

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church
www.xavierbrunswick.org, 912-265-3249

**"THIS IS MY BELOVED SON.
LISTEN TO HIM."
MC 9:7**

February 25, 2024



Encounters with Grace!

Today in our Gospel Peter, James and John have an **encounter with grace**. It was an encounter that they would never forget. The best definition I have heard of **grace** is "**the life of God active within us**." The grace of God surrounds us at every moment of every day. If we don't experience it, it is because we are not looking and reflecting how God is working in our lives. But as surely as we breathe our lives are filled with grace events every day. Our very existence is a gift from God. **Lent 2024** will surely be an encounter with grace for you. Our Lord wants to assist us and strengthen us for the journey!

How goes your Lenten journey? This weekend we start week two of the journey. Week six of Lent is Holy Week. I ask some people how their Lent is going and they say, "**Father, I think I blew all my commitments in the first week. I ate a whole sleeve of cookies, got angry at the kids or my spouse and have not prayed like I wanted.**" Well, don't worry because Lent is not like **the hundred-yard dash** where you only get one shot at victory. It's more like a **marathon**, where even if we have a bad mile we can persevere and make it up. Has your journey gone thus far? If your commitments were too strict and your feel like quitting reassess and see what the Holy Spirit says to you. If you have made commitments that seem fairly easy consider picking up the pace and going a little harder.

Remember **there is the Lent we plan and then there is the Lent that we get**. Have you had something unexpected pop up this Lent; perhaps an issue with finances, relationships or health? It is never easy to receive an unexpected Cross but these crosses somehow have a way of sanctifying us and making us closer to Christ.

Remember the basic elements of Lent are **prayer, fasting and almsgiving**. Hopefully you have had some experience with each of these in this season. If not, consider adding these to your journey. I hope that the **daily mass readings** are part of your Lenten journey. What a blessing to soak in the Word of God for 40 days and hear the call to conversion. Try to make a good Confession this Lent. Confession is part of our conversion experience.

Let us be encouraged in our Lenten journey to seek **moments of grace** in order to grow closer to Jesus Christ. We are beginning our second week in this season of grace. We have four more weeks to be open to the many gifts God has in store for us. If we've been lackluster let's put it behind us and move forward looking for more moments of grace. God has great plans for our lives. Today we see moments of God's grace in the lives of Abraham, Peter, James and John. Their lives were never the same after these encounters with God. May this Lent be a moment of grace for all of us and our families. May we be open to **moments of grace** that are prepared for us!

-Fr. Tim McKeown

We will offer **Coffee and Donuts** this weekend after the 8:30 and 11:00 Masses.

Today is Commitment Weekend. We will be giving those who have not yet made their pledge to the **Annual Catholic Appeal** an opportunity to do so today. If you are not able to make a pledge, please consider a one-time gift. Each one of us is Christ to all we meet.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Join us each Friday of Lent for the Stations of the Cross. Here we meditate on the last 14 moments from the life of Our Lord as He goes to Calvary to die for our sins. You do not have to be Catholic to participate so this would be a good event to invite a family member or co-worker to introduce them to this beautiful devotion! Stations in English at 7:00 pm. En Español at 8:00 pm.

Once again the Knights of Columbus will be offering **Fish Fry Dinners** during Lent. Dinner will be served on Fridays from **5 PM until 6:30PM**. Meal includes fish, grits, hush puppies, slaw and tea. Cost \$12.00 per person. Grilled cheese sandwiches will also be available for \$2.00. This is open to all of our friends and family. Tickets available at the door. The dates: Mar 1, 8, 15, 22.

This weekend in our book rack on the front table are some **Catholic books** for your Lenten journey. Feel free to take them and return them when finished. *As the reading of bad books fills the mind with worldly and poisonous sentiments; so, on the other hand, the reading of pious works fills the soul with holy thoughts and good desires.* - St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori


Join us during Lent as we examine the **Christian meaning of suffering** according to the writing of St. Pope John Paul II in his 1984 apostolic letter "Salvifici Doloris." As we study this document, we will try to better understand:

The meaning of suffering? What is Salvific suffering?
Can we rejoice in suffering? Physical suffering vs. moral suffering?
Fasting and renunciation

Meeting dates will be **February 29** and **March 7, 14** (with more dates possible if needed). The potluck dinner and fellowship begins at 6:00 pm, followed by the study from 6:30 to 7:45 pm. in the Narthex. Bring a dish or dessert to share! If you have any questions, please email lanevepj@bellsouth.net.

