



*Your kindness  
should be known to all.*

*The Lord is near.*

PHILIPPIANS 4:5

FREEDOM

**THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER**

**Sunday, June 29**

9:00 am Cardboard City (RH)  
 1:00 pm Stewardship Retreat (Away)  
 1:00 pm Ushers Training (XR)  
 5:00 pm Bingo (CB)

**Monday, June 30**

6:00 pm Schola rehearsal (CH)  
 7:00 pm Scouts—Troop 506 (CB)  
 7:30 pm Cantor Rehearsal (CH)

**Tuesday, July 1**

6:30 pm Bingo (CB)  
 7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study (RH)

**Wednesday, July 2**

7:00 pm Employment Network (HM)

**Thursday, July 3**

7:30 pm Teen Thursday (RH)  
 9:00 pm Medina Fireworks

**Friday, July 4**

Rectory Office Closed

**Saturday, July 5**

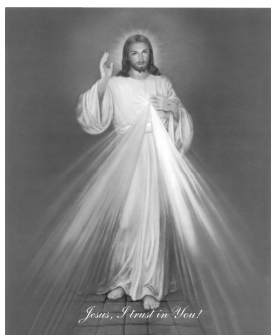
8:30 am Cleaning Angels (CH)  
 9:00 am Men's Fellowship (RH)

**Sunday, July 6**

**Hospitality Sunday**

5:00 pm Bingo (CB)

**Location key:** (CH) church (CB) church basement  
 (LR) Loyola Room (CR) rectory conference room  
 (XR) Xavier Room (SCH) school (TL) teachers' Lounge  
 (LIB) school library (RH) Randel House (RHLT) RH Life Teen  
 (RLR) Rectory Living Room (HM) Holy Martyrs Church  
 (K of C) Knights of Columbus Hall



**Mass attendance,  
 June 21-22, 2014**

5:00 pm 418  
 8:00 am 274  
 10:00 am 428  
 12:00 pm 304  
 5:30 pm 208

**Parish Treasure Update:  
 June 21-22, 2014**

Sunday Offertory: \$15,619.12  
 Envelopes: 378

**Thank you for your  
 generosity!**

**LITURGY SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, June 29**

*Saint Peter, Saint Paul and the Apostles*

8:00 am People of Saint Francis Xavier (CC)  
 10:00 am Agnes Port (CC)  
 12:00 pm Angelo Battaglia (TK)  
 5:30 pm Timothy Miller (TS)

**Monday, June 30**

7:30 am Louis Bilinovich (CC)  
 7:00 pm Dorothy Karbon (TS)

**Tuesday, July 1**

7:30 am Sarah Coyne (CC)

**Wednesday, July 2**

7:30 am Jeanne Smudz, Joyce Ebner, James S. Wolfe, Bob Mickle, Mary Muth, Joe Andrich, Fritz Hoffman, John Malone, Nicholas and Janice Goyette (TS)

**Thursday, July 3**

7:30 am Poor Souls in Purgatory (CC)  
 6:15 pm Reconciliation  
 7:00 pm (TK)  
 8:30 pm Fortnight for Freedom Prayer Service

**Friday, July 4**

9:00 am Michael H. Wilenski (TK)

**Saturday, July 5**

7:30 am Edward and Emma Skala (CC)  
 3:30 pm Reconciliation  
 5:00 pm Ethel Wancata (TS)

**Sunday, July 6**

*14th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8:00 am John McNulty (TS)  
 10:00 am Agnes Port (TK)  
 12:00 pm Louis Bilinovich (CC)  
 1:30 pm Baptisms (CC)  
 5:30 pm People of St. Francis Xavier (TK)

(TS) Fr. Tony Sejba; (TK) Fr. Thomas Kowatch;  
 (CC) Fr. Chris Cox; (EL) Fr. Ed Lajack;  
 (PK) Deacon Paul Kipfstuhl;  
 (JL) Deacon Joe Loutzenhiser; (DN) Deacon Dan Norris

