



THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU

Office
of the
Bishop

November 2, 2016

RE: A note of thanks

Dear Parishioners of St. Francis Xavier Parish, Sikeston:

I am deeply grateful to all of you who donated to our 2016 Diocesan Development Fund Appeal (DDF). Thanks to your generosity, we have raised, to date, \$2,543,395.87 which is 98% of our diocesan goal. This total represents 8,417 generous gifts from our Catholic households in southern Missouri. Your support of diocesan ministries in the Catholic Church in southern Missouri is indeed very gratifying and humbling.

At St. Francis Xavier Parish, 143 parishioners pledged a total of \$40,762.00. I know these donations represented the sacrificial gifts of many individuals and families. May our loving God continue to reward you for your generosity. I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Edward M. Rice
Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

601 South Jefferson Avenue, Springfield, Missouri 65806-3143 417-866-0841 FAX 417-866-1140
www.diocsg.org

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH

245 WEST FRONT ST.

"LIKE" us on our parish Facebook page at www.facebook.com/stfxsikeston

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 4, 2016

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.stfxsikeston.org

Please register on our webpage to receive weekly updates!

Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau:

Most Rev. Edward M. Rice

Pastor:

Rev. Patrick I. Nwokoye
(573)388-1833
Fatherpatrick@stfxsikeston.org

Associate Pastor:

Rev. Alexander Nwagwu
417-718-8897
Fatheralexander@stfxsikeston.org

Hispanic Ministry:

Rev. Francisco Gordillo
frajagovi67@yahoo.com

Principal:

Mrs. Debra Pollock
(573)-471-0841
Fax: 573-475-9847
principal@stfxsikeston.org.

DRE:

Mrs. Toni Grojean
(573)-471-2447
toni@stfxsikeston.org

Parish Office Hours:

8:00-4:30 Monday-Friday
(573)-471-2447
Fax: (573)-471-9820

Office Staff

Kay Tetley
kay@stfxsikeston.org
Darlene Yancy
Darlene@stfxsikeston.org

Facilities Manager

Tim Greenway
tim@stfxsikeston.org

Sacrament of Baptism

Please contact Toni Grojean at
toni@stfxsikeston.org
or call the Parish Office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday from 3:00-3:45PM and
Wednesday at 4:45PM
when Mass is celebrated

Sacrament of Matrimony

Please contact the Priest at least **six months** prior
to setting a wedding date.

LIFE LESSONS

Dear Friends in Christ,
Peace and blessings to you!

Advent is in full swing and this week, we are challenged to **"reform our lives: live in God's peace so that justice may flourish."**

I pray that during this Advent season, we all apply the gospel message more concretely in our daily living so that our lives and our community may be transformed and thus become the saints we are called to be.

Some core lessons to put into practice this Advent:

Establish a concrete and meaningful relationship with the person of Jesus - who is able to reveal himself to you and who you ought to be.

A life of prayer is necessary in order to remain sane in this life - read the Bible daily - it will change your life.

Go to Mass every week and as Bishop Rice said "Invite a friend to join you for Mass". We evangelize by living a good life and bearing good witness.

Be joyful always - people are not attracted to negativity but joyful people whose lives have been permeated by the gospel.

Fall in love with Our Blessed Mother Mary by praying the rosary and asking her intercession on a daily basis.

Go to confession every month - sin darkens the human soul and makes you bitter and angry all the time. St. Augustine says "our souls are restless until they rest in you."

Seek out healthy and holy relationships - the people you surround yourself with can either lead you to God or away from him.

Stay away from the **grave sin of gossip** for it destroys the image of God in you and scandalizes the faithful who look up to you especially your children and grandchildren. Gossip is a sign of deep seated issue and weakness. It has no place in the kingdom of God. **BITE YOUR TONGUE!!!**

Let your words speak of the glory of God - remembering that you are an ambassador for Christ.

You are always on a stage and people are watching - let them see that Christ is alive in you.

Stay away from complaining, find something good in people for you are beset with shortcomings and limitations.

Be merciful for you are not perfect and God treats you with great kindness so extend God's love to all.

Change begins with you and not your neighbor - our world will be a better place if you are better.

If you want people to be kind, start by being kind.

Be careful when you judge for your sins become visible when you judge others.

Be grateful, for gratitude is of God.

Have a great sense of humor and laugh always for we all have our own issues.