FASTING Remember that during all the Fridays of Lent we abstain from meat. Why Fridays? That is the day that Jesus died for us (Good Friday), so our small act of penance helps us think of His saving act throughout the day.

If I give something up for Lent do I have to give it up on Sundays? Every Sunday is the day of Resurrection so we do not have to fast on Sundays. However, some people may wish to go the extra mile to include Sundays as an extra gift. Remember fasting is your sacrifice/offering and you can determine the value of the gift. Did you give up ice cream this Lent? Go ahead and have some on Sundays or feel free to include Sundays for the penance. It is up to you!

<p>RCIA class on Monday, February 26 in the Narthex at 7 p.m.- The topic is Holy Matrimony.</p>	<p><u>WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT</u> Saturday MARCH 16, 2024 8:15 (Mass) TO 1 PM St. William Catholic Church 2300 Frederica Rd. - Saint Simon's COST: \$15.00 <i>Breakfast and lunch included</i></p> <p>Ladies you are warmly invited to join in fellowship, praise & worship, and inspirational talks! Come be renewed in God's love and experience JOY in this season of Lent. Don't miss the opportunity to be inspired by an international motivational speaker and acclaimed author <u>Paula Umana</u>. Invite a friend to join you!</p> <p>Questions and additional information on how to register contact: Jan Mansfield: (912) 266-3417 Erin Bors: (305) 240-0528</p>
<p>That Man is You! For more information contact Deacon Chris at csadowski@bellsouth.net</p>	<p>Knights of Columbus State Charity Raffle: The 2023-2024 Charity Raffle to benefit both statewide and local charities is now being held through the end of April. Up to 70% of the proceeds from local ticket sales will be used to fund improvements to the parking area between SFX church and the school. The prizes are: 1st Place \$5,000; 2nd Place \$2,500; 3rd Place \$1,000. Tickets may be obtained from members of the Knights of Columbus – 1 for \$5.00 or 5 for \$20.00. Tickets will be available after most weekend masses and at the Lenten Fish Dinners. Winners will be drawn on May 18th at the Georgia Knights of Columbus Convention. For tickets or more information, call Don Heinecke at 912-577-8722.</p>
<p>Our Young Catholics (18-35, single or married) meet each Friday night. Please contact Rob Sadowski for the schedule. Phone - (912)230-4863 or email robertsadowski@yahoo.com</p>	
<p>Adult Bible Study Sundays in the St. Anne Room Meets between 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. Please come join us!</p>	
<p>ST. VINCENT de PAUL FOOD PANTRY REQUESTS</p> <p>Canned Tuna</p> <p>Peanut butter</p> <p>Jelly (plastic jars)</p>	<p>Please join the Knights of Columbus Sunday March 10 for the Red Cross blood drive. Thank You for giving your precious gift to save a life</p> 

MASS INTENTIONS

February 24 - March 3

Saturday, February 24

5:00 p.m. † Our Parish Family

7:00 p.m. † *David Glasser*

(at Jekyll United Methodist Church)

Sunday, February 25

8:30 a.m. O'Campo Family (int.) &
† Stan Farrow

11:00 a.m. Our Parish Family

6:00 p.m. (Spanish) DeOfilio Pacheco (int.)

Monday, February 26

Noon † Roland Bonin

Tuesday, February 27

Noon † Anne Klein

Wednesday, February 28

7 p.m. † Chris Peterson

Thursday, February 29

8 a.m. † Peter Tortorell Sr.

Friday, March 1

8 a.m. Fr Anthony Pillari (int.)

