auction is its only fundraiser. The GAB’S appreciate your support.



St. Nicholas and children bringing up gifts



The Three Kings



Daily Reflections for LENT booklets are available at all entrances of the church. Each family is invited to take a booklet. Make time this Lenten season to reflect on what Christ has done for each one of us.

## Looking Back, Moving Forward

By Linda Arnold & Shelby Vaske

As we prepare to enter the season of Lent, it is time for us to look back as we move forward. The same is true of our Faith Formation Program. Our focus this year has been on supporting and including our parents and families in new ways. We began our year with a Family Picnic and Open House. It was wonderful to see all the people who came and stayed to visit and enjoy one another.

In December we invited our parents and children, Grades 1-5 to an Advent Prayer Service followed by an opportunity to make Christmas crafts. Later that week, parents and youth of grades 8-9 came together for pizza and Advent prayer. January brought the parents and young people preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation to an evening retreat. They shared time and activities that helped them to review and reflect on the importance of repentance and forgiveness both in our family lives and in our relationship with God. These same families have recently celebrated God's love and mercy sacramentally and are now preparing for First Eucharist!

Our grades 8-9 families and youth have been continuing their faith journey in small groups that meet periodically to reflect on what it means to follow Jesus and to commit to our Catholic Community of Faith. Parents and youth in Grades 8 & 9 come together several times a year as well as using online resources following each of our sessions to continue the conversations begun at SFX.

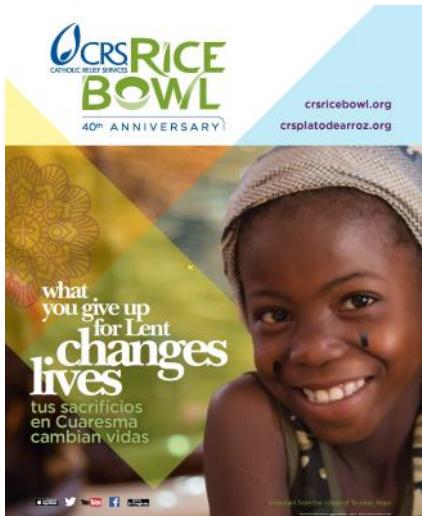
Parents remain an important part of all of our parish efforts. Their involvement, prayer and support serve as the essential bridge between faith at "church" and faith "everyday." You are the ones who daily live and model the Christian values of compassion, hospitality, forgiveness, healing, and trust in God's care. As we continue to find new ways of coming together as families at St. Francis Xavier, your presence and insights are very welcome! May God surprise all of you with love and challenges to continue to grow as we journey together through Lent.



Reconciliation Retreat



Advent Prayer Service



**During Lent each family will receive a CRS Rice Bowl and calendar. Families are encouraged to participate in the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and giving by remembering those who go without food and other basic needs in our diocese and around the world.**

### Did you know:

**75% of your CRS Rice Bowl donation supports** Catholic Relief Services' programs around the world.

**25% supports** local hunger and poverty alleviation efforts in **your diocese**. Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to learn more.

# I can only imagine...

By Phil Corbett

I can only imagine a world in which the unconditional love God has shown us is shown to each other.

I can only imagine a world where people take the time to look at that world through the eyes of others and not just their own.

I can only imagine a world where people worry less about the speck in other's eyes and concern themselves more with the logs in their own.

I can only imagine a world where silence is embraced so God's message can be heard.

I can only imagine a world in which meeting our needs is more important than fulfilling our wants.

I can only imagine a world in which meeting the needs of **others** is more important than fulfilling our wants.

I can only imagine a world in which Christians truly lived by what we say in the Lord's Prayer.

I can only imagine a world where the faith professed within the walls of the churches is fully expressed outside those walls.

I can only imagine a world where those who only come to church on Christmas and Easter feel so welcomed that they want to come back more often.

I can only imagine a world where we truly love our enemies.

I can only imagine a world where we love our neighbor as ourselves.

I can only imagine a world where we genuinely love ourselves.

I can only imagine a world where we love God with all our hearts, with all our minds, and with all our souls.

I can only imagine...until I choose to do it.



## The Parish that Prays Together, Stays Together By Jake Schwendinger



Can you believe Advent is over, Christmas is over and Lent is almost upon us? I can hardly believe how quickly time is passing. With that passing of time I also cannot believe how much has taken place within the Youth Ministry and 10th grade Confirmation programs since I came on board as a staff member in August, 2014.

We have remodeled the Confirmation program to have small groups that meet in homes. We also meet as a large group about once a month. We will be taking our Confirmation students on a weekend retreat the weekend of Feb. 20-22 and **we ask for your prayers.** Specifically over that weekend that the Holy Spirit would move in the hearts and lives of the students and guide the leaders.

We have had some drop in nights for both Middle and High School students and that has run its course now. So we are visioning with some of the students as well as the adults about what the next phase of weekly or monthly youth ministry opportunity will be. Be sure to keep your eyes on the bulletin, Twitter and Facebook for updates as the next initiative of opportunities for our young people is going to be announced soon. **Please continue to pray** for the adults and students involved in youth ministry planning and events, as we constantly need the guidance of the Holy Spirit and

Mother Mary.

