

March / April 2017



the

connecting the community of st. francis xavier parish

# Navigator

## Lent... a Season of Growth

**Did you ever notice how Lent is a time to “redo” everything? Rediscover. Renew. Repent. Return.**

It's that second, third, fourth – heck, 50th – chance to start over, make that fresh start with the Lord and really grow in your relationship with God.

We have several unique opportunities in these weeks before Easter to do just that.

*Learn more on page 2.*

## Holy Week & Easter Schedule

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

Tenebrae service, 7 p.m.

### HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 13

Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7 p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 8 to 10:30 p.m.

### GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 14

Morning Prayer, 9 a.m.

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, 3 & 7 p.m.

### HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 15

Morning Prayer, 9 a.m.

Blessing of Food, 3 p.m.

Easter Vigil Mass: 9 p.m.

### EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 16

Mass at Church: 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 12 noon

Mass at Performing Arts Center: 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

## One step closer to diaconate

Congratulations to our own Bob Cavanaugh, who has received the Ministry of Acolyte, one of the important steps toward ordination in the permanent diaconate.

An acolyte is appointed to aid the deacon and to minister to the priest at the altar and as a special minister to give Holy Communion to the faithful at Mass and to the sick. Acolytes may also expose the Eucharist for public adoration in the absence of a priest or deacon.

During the Feb. 11 institution ceremony at SS. Robert and William Church in Euclid, the Most Rev. Roger W. Gries, OSB, retired auxiliary bishop of Cleveland, reminded Bob and three other candidates that they will have a special role in the Church's ministry, since the summit and source of the Church's life is the Eucharist, which builds up the Christian community and makes it grow. The candidates were asked to show a sincere love for Christ's Mystical Body, God's holy people and especially for the weak and the sick.

Bob and his wife, Dawn, have been longtime members of St. Francis Xavier Parish, along with members of their extended families. If God continues to call Bob along this path to the diaconate, he could be ordained in 2018. Please keep him and his family in your prayers!

*'Take this vessel with bread for the celebration of the Eucharist. Make your life worthy of your service at the table of the Lord and of his Church.'*



*(Photos by Dawn Cavanaugh)*



**SATURDAY VIGIL: 5 p.m. SUNDAY: 8 p.m., 10 a.m., 12 noon, 5:30 p.m.**  
**WEEKDAYS: 7:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday**  
**7 p.m. Monday, Thursday & First Friday of the month**



## XLT

**March 30 – 7:45 p.m., Church**

You might have heard of XLT and thought it meant “Xavier Life Teen.” After all, our Life Teen group has participated in XLT (also called “Exalt”) nights a number of times. Our Edge students also got to experience XLT recently. But in this case, XLT refers to a type of adoration of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament that combines music, praise and worship, Scripture and moments of silent prayer.

**This XLT is designed as a parish-wide event. All ages are invited and encouraged to attend.**

Father Chris Cox will lead the service, along with musician/parishioner John Husbands, immediately following the 7:30 p.m. Mass. It will end about 9 p.m.

If your only experience with adoration has been the First Friday nocturnal adoration that has been available here for decades, you may find this service quite different, Father Chris says. XLT presents adoration as an opportunity to communicate directly with the God of the universe, present in the form of bread displayed in the monstrance.

“Sometimes with set devotional prayers, we lose sight that Jesus is actually present in our midst,” Father Chris says. “I think sometimes we’re so worried about getting our prayers done that we have to question, are we actually praying? Prayer is an open communication line to God. It’s emptying yourself out to God, but also receiving God’s graces. In a sense, what we’re doing when we have adoration is we’re emptying ourselves and receiving those graces at the same time.”

The format is based on XLT at Borromeo Seminary in Wickliffe, where it often attracts 150 to 200 worshipers. It combines very traditional elements with contemporary music in a darkened church and spotlights to emphasize the mystical nature of adoration.

“The beauty of XLT is that it offers us times of silence,” Father Chris says. “So often we fill that time of silence with other set prayers. But what God so deeply wants is for us to have a communication with Him. To share ourselves with Him in that prayer.”

“If you love Jesus, my hope is that you’ll be there,” he adds. “Something like this can have a youthful vibe, but Christ has a great desire to have relationship with all of us. In the midst of Lent, when we’re focusing on prayer, fasting and almsgiving, what better time than for you and your family to experience a new type of prayer?”