7 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 2

5:00 p.m. † Rita & George Doubek,
Rosanne Hale

7:00 p.m. *Whitney Klein (int.)*
(at Jekyll United Methodist Church)

Sunday, March 3

8:30 a.m. † Fr Wilfrid Logsdon

11:00 a.m. † Manuela Rocha

6:00 p.m. (Spanish) Maria Mendez,
Rafael & Rafael Rojas

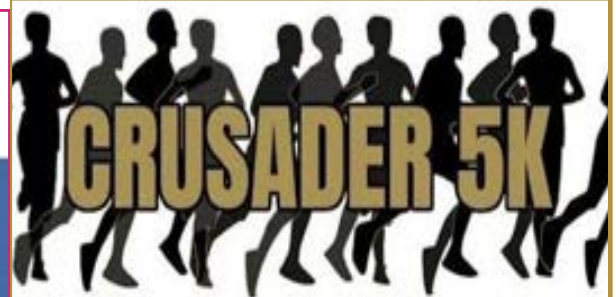
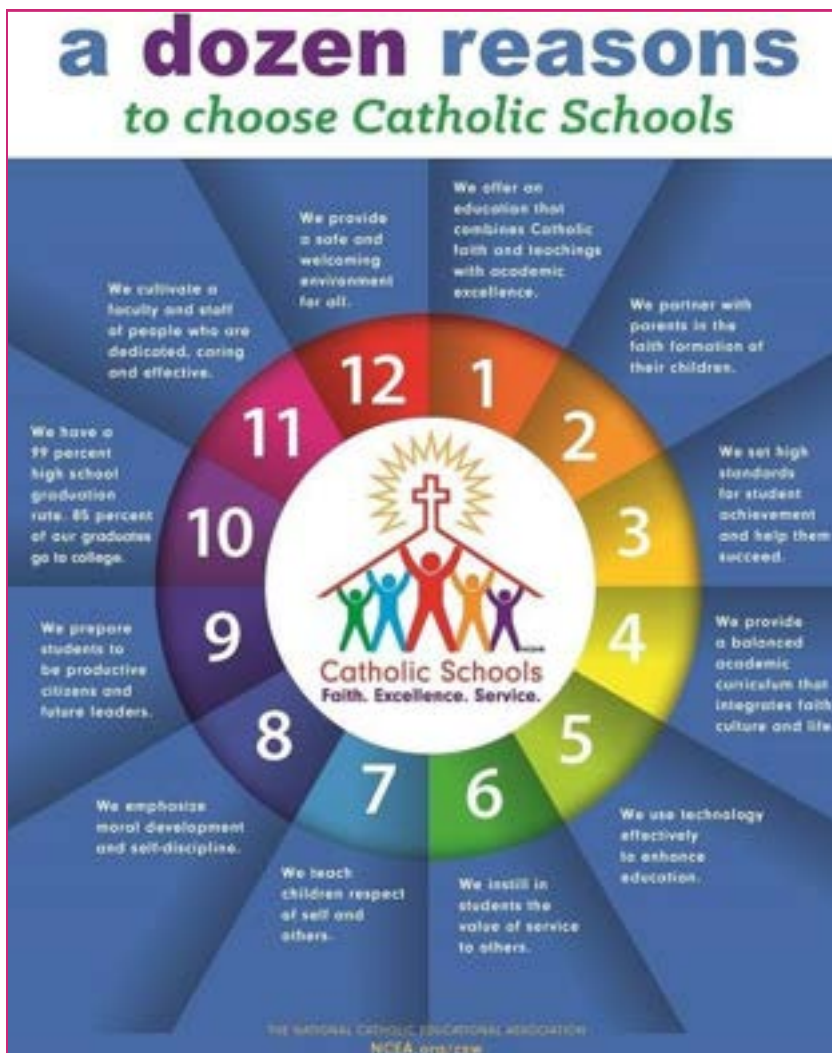
St. Vincent de Paul

To quote from Fr Esteban's Homily this past Sunday morning: "Ask Jesus - what do you want me to do for Lent?" It's not too late. Have you asked? Have you been silent to hear? Perhaps spending some time doing volunteer work at our thrift store, food pantry, or assistance office just might be right for you. If it isn't right, you don't have to stay. But if it is, you will know. Please contact Paula Donovan, 912-262-6244 ext. 4 for more information. We could really use your help! Thank you!





If your baby or toddler is feeling restless, the **Narthex** is open with a **live video and audio feed**. There are about 25 seats available. There is also a room located at the back of the Church you can go to.



May 18
starting at 7:30
a.m. in front of
the school

St. Francis Xavier Staff email addresses and exts.

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