The Vital 3.0 Team has been attending trainings, webinars, and meeting as a parish planning group to lay a permanent vision and foundation for youth ministry at St. Francis Xavier.

By the time this comes out you will have certainly heard of the SFX Prays campaign. We truly believe that prayer is the foundation of ministry and the first support that any ministry must seek. **So we continue to ask you to engage in prayer** for all of the students, adults that work with our students and our staff who help coordinate the programming for our students.

Without prayer as the foundation, all of our efforts are in vain. Without seeking the face of Christ and petitioning him for grace to be poured out upon our young people and the adults that work with them, our efforts mean little. The grace that comes from prayer is not a 'nice thing to add on' but rather the core and foundation of who we are. This is why we gather for Mass, penance services, prayer services, and as small groups and various communities through our parish. We pray together and through that prayer not only do we grow closer to the heart of God, but we bring those around us closer too.

With that said, if you have not been to Mass lately, if you have not attended a Faith Formation prayer service or parent student gathering lately, if you do not participate in a small group bible study or if you have been away from the Sacrament of Reconciliation for a while, I want to invite you back. Lent is a wonderful opportunity to make a commitment to come back to Church, or dive in a little bit more with parish life and personal prayer. You are invited, and more than that, you are needed, because the parish that prays together, stays together, and YOU are a vital component to our vibrant and thriving parish life.



219 2nd Street North  
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## Parish Fish Fry



Enjoy Fried Fish  
Potato Salad Chips  
Coleslaw Baked Beans  
Bread HOMEMADE Desserts

**March 13, 4-7:00 p.m.**

Served in the School Cafeteria  
Tickets Sold at the Door

Adults \$10.00 Seniors \$9.00  
Ages 6-12 \$5.00  
Ages 5 and under FREE  
SPECIAL: Family Tickets Parents/  
Children same household \$35.00

Proceeds go to Faith Formation & SFX School

This is a Catholic United Financial Fundraiser



## DATES TO REMEMBER

- February-April**  
~ Quilting - Thursdays 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Xavier Hall—Everyone Welcome  
**February 17**  
**February 18**  
**February 19**  
**Feb. 20-March 27**  
**February 21**  
**February 23**  
**February 26**  
**February 28**  
**March**  
**March 5**  
**March 8**  
**March 9**  
**March 11**  
**March 13**  
**March/14/15**  
**March 17**  
**March 19**  
**March 23-27**  
**March 26**  
**March 28**  
**April**  
**April 3**  
**April 9**  
**April 10**  
**April 12 & 19**  
**April 14**  
**April 16**  
**April 18**  
**April 23**  
**April 27-May 4**  
**April 30**  
**May 7**  
**May 9 & 10**  
**May 12**  
**May 17**  
**May 29**  
**May 30 & 31**
- ~ Christian Women Meeting 6:30 p.m. Gathering Place  
~ Ash Wednesday Masses 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.  
~ Social Justice Meeting 6:30 p.m. Xavier Hall  
~ Stations of the Cross 5:30 p.m. Friday's during Lent  
~ St. Francis Xavier Rocks 7-11:00 p.m. SFX School  
~ Justice for the Poor Meeting 7:00 p.m. Xavier Hall  
~ Knights of Columbus Meeting 7:00 p.m. Xavier Hall  
~ Anointing Service 10:00 a.m. Followed by Reception  
~ Minnesota FoodShare Month  
~ First Thursday Coffee Social After 8:00 a.m. Mass  
~ Christian Women Cash & Card Bingo 1:00 p.m. SFX School  
~ BeFRIENDERS Meeting 6:30 p.m. Xavier Hall  
~ Parish Nurses—Deb's Office/Health & Wellness 5:30 p.m. Xavier Hall  
~ Parish Fish Fry 4:00-7:00 p.m. SFX School  
~ Hospitality Weekend  
~ Penance Service 6:30 p.m.  
~ Social Justice Meeting Xavier Hall 6:30 p.m.  
~ Spring Break  
~ Chrism Mass—Cathedral 7:00 p.m.  
~ "Mental illness: Hope for Recovery" Workshop 9am- 3pm Xavier Hall—Open to the Public  
~ No Food Shelf Collection  
~ Good Friday—Parish Office closed — Services 1:00 & 7:00 p.m./SFX School Break  
~ First Thursday Coffee Social after 8:00 a.m. Mass Gathering Place  
~ Board of Education Spring Parish Dinner  
~ First Communion During Weekend Masses  
~ Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Bishop Kettler  
~ Social Justice Meeting 6:30 p.m. Xavier Hall  
~ Human Trafficking 8-Noon—sponsored by Christian Women & Social Justice Committee  
~ Knights of Columbus Meeting 7:00 p.m. Xavier Hall  
~ Church of the Week  
~ Traveling Health Fair 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Gathering Place  
~ First Thursday Coffee Social after 8:00 a.m. Mass Gathering Place  
~ Mother's Day—Christian Women Flower Sale after Masses  
~ Lemonade & Laughter Gathering Place  
~ Baccalaureate 10:30 a.m. Mass  
~ Last Day of School/Sixth Grade Farewell Mass & Reception  
~ Hospitality/Welcoming Weekend