## Seder Meal

**April 2 – 1:30 p.m., Xavier Room**

Jesus was a devout Jew. Throughout his teachings and life are references to his celebration of Jewish feasts, and especially the Passover, which commemorates the liberation of the Jews from Egyptian bondage as well as the barley season and Israel’s relationship with the land. As disciples of Jesus, it seems fitting that we would come to better understand him and the metaphors to which he alludes. We “acknowledge common roots in the history of salvation,” the U.S. bishops say.

We are honored to welcome Rabbi Enid Lader of Beth Israel – the West Temple in Lakewood to St. Francis Xavier Parish on Sunday, April 2. Rabbi Lader will lead a seder meal to which you are invited to attend as guests and experience this re-enactment of the exodus experience.

During the seder, time itself is transfigured into sacred time, suspended in eternity, when we participate as the Jewish people being freed from slavery. We pray for oppressed people everywhere, and with hope for the ultimate victory over evil.

The seder will include symbolic foods, such as a bone, egg, bitter herbs, salt water and the haroset (a sweet salad-like mixture). Our gathering at 1:30 p.m. will include a full, family-friendly meal. The entire program will conclude about 4 p.m.



**The seder is free to participants, but advance registration is required. Seating is limited. To register, visit [www.sfxmedina.com/parish/forms](http://www.sfxmedina.com/parish/forms), or call the parish office at 330-725-4968.**

### OTHER LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES:

**Lenten faith sharing** – Gather in small groups of fellow parishioners to learn more about our faith. This year, more than 150 parishioners are reading “Mary – Virgin, Mother & Queen” by Father Mitch Pacwa, S.J. Contact Chelly Bergman at 330-461-0365 or [stfrancislent@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancislent@gmail.com) to participate.

**Stations of the Cross** – Recall the passion and death of our Lord during weekly Stations of the Cross in our church at 7 p.m. on most Fridays of Lent. Don’t miss the Stations on April 7, as presented by our Life Teen members.

**Reconciliation** – Reconciliation is offered every Saturday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the church. Additional opportunities are available during Lent, including March 15 for the Diocesan-wide Reconciliation, 5 to 8 p.m., when all churches will open their doors for confession. (Prefer to go where you’re more anonymous? Find a neighboring church!)

**Tenebrae** – This monastic prayer service on Wednesday, April 12, at 7 p.m. includes chants, readings, candles and darkness with periods of quiet reflection. It is a traditional prelude to the Sacred Triduum, where music and text speak symbolically of our lives identified in the death and resurrection of Jesus.



## LEAF ministry gives hope to families of incarcerated people

By Kelly A. Schmotzer



Today it seems everyone knows someone who has an addiction.

Addictions often eventually get people in to all kinds of trouble... from theft to battery to very serious acts. Today, most people know someone who is either incarcerated, or has been incarcerated.

When it happens to your own friends or family, it is very hard to bear.

You believe you're the only one struggling with all aspects of your friend or family members incarceration, and all the issues that go along with it...from separation to loneliness to shame to confusion to sadness and even depression. If you've ever felt this way, please know there is support right here in our own parish.

St. Francis Xavier Parish has many wonderful ministries, but one that I joined over a year ago is called the LEAF Ministry. LEAF is an outreach to friends and families of the incarcerated. LEAF stands for Listening, Encouraging and Assisting Families of the incarcerated. We meet the fourth Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Loyola Room of our church. We just talk, listen and support people going through hard times because no one wants to see his or her friend or family member in a jail or prison. It is amazing how just talking to others going through the same thing helps.

A number of years ago, my neighbor's son got into some serious trouble a few weeks into his 18th birthday. He wasn't a bad kid; he just did some very dumb acts that put him in prison for too many years to count. His family divorced and moved out of state. I was close with the family so I started attending LEAF, where I learned a lot about the system and laws and ways that we could help the inmate as well as the family. It was good.

There is an "earth-angel" named Sister Rita Mary Harwood, director of Parish-Life Ministry for the Cleveland Diocese, who started our ministry, attends often and taught us the



most about what to expect and how to manage the process. Each member of the ministry had some nugget to share which also helped. By the way, my friend's son was just recently released and

is doing very well with his life outside the prison walls.