**Banns of Marriage**

II Ashley Aquilino and Patrick Dease

**No Evening Mass and Nocturnal  
 Adoration on Friday, July 4.**

### St. Francis Xavier Church Staff

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Anthony Sejba (ext. 8956)
<b>Parochial Vicars</b>	Rev. Thomas Kowatch (ext. 8955) Rev. Chris Cox (ext. 8957)
<b>Deacons</b>	Deacon Paul Kipfstuhl Deacon Joseph Loutzenhiser Deacon Daniel Norris
<b>Director of Adult Initiation</b>	Jenny Bonarrigo
<b>Director of Music</b>	Mary Gabriel (ext. 8960)
<b>Director of Religious Education</b>	Susan Rohe-Brooks (ext. 8961)
<b>Youth Minister</b>	Paul Koopman (ext. 8958)
<b>Director of Ministry and Communication</b>	Jennifer Webb (ext. 8946)
<b>School Principal</b>	Bibiana Seislove (ext. 2903)
<b>Director of "Little Sailors" Pre-School</b>	Monica Gorman (ext. 8920)
<b>Business Manager</b>	Ray Scherry (ext. 8954)

#### Sunday Masses

5 p.m., Saturday Vigil; 8 a.m., 10 a.m., noon, 5:30 p.m.

#### Weekday Masses

7:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday

7 p.m. Monday and Thursday

First Friday - 7 p.m.

#### Holy Day Masses

7 p.m. Vigil, 7:30 a.m., 7 p.m.

#### Reconciliation

Saturdays, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

#### Rectory office hours

Monday through Thursday,

8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

#### Contact us

Rectory Offices: 330-725-4968

Parish School of Religion: 330-722-7700

St. Francis Xavier School: 330-725-3345

School Fax: 330-721-8626

Church Basement: 330-764-8912

Latchkey: 330-725-6203

Cemetery (Dave Thomas): 330-722-4477

#### Bingo

*Sundays:* Doors open at 3:30 p.m.; games start at 5:00 p.m.

*Tuesdays:* Doors open at 5:00 p.m.; games start at 6:30 p.m.

### Worship and Sacraments at St. Francis Xavier

**Baptisms:** Two Sundays each month at 1:30 p.m.; baptism classes every other month. Call the rectory for dates.

**Reconciliation:** Saturdays, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.; Thursday before First Friday, 6:15 to 6:45 p.m.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Prompt attention at any time, day or night! Please call the rectory to arrange for this sacrament: 330-725-4968.

**Marriage: Please call as soon as possible!** Preparation requires a minimum of sixth months. Marriage guidelines are available on request.

**Nocturnal Adoration:** First Friday of the month, 7:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. Saturday.

Adoration for Life: Third Saturday of the month following 7:30 a.m. Mass, 8-8:30 a.m.

### Parish Pastoral Council

Ric Sturm (chair): (330)725-3575

Jenn Stanziano (vice chair):

(330)416-7207

Anthony Kovalik (secretary):

(330)723-6315

Mike Baumgartner: (330)725-4445

Mario Colangelo: (330)723-3040

Kathy Gaughan: (330)722-8848

Tuesday Hamilton: (330)591-0580

Charise Kasper: (330)721-6510

James McIntyre: (330)304-2453

Barry Norris: (330)598-1663

Pam Reese: (330)334-3985

Rachelle Skupski: (330)721-1785

Vince Tricoli: (330)603-7327

### Readings for the Week

Monday: Am 2:6-10, 13-16; Ps 50:16bc-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23; Mt 8:18-22

Tuesday: Am 3:1-8, 4:11-12; Ps 5:4b-6a, 6b-7, 8; Mt 8:23-27

Wednesday: Am 5:14-15, 21-24; Ps 50:7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 16bc-17; Mt 8:28-34

Thursday: Eph 2:19-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 20:24-29

Friday: Am 8:4-6, 9-12; Ps 119:2, 10, 20, 30, 40, 131; Mt 9:9-13

Saturday: Am 9:11-15; Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14; Mt 9:14-17

Sunday: Zec 9:9-10; Ps 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14; Rom 8:9, 11-13; Mt 11:25-30

**St. Francis Xavier Catholic School Update**

Parents of children Preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to consider St. Francis Xavier School, A National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. If you have the need to contact the school office over the next few months, please refer to the Summer School Office Hours found in the bulletin and on the school website. Thank you.



