

May/June 2016



the

connecting the community of st. francis xavier parish

Navigator

Parish Mission with Fr. Larry Richards – May 9 to 12

It's almost here! This May, Fr. Larry Richards, a popular national conference speaker and pastor from Erie, Pennsylvania, will present a four-day mission at St. Francis Xavier Church.

Fr. Larry will talk about God's love and help us to understand Jesus' call for us to love one another, immerse ourselves in the saving Passion of Christ, confess our sins, adore Him in the Blessed Sacrament and seek his healing

and peace. By reminding us of Jesus' message and love, he will encourage us to make God first in our daily lives.

Fr. Larry has conducted hundreds of parish missions, conferences and retreats around the country, and hosts EWTN radio and TV shows. He is known to make the love of God real in his presentations. Fr. Larry is a former high school chaplain and the founder of The Reason for Our Hope Foundation.

Each night of the parish mission will have a different theme:

Monday – God's Love and practical information on how to pray

Tuesday – Gift of the Mass and the importance of family

Wednesday – Passion of Jesus Christ and forgiveness of our sins

Thursday – Healing service and discipleship

Seating will be on a first-come basis. Free childcare will be provided in the school. The mission is open to all, not just parishioners. In fact, we've had people from Parma, North

Royalton, Avon, Norwalk and beyond calling to inquire about the coming. We hope that our parishioners will come early and take advantage of this unique opportunity to hear one of the most popular Catholic speakers of our day.

There is no cost to attend; a freewill offering will be taken on the last day. A reception in the church basement will follow Thursday's presentation.

Fr. Larry's books, CDs and other materials will be available for sale (cash, check or credit card) in the church basement before and after each night's presentation. We are grateful for the more than 60 parishioners who have signed up to help make this incredible week possible.

Fr. Larry promises two things: One, you will never be bored, and two, your life will be changed forever. Come and experience this truth for yourself!



FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about Fr. Larry's mission, visit www.sfxmedina.org/parish.



Saturday Vigil – 5 p.m., Sunday – 8 & 10 a.m., noon & 5:30 p.m.
Weekdays – 7:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday; 7 p.m. Monday, Thursday & First Friday of the month



2016 Summer Edge Camps



For many years, our seventh- and eighth-graders have enjoyed the opportunity to engage in hands-on service in our community and in urban Cleveland each summer. This year, we are excited to include sixth-graders in our service and fellowship. Let's be the hands and feet of Christ as we spend time in service and fellowship during this Year of Mercy.

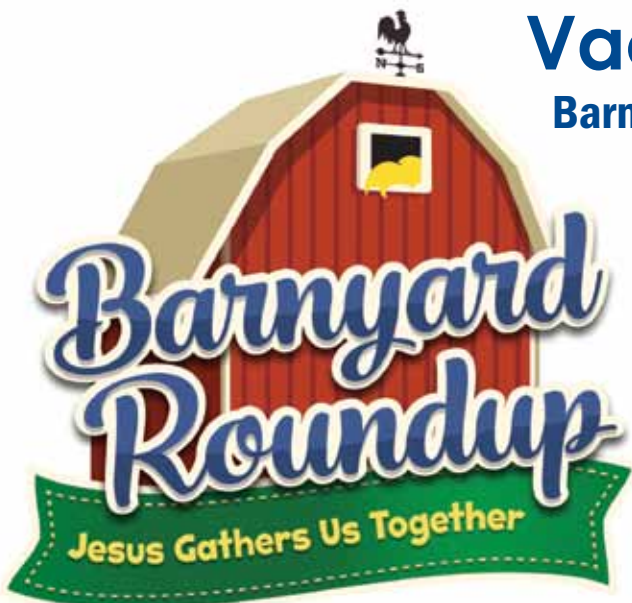
We will reach out to organizations in Medina and Cleveland. The week of June 20-24 is Camp 1, and Camp 2 is June 24, and June 27-30. Both groups unite on June 24 for a team-building day of fun and an opportunity to get to know the other campers.