Know that you are a child of God.

Be merciful just as your heavenly Father is merciful.

BE AT PEACE AND REMAIN BLESSED!!!

MASS INTENTIONS

Week of December 4, 2016

Monday, December 5**8:15 AM** +Mary Etta Mitchell**Tuesday, December 6 - NO MASS****Wednesday, December 7****5:15 PM** +Paul & Adeline Korenak

Confessions 4:30—5:00 PM

St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Thursday, December 8 - The Immaculate**Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary****12 Noon** +Mary Paylor**5:15 PM** +Henry Leible**Friday, December 9****8:15 AM** +Bill Hampton**Saturday, December 10****4:00 PM** +Judy York Harper

Confessions 3:00-3:45 PM

Sunday, December 11**8:00 AM - Spanish Mass** +Madleen Abbo**10:00 AM** +Joe Lankheit, Jr.**STEWARDSHIP CORNER**

We must be good stewards of God's gifts to us, receiving them gratefully and cultivating them with care lest we be the ones about whom John the Baptist speaks today: "Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

STEWARDSHIP OF YOUR TREASURE

Sunday, November 27	Collection Report
Envelopes	\$3,039.41
Plate	130.00
Automatic Deductions (env.)	352.00
Spanish Mass	120.00
Poor Box	20.00
Mass Offerings	20.00
Thanksgiving	135.00

MONTHLY OPERATING ACCOUNT

Projected expenses FY 2016-2017	\$32,675.00
Received November 27, 2016	3,816.41
Received for November, 2016	21,285.68

ADVENT PARISH MISSION SCHEDULE**DEACON HAROLD BURKE-SIVERS****Sunday, December 4, 2016**

8am Mass @ St. Henry Parish in Charleston

10am Mass @ St. Francis Xavier in Sikeston

6&8pm Masses @ Catholic Campus Ministry

Monday, December 5, 2016 @ Catholic Campus Ministry - Cape Girardeau

4pm - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

5:15pm Mass @ Catholic Campus Ministry

7pm - Mission @ Catholic Campus Ministry – ***Catholics, Culture, and Evangelization*****Tuesday, December 6, 2016 @ St. Henry Parish in Charleston**

8:15am Mass @ St. Henry Parish in Charleston

9:30am – School Gym – ***Listening to God's Voice***7pm - Mission @ St. Henry Parish in Charleston – ***Preparing the Way for the Lord:******The Joy of Reconciliation and Conversion in Advent*****Wednesday, December 7, 2016 @ St. Francis Xavier in Sikeston**

8:15am Mass @ St. Francis Xavier in Sikeston

12 pm Conversations & Lunch—St. Joseph Room in Sikeston

5:15pm Mass at St. Francis Xavier in Sikeston

7pm - Mission @ St. Francis Xavier in Sikeston – ***The True Meaning of Christmas:******Eucharist and Evangelization***

"Be courageous...go to confession." (Pope Francis)