Have a Blessed Summer.  
In Christ,  
Mrs. Seislove

**Buy your gift cards this Summer!** Gift Cards support St. Francis Xavier Church and School! You may buy your gift cards at the rectory office throughout the summer. The new year started June 1!

**Summer 2014 SFX School Office Hours:**

The St. Francis Xavier School office will be open the following hours during the summer:

Monday – Friday	June 30-July 4	CLOSED
Wednesday	July 9	9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Wednesday	July 16	9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Wednesday	July 23	9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Wednesday	July 30	9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Wednesday	August 6	9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Monday – Friday	August 11-15	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Starting Monday August 18 School Begins - Regular Office Hours

**Looking Ahead (to the new year!):**

Date	Event	Time
Wednesday, August 13	Kindergarten – Grade 5 Curriculum Night	7:00 p.m. and 7:45 p.m.
Friday, August 15	Middle School Orientation	
	Grade 6	9:30 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.
	Grades 7 and 8	1:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 16	School Open House	6:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.
	Welcome Back Tailgate	6:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.
Monday, August 18	First Day of School for Grades 1-8	
Tuesday, August 19	First ½ Day for Kindergarten Boys*	9:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.
	First ½ Day for Kindergarten Girls*	12:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.
	<b>*PARENTS MUST ATTEND THE SESSION</b>	
Wednesday, August 20	First Full Day for All Kindergarteners	
	Preschool Parent Meetings	6:00 p.m./ 6:45 p.m./ 7:30 p.m.

**St. Francis Xavier Uniform Sale**

Come purchase gently used school uniforms, gym clothes, blue ribbon shirts, gym shoes and more! The sale is early this year so you can plan for back-to-school shopping.

Date: Sunday, July 27  
Where: Church Basement  
Time: After all Masses

Please donate clean uniforms to the rectory by July 15. Contact Beth Bugner to assist with set up, working sale, and/or clean up. ALL proceeds benefit PTC of SFX.

*We educate for excellence and together we learn to become disciples of Christ*



We had a great response to our first Picnic with the Priests last weekend, with more than 125 parishioners gathered for an evening social after the Saturday vigil Mass. Thanks to all who attended and helped make it a beautiful evening. Our series of summer Picnics with the Priests continues this weekend on the Randel House deck.

We are thrilled to host our second picnic with **members of Knights of Columbus, Respect Life, Battered Women’s Shelter, Operation HOMES and St. Vincent de Paul Society**, and their families, on June 28, following the 5 p.m. Mass (about 6:15 p.m. to ?).

On July 19, we invite the **SFX Parish School of Religion, Children’s Liturgy of the Word and CYO coaches, staff and volunteers**. And, if you aren’t a member of these ministries, but would like to come anyway, please do!

In addition to renewing friendships and forging new ones,

you will have the opportunity to interact with your parish priests, Father Tony, Father Thom and Father Chris.

You need not bring anything but yourself and, if you wish, an alcoholic beverage. The Knights of Columbus again will be our “Grill Masters.” The parish will gladly provide all the hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, side dishes, water and dessert.

For the July 19 picnic, **please RSVP** by July 16. Please call Rhonda at the parish office, 330-725-4968, or email [rmckinnon@stfrancisxavier.info](mailto:rmckinnon@stfrancisxavier.info).

Upcoming picnics:

- July 26 Welcoming Ministry, Ushers, new parishioners who have joined since 2012
- Aug. 9 Marriage Ministry, Pre-Cana ministers, Young Adults

We look forward to having you here!

## PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

330-722-7700 [sbrooks@stfrancisxavier.info](mailto:sbrooks@stfrancisxavier.info)

### Preschool Classes (Ages 3, 4, 5; Sundays during 10:00 a.m. Mass):

Registration forms for all incoming preschool children (Ages 3 (by Sept. 1), 4 and 5 years old) are available at the rectory office, at the parish website (see below), or by calling the PSR office. We are looking for adult help for the 2014-2015 ahead. For more information call 330-722-7700  
Classes are on Sunday mornings during the 10:00 a.m. liturgy beginning in October 2014.

### The Edge (Grades 6,7,8) for Fall 2014-2015:

The program takes place on Wednesday evenings in the school. Students arrive at 6:15 p.m. and are dismissed at 8:15 p.m. These are very important years for our middle school youth.

Our classes use facilitators and we need many adults to keep the small groups limited in size. Please pray and consider helping out our students in their Faith Journey. We have materials and help for the ministry of the Edge. You can make a difference to our youth as you share your faith with the Edgers. For more information call 330-722-7700.

#### Attention Parents:

To access PSR information the new website is [www.sfxmedina.com](http://www.sfxmedina.com). Go under the Parish side, select "About" then "Parish School of Religion," then the program you are looking for!



### Edge Summer Camp

Edge Camp 2 begins on Monday, July 7-Thursday, July 10. We welcome 25 students.



### Elementary Classes for students Grades 1-5 (Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings):

We offer our youth and their families a choice of either classes on Thursday evenings from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. or on Saturday mornings from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Registration forms are available on the website (see above), at the rectory office, or by calling the PSR office.

Jesus tells us to bring the children to Him. Both of our programs need help as catechists or assistants for different levels. Please pray and respond 330-722-7700). Thank you on behalf of our parish students.

## Vacation Bible School



Our 2014 Vacation Bible School was a big success as more than 150 students a week of adventure, Scripture, and fun with crafts, music, playground, and food. Thank you to the staff who worked very hard to make the environment come alive.

A special thank you to Father Thom (Gilligan).



**Welcome to our parish**

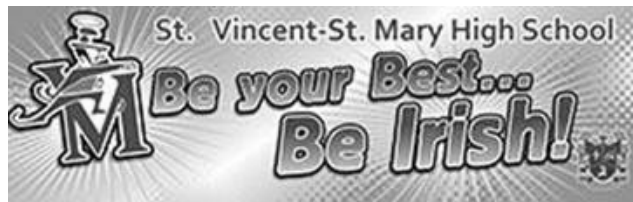
New to the area, or to St. Francis Xavier? Welcome presentations are held throughout the year. Sessions are held in the school. To register for these gatherings, or for more information about parish registration please call our office: 330-725-4968.



**Catholic Family FESTival**

Looking for a great family day this summer? **Join us for**

**The FEST on Sunday, August 3** on the seminary grounds in Wickliffe. The 56-acre campus becomes the home of our 14th Annual Catholic Family FESTival. It's a day that celebrates faith and family. **It's fun and it's FREE.** Join thousands, from across the region, for national Christian bands (Third Day, Colton Dixon, Mandissa, for King and Country) along with great faith-based activities and displays for the whole family. The day ends with an outdoor Mass at 8 pm followed by an incredible American Fireworks display. Check it out online — [www.theFEST.us](http://www.theFEST.us). **It's FREE. Everyone is welcome! The FEST is the perfect family day.**



Looking for a chance to learn photography, shoot and build a rocket, or even perfect your four point stance with a Two-Time Football State Champion? Be Your Best... Be Irish this summer at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School!

St. Vincent-St. Mary's Camp Irish, offers school-age students a chance to develop through a variety of enrichment experiences. We provide opportunities for growth, both academically and athletically, in a safe and exciting atmosphere.