Forms and more information are available on our parish website, www.sfxmedina.com/parish. Look under "About," then select "Religious Education," "The Edge" and "Summer Camp." We fill up quickly, as we can only take 25 students in each camp.

As Mother Teresa said, "We do small things with great love." Come and Share at the Edge Summer Camp!



Vacation Bible School 2016 Barnyard Round Up: "Jesus Gathers Us Together"



Bible School friends: We welcome you to join us at the St. Francis Xavier Farm on June 13 to 17. The barnyard (school and Xavier Room) will be filled with many adventures as we discover "Storytelling Coming Alive" with Father Thom, "Bales of Fun Games," "Finger-Licking Food," "Udderly Cool Crafts," "Farm-tastic Science" experiments and "Moovin' and Groovin' Music" and Praise!

Registration forms are available on the parish website and in the rectory office. Space is limited, so sign up quickly!

You won't want to miss hearing the Good News of Jesus down on the St Francis Xavier Farm – E – I – E – I – O.



Day of Service offers God's mercy to community

During this Year of Mercy, our parishioners have been particularly inspired to be of service in our community.

We've volunteered at a drop-in center in Akron, made sandwiches for the homeless and sorted donated clothing. We've made more than 170 cards for our neighbors in nursing homes; they smiled as they admired the adorable drawings and heartfelt notes from children and adults.

At the end of May, we have another opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ right here in Medina as we embark on our second Parish Day of Service.

Last year, some 275 parishioners shared their time and labor with our neighbors here in the community as we painted Cups Café, stripped wallpaper at the Medina County Home, raked leaves and cleaned gutters for residents of Medina Creative Living, and picked up trash in our city parks. Our bright-yellow T-shirts were visible throughout the community as we set to work, and when it was all done we came together for Mass and dinner.

This year we will again meet on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend – May 28 – for our Day of Service. Some have said they like having this day on

a three-day weekend so that they still have time to relax with their family; others have been disappointed because they have a tradition of being away. If you can spare some time that day, consider signing up for a morning or afternoon shift – or, as several people did, both!

We have new activities this year in addition to many of those from last year. How would you and your family like to work at a community picnic with some disadvantaged Medina youth served by Let's Make a Difference, signing them up for that group's summer activities and playing games with them? We have been asked to put in landscaping for Medina Creative Living's new doggie daycare (they outgrew the older place) that is operated by individuals with some developmental challenges. Can you rake, pick up sticks, plant flowers or clean gutters? We have a number of Medina residents who need help cleaning up the yard after the winter. Could you play bingo and enjoy a rootbeer float with nursing home residents? Can you help make no-sew fleece blankets for toddlers, or donate socks and underwear, for those assisted by Birthcare?

Nearly all of our activities are suitable for families. We encourage you to bring

your children and grandchildren to work side by side with you! (If you can't be with your child, please arrange for adult supervision.)

For those who are less active, we still need your prayer support for this day. We hope you'll sign up and join us for morning prayers in the church.

After all the work is done, please return to St. Francis Xavier for 5 p.m. Mass – wearing your shirts, even if they're grubby and covered with paint – and a simple meal in the church basement. We'll swap stories and review pictures from the day's work while we give thanks for the opportunity to bear Christ to the world.

Visit www.sfxmedina.com/parish for more information and to sign up.

Have questions? Contact Jennifer Webb in the parish office at 330-764-8946 or jwebb@sfxmedina.org.

NEED HELP?

If you or your neighbors could use help with a project or yardwork, please contact Jennifer Webb in the parish office at 330-764-8946 or jwebb@sfxmedina.org and we'll see if we can add you to the list.





Troop 506 celebrates 40 years by

Boy Scout Troop 506, which celebrates its 40th anniversary of service to the parish, community and boys in the area, proudly announces that the troop's ruby anniversary year has produced seven Eagle Scouts. Another five could complete the requirements before the anniversary year concludes June 30.

The honor of the rank of Eagle Scout has been earned by Alan "A.J." Cook, Anthony Supan, James McKinnon, Jacob Motrunecs, Matthew Slisko, James "Seamus" Wilson III and Kazimer Kuczma.