I have a relative who had an alcohol addiction many years ago and who also made some very poor choices and ended up incarcerated ...

also for too many years to count. LEAF has been helping us through his process and especially helping his immediate family in uncountable ways. I'm happy to share he will be paroled this summer.

During my time as a member of the LEAF Ministry – besides them supporting me – we have supported many and varied situations.

It could be a mom in shock, fighting to keep it together, blaming herself after her young adult is incarcerated for the first time, or a sibling struggling with himself and others to keep ties with his incarcerated loved one in the midst of an immoral act. It might be a wife traumatized by the sudden incarceration of her husband and wondering how to tell the children, or an elderly aunt showing support to her loved one who she believes was wrongly accused and incarcerated. It might be parents at their wits' end with their recently released child who is making troubling, repetitious choices, or a young professional who is ashamed, with no one to talk to, after the recent publicized arrest of her father. Many stories.

What I have noticed is ... LEAF helps the families TALK about things they can't talk about to anyone. We don't use last names. It's been over a year, and I pretty much only know the members' first names. We never know the last names of those we help unless they wish to share. The anonymity, the prayers, the kindness, the attention, the support, the education from people who know the system...all are reasons to attend LEAF.

**If you know someone who needs this type of help...I highly recommend LEAF Ministry at St. Francis Xavier or the eight other parishes where it is offered.**

**Through our website, [www.leafministry.org](http://www.leafministry.org), and through our meetings, families will find nonjudgmental fellowship, answers and resources to address their current difficulties. For me, LEAF Ministry = 5 stars \*\*\*\*\*!**



## St. Francis Xavier joins response to fatal fire

St. Francis Xavier Parish joined other churches, businesses and individuals in the Medina community to respond after a fire at Medina Village apartments Feb. 9 killed an 18-year-old man with cerebral palsy and his mother, critically injured his father and displaced 18 residents.

The early morning fire destroyed the eight-unit apartment complex on Springbrook Drive, less than a mile from our church campus.

Within hours of hearing about the fire, Medina resident Ashley Gazzo started a clothing drive and established a benefit fund at FirstMerit bank. Ashley, who is eight months pregnant with her third child, has no connection to the apartments but said she felt called to help. She arranged for clothing donations to be brought the next day to the United Church of Christ, Congregational, and the community responded generously.

More than 150 boxes and numerous bags of clothing items were delivered by Brunswick-based Two Men and a Truck to the apartment complex for distribution to the affected families. Once there, Pat Ryan, Ray Rehak, Mike Sermulis, Yolanda Halstead, Rick Niese -- members of our parish-based St.



Vincent de Paul Society – along with parishioner Eleanor Stolarski helped to unload the boxes, which filled a vacant apartment unit. The apartment managers are overseeing distribution of the items to the families impacted by the tragic fire.

"It's amazing that people responded so quickly," says Pat, who has been a member of SVDP for about five years. "We're all glad to help."

Rick, who leads our SVDP ministry, also offered the group's help in managing disbursements of the funds collected. The group is accepting charitable financial contributions and gift cards to benefit the fire victims.

"We help people in need every day, so we were just looking to see if there's a part we could play in it," Rick says. He and Ashley will meet with residents affected by the fire to determine how best to meet their needs.

Several residents impacted by the fire had previously been served by St. Vincent de Paul, making the whole event that much more personal, he notes.

Eleanor, who moved to Medina recently from North Carolina and brought some items to the clothing drive, says she is impressed by the way people responded to help those in need. "The outpouring of support from the community is just overwhelming," she says. "We have great people here. We really, really do."

"I just hope those people get back on their feet."

One local business owner dropped off \$1,000 in gift cards for the families. Jake Elliott, the manager of Little Caesar's in Medina, donated \$500 – the profit from Feb. 13 sales – and his employees donated a \$20 gift card for each of the displaced families.

Financial contributions may be made to



the Medina Village Fire Victims Fund that Ashley established at FirstMerit bank. Contributions may be made at any FirstMerit location in Northeast Ohio. Gift cards and checks made out to St. Vincent de Paul Society may be delivered c/o St. Francis Xavier Parish, 606 E. Washington St., Medina, OH, 44256. Please include a notation that donations are for the Medina Village fire victims.

As of Feb. 16, the fund at FirstMerit totaled \$5,546.