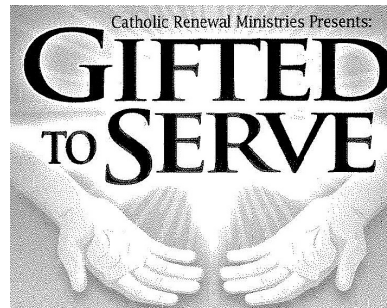
Come and join us this summer to make new friends and learn all about what the STVM community has to offer you. Register online: [http://www.stvm.com/athletics/summer\\_camps\\_online.php](http://www.stvm.com/athletics/summer_camps_online.php)

**Seniors Club News**

The July Meeting of the Seniors club has been moved to the second week of July (this month only).

- Date: July 9, 2014
- Location: Xavier Room
- Time: 1:00 p.m.

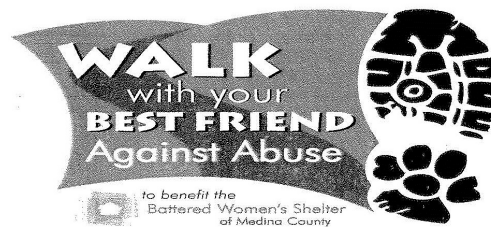
All seniors are welcome! Call Dorothy Sayer, Membership Chairperson at 330-723-1950 for more information.



**Charismatic Conference**

The 32nd Cleveland Charismatic Conference sponsored by Catholic Renewal Ministries will be held July 18 and 19, 2014 at Magnificat High School in Rocky River. Guest speakers will be Pattie Mansfield and Deacon

Ralph Poyo and local speaker Michele TePas Harrison. The theme is "Gifted to Serve". The conference opens on Friday at 7:00 p.m. Contact Sue or Joe Palmieri at 440-774-1191 for registration information or visit [www.crmweb.org](http://www.crmweb.org). Advance registration through July 9 is \$20.00 and at the door is \$35.00.



The Medina County Battered Women's Shelter is excited to bring to the Medina community the 7th annual "Walk With Your Best Friend Against Abuse" awareness and fundraising event! "Walk With Your Best Friend Against Abuse" is the ONLY 2014 Medina County fundraiser to support the over 1,600 Medina County domestic abuse victims that are served each year.

Proceeds help to sustain the mission to lead the community by providing hot line services, emergency shelter, support, advocacy, and education in an effort to break the cycle of abuse and promote peace to families throughout Medina County.

This year's event will be held on the Square of Medina, October 4, 2014 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will include a one-mile walk (with your furry best friend), dog costume contest, doggy demo, music, information tables, refreshments and more!

Visit [www.walkwithyourbestfriend.com](http://www.walkwithyourbestfriend.com) to register your team and join us as we walk and raise the money and awareness for this year's event.

**Employment Network**

For general information about our group, call Jim Mayiras at 330-721-9796.

Do you know of someone who needs help or direction in their job search? Call Joe Gainard at 330-725-8690.

If your company needs talent and has a position available to post with our group, email the information to Dan Cathcart at [cathcartd@yahoo.com](mailto:cathcartd@yahoo.com).



### TEEN THURSDAYS!

Teens come to Teen Thursdays every week on Thursday. Teen Thursdays are a relaxed and fun drop in night at the Randel House. We will play games, sports, hang out, eat food, and more. Come meet your youth group in a fun and safe place. Teen Thursday is 7:30 to 9 p.m. Again, meet in the Life Teen section of the Randel House.