Each Scout must earn at least 21 merit badges required for the Eagle rank, hold a leadership position within the troop and complete a project before their 18th birthday. Many of the scouts were the senior patrol leader (SPL), the highest leadership position in the troop, as well as members of the Order of the Arrow, the National Honor Society of Boy Scouts. Many of these Eagle Scouts have enjoyed weeklong "high adventure" trips to the Boundary Waters in Wisconsin, Sea Base in the Florida Keys and Jamboree at the Bechtel Summit Reserve in West Virginia.

A.J., 15, is a freshman at Archbishop Hoban High School. His project was to build part of an obstacle course for the Country Life Kids Camp. He was awarded his Eagle Rank on March 3.

Anthony, 17, is a senior at Medina High School. His project was to build benches for the playground area for St. Francis Xavier. He was awarded his Eagle rank March 1. He will attend the University of Cincinnati in the fall to pursue a degree in engineering.

James, 15, is a sophomore at Medina High School. His project was to plant trees and build benches for the St. Francis Xavier Cemetery. He has earned 63 of the 136 merit badges available. James was awarded his Eagle rank Dec. 22.

Jacob, 17, is a senior at Holy Name High School. His project was to rebuild and restore the Knights of Columbus' white crosses, honoring the victims of abortion, that are displayed on the church grounds each October. He plans to attend Kent State University for environmental science in the fall. He was awarded his Eagle rank Dec. 21.





recognizing 7 new Eagle Scouts

Matthew, 18, a senior at Walsh Jesuit High School, built four Adirondack chairs out of recycled pallets that are in the courtyard in front of the parish office. He was awarded his Eagle rank Dec. 17.

Seamus, 17, a senior at St. Ignatius High School, made improvements to the bridle trail at the Medina Creative Therapy Ranch Trail for his project. He plans to study mechanical engineering this fall. He was awarded his Eagle rank Sept. 15.

Kazimer, 14, is the youngest Scout to earn the rank of Eagle in the troop's history. For his project, he built two picnic tables and two 8-foot benches for the South Cuyahoga Sportsmen's Association in North Royalton. He was awarded his Eagle rank July 23. He has earned 33 merit badges and has received his Gold Palm, an achievement beyond the Eagle Rank.

Ken Kuczma, a unit commissioner with the Chippewa District of the Great Trail Council, says the number of Eagles this year is "a tribute to the troop leadership."

These Eagle Scouts are an inspiration to the 12 fifth-graders who joined the troop in February as part of the Webelos II crossover from Pack 3506. "They now have proof that hard work and dedication will pay off, and earning the Eagle rank does not need to be done in your senior year of high school," says Rod Cook, the charter organization representative.

Since the troop's inception July 1, 1975, 51 young men have earned the rank of Eagle Scout. The Eagle Scouts provide an example of citizenship and leadership to the community, Ken adds.

Nationally, 54,336 Scouts met the requirements for Eagle Scout in 2015. According to the Boy Scouts of America, only 4 percent of all boys who join the Scouting movement will attain Eagle.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Troop 506, meetings are on Monday evenings from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. in the basement of St. Francis Xavier Church, 606 E. Washington St., Medina. Boy Scouts is open to all boys 11 to 18. Troop events include weekly meetings, monthly campouts and a weeklong summer camp each July.





Diaconate candidate to be ordained

Bill Perkins, the diaconate candidate who has been assisting at St. Francis Xavier Parish since October, has received word from Bishop Richard Lennon that he has completed the necessary steps and will be ordained a deacon May 7.



Bill has been assigned to assist at St. Martin of Tours Parish in Valley City, where he has been a parishioner since he and his wife were married there 26 years ago. He has lived in Brunswick for the last 10 years, and

before that lived in Medina for 14 years.

He is an athletic trainer working in an outpatient physical therapy setting. He and Michelle are the parents of three children: Ryan, a senior at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Amanda, a sophomore at Franciscan, and Kristen, a freshman at Kent State University.