Ashley gave a woman displaced by the fire a few gift cards when she returned to the complex the next day. "She was very gracious and thanked me," she says. "I think she was probably a little overwhelmed."

Victims of the fire are encouraged to contact the St. Vincent de Paul Society (330-764-8952), at St. Francis Xavier Parish, which will be working with Ashley to interview victims to disburse funds. Tenants were required to have insurance to cover at least \$15,000 in contents, which will help replace lost items, and the apartment managers say units are available to accommodate those who lost their homes.

Ashley had expected to continue the clothing drive for several days after the fire, but so much was donated on the first day that there was not room to accept more. "And a special thanks to the volunteers who came out and donated their time and energy to the great feat we accomplished," Ashley says. "Thank you, everyone."



## CYO Sports needs you

As I sit here and wonder about the history of CYO, I can't help but think what the founder Bishop Bernard J. Shell was thinking when he implemented this program back in 1930. It was designed to help young men stay active and stay off the streets. At first it was the young priests who took CYO under their belts and established a program that would not only teach young people athletics. It also taught the fundamental belief that no matter what we do in our lives, we must put Christ at the forefront.

Here we are, 87 years later, and CYO continues to be a vibrant part of the Catholic Church. It is worldwide and has millions of members. I have to believe that this program is blessed by God and that He has ordained it to be. But as I think about it even more, it is the men and women like you that God has really ordained. He has called you to continue to give of yourself and to help the young Catholic kids as they begin to step out onto life's stage, and begin to understand what it means to put Christ at the forefront of their lives.

So, as you consider "what should I do," pray and ask God: "What do you want me to do?" Remember that there are kids everywhere and in our home parish who need you. They are looking for that special person who will help them begin to learn whatever sports they are playing. They also are beginning to understand that this man or woman is the instrument whom God will use to show them why and how we put Christ first in everything we do.

*"I really enjoy CYO coaching because I find it very rewarding. The kids who run cross country and track have varying abilities, but they all strive to do their best. It's fun to watch them accomplish a goal or run their fastest time. I also find that the kids are respectful and want to learn more about the sports. Plus, they help keep me in shape since I run with them!" – Bob Jones*

And, as we continue to work with these kids throughout their Catholic educations, God will continue to work with them throughout their lives. They will be the next generation of workers who are ordained by God to continue this blessed program that we call CYO. I believe that it will continue and grow, and that someone else will ask the same question 87 years from now:

**"Hey, do you want to coach or help with CYO sports?"**

**Please consider being involved in CYO sports. We need:**

- Head Coaches
- Assistant Coaches
- Scorekeepers
- Counters
- Board Members



Thank you for your support of CYO sports.  
Anthony DiMarino  
Commissioner, SFX-CYO Football  
440-596-9226  
anthonydimarino@hotmail.com



*"I coach to teach the kids how to work well within a team and so they learn and appreciate the special talents and gifts that each one has and brings to the team. What I get out of it is the joy of seeing each and every one of them enhance their self-esteem and realize that they can do more than they thought possible." – Tom Rohrbach*

### DID YOU KNOW:

- CYO sports are open to all youth of our parish, as well as Holy Martyrs or St. Martin of Tours parishes, if they are enrolled in a day school, homeschool or Parish School of Religion program

### • St. Francis Xavier CYO offers these sports:

- Cross Country (fall)
- Football (fall)
- Football Cheer (fall)
- Basketball (winter)
- Track and Field (spring)
- Girls Grade School Volleyball (fall)
- Boys and High School Volleyball (spring)

- CYO endeavors to help young people be more Christ-like in the way they live. This occurs when the young person, not the athletic activity, is the main focus of what we do.

### • Registration is available online!

- Students who are trying out for other teams should register with CYO – if they make the other team, they can drop CYO without a penalty. This way we have spots reserved for them if needed.
- Each registration impacts the number of teams our parish registers (and pays for) with CYO – as well as team sizes, the number of coaches needed, and training required.

For more information, visit [www.stfrancisxavierathletics.com](http://www.stfrancisxavierathletics.com).