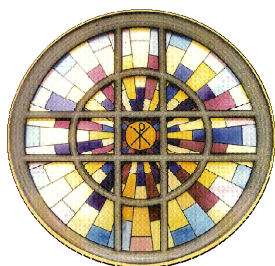
*Ultimate Frisbee at Teen Thursday!*



### *A Stewardship Moment*

#### **Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles**

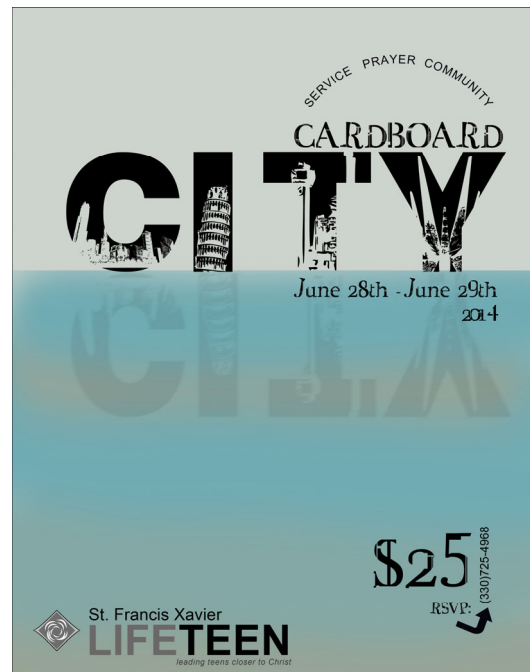
In today's Gospel we hear Peter proclaim who his friend and teacher really is when he says to Jesus: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Peter experienced many ups and downs as a follower of Jesus. He could be impetuous, impatient, fearful and even unfaithful. After Peter had boasted of his fidelity to the Lord, he adamantly denied him three times. It seemed that Peter had burned his bridges, but Jesus lovingly rebuilt them and restored Peter to service. Peter would become the chief steward of the Gospel in the early church. Peter had failed Jesus, but with Jesus, failure is not the end. Reflect this week on the times you have failed Jesus. Were you open to Jesus' forgiveness? Did it make you a better steward of the Gospel?



### **Confirmation Sessions Continue through the Summer**

Our confirmation sessions have been going wonderfully. We began with existence of God then we covered topics such as the Bible, salvation history, the creed, the Mass and just last week we talked about Catholic social teaching and the 4 marks of the Church; at our next session we will talk about the communion of saints and the Church.

The candidates are doing a wonderful job learning and growing in their faith. We are very proud of them and we ask you to please keep our confirmation team and our candidates in your prayers. If you have not yet registered for confirmation please download the forms on [Xaverlifeteen.com](http://Xaverlifeteen.com) or call the rectory office.



#### **SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 9...**

...For our annual "Walk with Mary" evening retreat, starting at 4 p.m. All women and men of the parish are welcome.

\*New this year - we will have our beautiful deep turquoise blue "Walk with Mary" T-Shirts available for pre-order. The cost is \$10. Call Judy at 330-725-4265 for more info. Deadline for T-shirt orders is July 20th. Hope to see you there!



#### **f 'Like' us on Facebook!**

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church is on Facebook! [facebook.com/St.FrancisXavierCatholicChurchMedina](https://www.facebook.com/St.FrancisXavierCatholicChurchMedina) you have an event coming up contact Jennifer Webb at 330-764-8946 or [jwebb@stfrancisxavier.info](mailto:jwebb@stfrancisxavier.info).

**May God heal our sick and suffering**

**Pray for all military**

David M. Campbell	Jeffrey Simko
Ryan P. Cox	Daniel Smith
Cody M. Feron	Jeff Stein
Nicholas Glenbocki	Kevin Stein
Dan Haggerty	David Tagliaferro
Brandon Hamilton	Maritza Tagliaferro
Alex Hicar	David Vanik
Kayla Lane	Aaron Virkler
Taylor Lane	Robert Weiler
Brandon Lichty	J. Matthew Zweifel
Reinhard Nann	Joseph Zweifel
Jared Ross	
Erica Sachleben	
Taylor Salmons	

Jude Ballinger  
 Becky Barker  
 John Benson  
 Maxine Bergdorf  
 Claire Bevec  
 Sue Boyne  
 Sioux Campbell  
 Danny Colonna  
 Kathleen Cunningham  
 Marianne Curry  
 Evan Dolinar  
 Myrna Dooley  
 Billie Duta  
 Maribeth Edgley  
 Lynda Erickson  
 Brendan Federinko  
 Ed Fraley  
 John Francisco  
 Roger Friedrich  
 Bobby Fusco  
 Rhettec Galaska  
 Jacob Gaume