Bill said he is excited to begin his ministry after the five-year process of study and discernment – a process that began when he felt a call to serve during a 2010 youth conference at Franciscan. Although he is eager to be of service anywhere, he particularly is looking forward to assisting at the marriage of his son and daughter-in-law in December. He will perform the marriage rite and give the homily. Amanda will be married in 2017, but for that wedding he will have an equally important role – as “just” Dad.

CELEBRATE

St. Francis Xavier Parish will celebrate Bill's ordination with a special Mass of Thanksgiving on

Sunday, June 5, at 10 a.m.,

followed by a reception in the church basement.

Remembering our Clergy

While we're at it, we want to make sure you saw this news about other clergy with ties to St. Francis Xavier Parish.

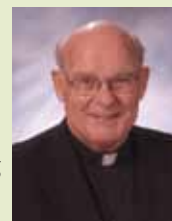
Fr. Steven Breck, the parochial vicar at St. Hilary Parish in Fairlawn, will be installed May 28 as pastor of St. Mary Magdalene Parish in Willowick. Fr. Steve is the youngest of seven children born to Harlan and Doris Breck, and the brother of parishioners Bill and James Breck. Fr. Steve grew up in our parish after the Brecks moved to Lafayette Township when he was 5. He attended CCD (forerunner to our Parish School of Religion program) classes while attending Cloverleaf schools. At age 20 he entered Borromeo College of Ohio; after graduation he joined the Capuchin Franciscans and spent two years with them before discerning a call to be a diocesan priest. He was ordained May 20, 2000, and assigned to St. John Neumann Parish in Strongsville. He later served in St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Parma and St. Raphael Parish in Bay Village before joining St. Hilary and serving with one of our former parochial vicars, Fr. Steve Brunovsky, who left us to become pastor at St. Hilary.



Fr. Steven has been assigned to St. Mary Magdalene, where he succeeds Fr. Stephen J. Kaminski, another of our former parochial vicars, who died Feb. 29 at age 53 shortly after he was diagnosed with leukemia.

Fr. Stephen, a former architect who served here from 1997 to 2003, is remembered and well-loved for his gentle spirit, hearty laugh and love of holidays. Sue Rohe-Brooks, our PSR director, remembers that he enjoyed giving out tokens of each holiday, and he purchased one of the large Christmas trees for the church.

Lastly, we recently celebrated the life of Fr. James J. Patton, who died April 7 at age 77. St. Francis Xavier Parish was Fr. Patton's first assignment after his ordination in 1965; he served here until 1972. He was retired and living in Naples, Florida, where he had served as a seasonal associate at St. Agnes Parish. Fr. Patton is remembered for his kindness, humility, great sense of humor and “his unique style of preaching that helped all to understand how much they are loved by God.”





Letter from the Pastor

Thank you to all who took the time to complete a survey or attend a town hall meeting last fall to help us determine our direction for the next five years. We put copies of the survey in the bulletin, our Navigator newsletter and online. We had responses from 142 people, most of whom filled it out online.

We asked for recommendations in three areas: facility improvements, facility additions and spirituality needs. The top five facility needs were: updated basement, updated restrooms, covered area outside entry doors, updated pews and kneelers, and online registration capabilities.

Our top five recommended facility additions were: bathrooms on the main floor of the church, followed closely by adoration chapel, new area to host large events, additional gathering space and a cry room.

When it comes to the top five recommended spirituality needs, a large number asked for a large parish picnic or social; the remaining requests were for more service opportunities and outreach to the community, more adult education offerings, a divorced/separated Catholic support group, and more adult education speakers.

When we consider all three of these groups together, the choices that got the most votes were for an updated basement kitchen, parish picnic or social, service opportunities and community outreach, adult education offerings and bathrooms on the main floor.

The feedback is interesting and helpful as we consider what we can accomplish in light of our people and financial resources.