*"I coach because I enjoy teaching a game I love to kids. It's not about winning or losing but about all working toward a purpose and seeing an improvement and a level of accomplishment on the kids' faces from the beginning of the season to the end. There are a handful of moments I will always remember from every team I have ever coached, which is what will bring me back each year to do it again." – Tom Bauer*

## Called to Proclaim: Ministers of the Word

Ministers of the Word are men and women who have the sacred duty of proclaiming the assigned Scripture readings at Mass. They should have the desire to read the Scripture at the liturgy, be willing to be trained and practice the readings and have a commitment to live what the Scriptures proclaim.

The ministry is rooted in the text, and each reader spends time reflecting and practicing their specific reading weeks before they are scheduled to read. They also attend workshops throughout the year to discuss updates and train for special liturgies. Additionally, new readers receive individual training the week before their first reading and are partnered with an experienced fellow reader at their first assignment.

Leading the group are its two coordinators, Pieri Levandofsky and Vicky Nann.

Pieri and Vicky attend monthly Liturgy Commission meetings to represent their ministry and share information with their group. Pieri and Vicky also organize and run the training workshops, as well as ensure there are readers scheduled for Mass every

weekend and holy day of obligation.

The group is made up of nearly 70 readers ranging in reading experience from 30+ years to those joining us to read for the very first time. The last Stewardship Commitment Campaign brought forth seven additional parishioners who eagerly await their turn to read.

Julie Ryan says participation in the ministry has helped her to feel closer to God and given her a greater sense of community here since she joined the parish a few years ago.

"I first read to a nearly empty church, without practicing or knowing that I would read, on a Saturday morning during an informal blessing of wedding bans," she says. "I volunteered after my priest asked me, never thinking that I could stand in front of the congregation, but it has been a most fulfilling experience. It is difficult to put into words the feeling or comfort that I get from reading. Even during my preparation, I sense a profound peace and calm, and an intense feeling of closeness to Our Lord."

"I have lived in Medina only a few years, and it was difficult to leave my parish of nearly 20 years," Julie adds. "I am thankful for the opportunity to fulfill my calling, and it has helped to make me feel a part of the St. Francis Xavier family. This ministry has been a blessing in many ways."

Elayne Siegfried also says the ministry helped her find a fulfilling role within the parish. "I chose to be a Minister of the Word because I heard a calling to become more involved with my church and I wanted to give something back to my faith that welcomed me back home in 1989," Elayne says. "What I have discovered is that I have received much more in understanding, feeling the Holy Spirit's words come through me and connecting to our church family."

**If you feel called to share your talent and want to join us as a Minister of the Word, please contact our reader coordinators.**

**Pieri Levandofsky, 330-764-9867  
Vicky Nann, 440-940-6266**



*"The Lord has given me a well-trained tongue, that I may speak to the weary, a word that will rouse them"*  
-Isaiah 50:4



## St. Francis Xavier

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## **MARCH 4-5**

**Men's Christ Renews His Parish**  
weekend retreat

## **MARCH 5**

**Lifeshare bloodmobile**  
9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

## **MARCH 10-12**

**Life Teen Spring Retreat**  
**Camp Cheerful**

## **MARCH 12**

**Hospitality Sunday**  
After 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 12 noon  
Masses, Church Basement

## **MARCH 15**

**Diocesan Evening of Confession**  
5-8 p.m., Church

## **MARCH 18**

**Troop 506 St. Patrick's Day**  
**Dinner, Dance and Reverse Raffle**  
6:30 p.m., Church Basement

## **MARCH 26**

**St. Noel Bell Choir**  
10 a.m. & 12 noon Masses

## **MARCH 27-31**

**Spring Break**  
No School or PSR

## **MARCH 30**

**XLT Parish Evening of Adoration**  
7:45-9 p.m., Church

## **APRIL 1**

**Catholic Commission of Wayne,**  
**Ashland & Medina Gala Dinner**  
6:00 p.m., Xavier Room

## **APRIL 2**

**Seder Meal**  
1:30 p.m., Xavier Room

## **APRIL 12**

**School Stations of the Cross**  
1:30 p.m., Church  
**Tenebrae Service**  
7 p.m., Church

## **APRIL 16**

**Happy Easter!**  
See pg. 1 for full schedule

## **APRIL 23**

**Divine Mercy Sunday**  
3 p.m., Church

## **APRIL 29**

**First Eucharist Retreats**  
9 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

**3rd Annual Parish Day of Service**  
May 27. Join fellow parishioners to  
help others! Watch bulletin for details.