Kerry Grimm  
 Del Guerra  
 Vivian Heim  
 Camden Heil  
 Charlotte Heil  
 Savannah Heil  
 Anthony Hosick  
 Joann Houdek  
 Richard Emil Janson  
 Mark Jablonowski  
 Charline Karsnak  
 Mary Keith  
 John Kirda, Sr.  
 Andrew Korduba  
 Brenda Kutcher  
 Ruth Lancki  
 Steven Lastuka  
 Dave Leidecker  
 Jerry Liechty  
 Emily Markert  
 Aaron Markiewicz  
 James M. McDonald

Lou McDonald  
 Lois McFadden  
 Mary Ann Makowski  
 Alexa Meyers  
 Ann-Marie Mills  
 John Neuwar  
 Mary Neuwar  
 Lisa Owen  
 Nathaniel Plasco  
 Richard Pryatel  
 Mark Rudolph  
 Mimi Russ  
 Richard Russ  
 Beth Sielski  
 Jean Smith  
 Amy Taylor  
 Carolyn Vasko  
 Lacey Vickers  
 Celene Wallen  
 Helen Yakubik

*If you would like to add a name to the list of active-duty military, e-mail [sfxparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:sfxparishoffice@gmail.com) or call the rectory office.*

*If you would like to place a name on the list of those in need of prayer, please contact the rectory office, or e-mail [sfxparishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:sfxparishoffice@gmail.com).*



**Pastor's Page — Improvements Continue...**

Improvements continue this summer. During this last week, young volunteers helped to move mulch around the parish grounds. On Tuesday, the old HVAC on the school was removed and tapered insulation was added. On Thursday, the next phase of the parking lot began. Please be careful crossing the parking lot to the church — make sure you observe the yellow tape and signs. I want everyone to remain safe. Thank you again for your patience.

Have a very blessed week.

Fr. Tony



**Fortnight for Freedom Prayer Service and Celebration**

The U.S. bishops are again asking Catholics throughout the country

and others of good will to pray June 21 to July 4 for protection of our religious liberty in light of recent decisions made by our government with regard to the contraception coverage mandate.

The bishops ask that we spend the two weeks leading up to the Fourth of July focused on prayer, education and reflection on our first freedom, the freedom of religion. They have provided a wide array of informational and prayer aids at [fortnight4freedom.org](http://fortnight4freedom.org).

In an open letter to all Americans, the bishops and leaders of numerous other churches and organizations ask that the Department of Health and Human Services, at a minimum, expand conscience protections under the mandate to cover any organization or individual that has religious or moral objections to covering, providing or enabling access to the mandated drugs and services.

Here at St. Francis Xavier Parish, we will hold a Half-Hour of Prayer for Religious Freedom on Thursday, July 3, at 8:30 p.m. Join us as we pray together for our country.

After the prayer service, we celebrate our freedom with red, white and blue Popsicles and other cool giveaways just prior to the City of Medina fireworks display, which can be viewed from our front lawn.

**Prayer for the Protection of Religious Liberty**

O God our Creator,  
 from your provident hand we have received  
 our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.  
 You have called us as your people and given us  
 the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God,  
 and your Son, Jesus Christ.  
 Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit,  
 you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world,  
 bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel  
 to every corner of society.

We ask you to bless us  
 in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty.  
 Give us the strength of mind and heart  
 to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened;  
 give us courage in making our voices heard

on behalf of the rights of your Church  
 and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father,  
 a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters  
 gathered in your Church  
 in this decisive hour in the history of our nation,  
 so that, with every trial withstood  
 and every danger overcome—  
 for the sake of our children, our grandchildren,  
 and all who come after us—  
 this great land will always be "one nation, under God,  
 indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.