In some respects, we've already met some of these marks: Last year the Knights of Columbus hosted a pig roast on our

grounds for a very nominal charge, and many of us enjoyed a wonderful dinner in the Randel House backyard. It was a joyful celebration of our community, and the Knights are planning to hold this event again this summer (date TBD). In years past we've held a hugely labor-intensive festival, which transformed into a 5K race and picnic.

With the completion of the new west vestibule entrance, we now do have a covered entrance where visitors may exit a car and make their way into church without getting too wet. We are contemplating how we can address the east vestibule entrance and those pesky stairs.

Fr. Thom's work to obtain a diocesan grant has made it possible to offer "Formed.org" to parishioners at no charge (see sfxmedina.com/parish for details). You'll find lots of great adult education materials here, in addition to the programs we offer at the parish. Do you have specific areas to suggest? Let me know.

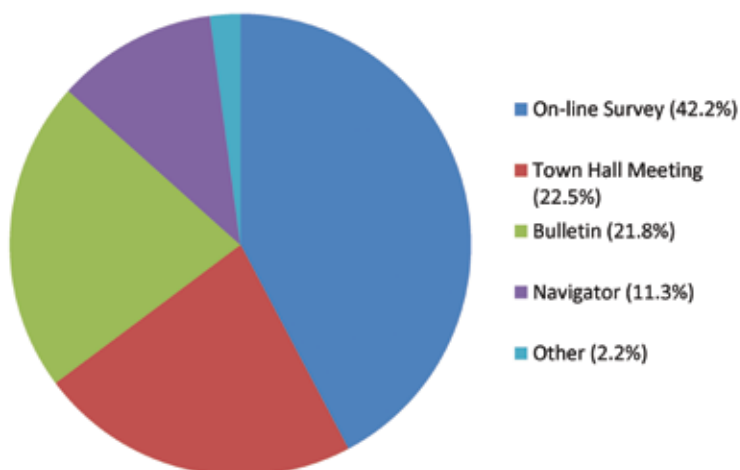
As with all surveys, we must be mindful of the rather limited response considering more than 3,150 families call St. Francis Xavier Parish their spiritual home. Members of our pastoral council, staff, and related committees will continue to study these results and plot our course.

Didn't get to take the survey but still want to weigh in? Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SFXMedina> to complete a survey online, or stop by the parish office for a paper version. We'd love to hear from everyone!

Peace,

Fr. Tony

Survey Collection Methods



'FORMED.ORG'!

Through a diocesan Rooted in Faith grant, our parishioners now have access to some of the best Catholic content materials available. For the next year, wherever you have with Internet access, you can find informative Catholic educational materials. These are the same programs offered in our parish (i.e. Symbolon, Beloved) and many more that will allow you to view on your time schedule. With Formed.org you'll find video programs that explain the Catholic faith, explore the deepest meaning of marriage, and receive Bible studies on a variety of topics. In addition to the video programs, there are audio presentations, books and family movies.

**To connect, go to: www.formed.org
Parish Code: FRGCCT (all capitals)**

St. Francis Xavier

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 9-12

Fr. Larry Richards leads our Parish Mission 7 to 9 p.m., Church
Come early to get your seat!

May 14

First Eucharist
10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Masses
God bless our second-graders!

May 15

Diocesan Eucharistic Minister training
1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., Church
For information, call parish office: 330-725-4968

May 23

LEAF Ministry to families of incarcerated people
7 p.m., Loyola Room



May 28

Parish Day of Service
9 a.m. to 4 p.m., various sites
All ages welcome!
Visit sfxmedina.org/parish for registration details.

May 31

Day school awards ceremony (all school)
9:15 a.m., Church
Eighth-grade graduation from St. Francis Xavier School
7 p.m., Church

June 1

Last day of school!, 12 noon dismissal

June 13-20

St. Francis Xavier Parish hosts Operation Homes, Randel House

June 12-17

Catholic Heart Workcamp
Fort Wayne, Indiana
See xavierlifeteen.com for details.



June 13-17

Vacation Bible School
See page 2 for registration details.



June 20-24 and 27-30

Middle school Edge Camps I & II
See page 2 for registration details.