<p>CARL EFTINK NATHAN EFTINK EFTINK Construction Co., Inc. P.O. Box 1727 • Sikeston, MO 63801 573-471-8781 www.EftinkConstruction.com</p>	<p>1SB MEMBER FDIC FIRST STATE BANK AND TRUST COMPANY, INC.</p>	<p>State Farm Greg Comer Agent 573.471.4461 225 S. Main Sikeston, MO 63801 greg@gregcomer.com www.gregcomer.com <i>Walk in, Mail in, Call in, Click in</i></p>	<p>ANDERSON GREEN INSURANCE AGENCY LAURA GREEN - JEREMY ANDERSON 573-471-9757 www.andersongreen.com INSURANCE SPECIALISTS DEDICATED TO SERVING YOU</p>
<p>Family Medicine of SE Missouri A Christian Medical Practice That Cares Vicki J. Roberts, MD and Barb Mickel, FNP 808 E. Wakefield • Sikeston, MO 63801 • Ph: 573-620-6444 • Fax: 888-854-6599</p>	<p>BOLLINGER REAL ESTATE SERVICES Real Estate Sales & Appraisals 811 North Main Sikeston, Mo. 63801 573-471-6448</p>	<p>FINE ART PORTRAITS IN OIL by <i>Shirley Catherine Anderson</i> 573-471-0521 www.andersonpaintings.com A GIFT FOR THE GENERATIONS OF THOSE YOU LOVE</p>	
<p>Lewis FURNITURE & APPLIANCE 650 WEST MALONE • SIKESTON, MO 63801 573-471-2446</p>	<p>Sonny's Solid Waste, Inc. P.O. Box 791 Sikeston, MO 63801 (573) 471-2869</p>	<p>Alliance Bank <i>"Your best friend in banking."</i> Cape Girardeau Sikeston Oran EQUAL HOUSING LENDER 573-472-4600 MEMBER FDIC</p>	<p>Your Ad Should Be Here!</p>
<p>Hunter Gin Co. 27943 E. St. Hwy. Y Bell City, Missouri 573-733-4366</p> <p>Willow & Co.</p>	<p>Knights of Columbus St. Francis Xavier Council No. 3151 www.sikestonknights.org Meetings 7:00 p.m. 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 829 Tanner Street • Sikeston, Mo. 63801</p>	<p>Sean Cauthorn Electrician cauthornelectric@gmail.com 573-380-9996 2107 E. Malone Unit C Sikeston, MO 63801</p>	<p>Paul's Recycling, Inc. Owner: Rick McCoy 2199 Garwood St. Sikeston, MO 573-471-5812</p>
<p>Jones & Company A Full Service Salon 573-472-5955 616 Virginia • Sikeston, MO 63801</p>	<p>Your Ad Should Be Here! To advertise your business in our bulletin, call the Parish Office 471-2447 Bulletin Deadline: <i>By Noon Wednesday</i></p>		<p>The Natural Image 471-9282 220 East Center St. Glenn Pinkerton Sikeston, Mo. 63801 Dannie Good</p>
<p>SHELTER INSURANCE Mackenzie Scherer, Agent 325 Tanner Street Sikeston, MO 63801 Phone: 573-471-8272 LIFE • HOME • AUTO • FARM • BUSINESS mscherer@agent.shelterinsurance.com</p>	<p>Mitchell Insurance 901 North Main - Sikeston, Mo. 63801 471-0538</p>	<p>Montgomery BANK Easier and Friendlier Financial Solutions. FDIC</p>	<p>Women of Saint Francis Xavier Church All ladies welcome to join anytime! Meetings are at 6 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month.</p>
<p>YOUR AD SHOULD BE HERE!</p>	<p>Scheffer's OFFICE FURNITURE & BUSINESS MACHINES "A locally owned & operated company" 573-472-2422</p>	<p>Rick Leonard Heating, Air Conditioning, Plumbing and Home Services 142 North Ranney • P.O. Box 116 Sikeston, Mo. 63801 (573) 471-2800 1-866-807-2800</p>	<p>ST. FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL Pre-School thru Grade 8 Call 573-471-0841 for more information and to support your Parish School!</p>
<p>Support the advertisers who support our bulletin!</p>	<p>Dr. Dan Obermark Dr. Cassidy Obermark Optometry 471-1080 www.obermarkeyehealthcare.com</p>	<p>We appreciate the advertisers who support our bulletin!</p>	<p>FOCUS BANK www.focusbank.com 472-2002</p>
<p>foot & ankle centers of southeast missouri Medical and Surgical Treatment of the Foot and Ankle CAPE GIRARDEAU: 36 Doctors Park, Ste 2 • (573)335-1141 SIKESTON: 522 Virginia Street • (573)472-2202 MADISON MEDICAL CENTER (573)783-7061 www.missourifootdoctor.com Toll Free: 800-439-9690 Hugh R. Protzel, D.P.M.</p>	<p>Remember your parish in your will.</p>	<p>SAM THOMAS Goldsmith Sam's Fine Jewelry 130 East Front Street • Sikeston, Missouri 63801 p 573.472.1331 • c 573.380.6068 • f 573.472.1388 e-mail: samsfinejewels@yahoo.com</p>	<p>MEMBER FDIC</p>

LUNCHEON WITH DEACON HAROLD

Come and join us for lunch and conversation with Deacon Harold in the St. Joseph Room on Wednesday, December 7 at noon. Please call the parish office, 471-2447 by Monday afternoon to make reservations.

MASSES FOR FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Thursday, December 8, is The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass times at St. Francis are 5:15 PM on Wednesday, 8:15 AM and 5:15 PM on Thursday.

END OF YEAR GIVING!

More than half of all charitable giving is made during the last two months of the year. Why? It is a time of the year when we express thanks for the many blessings we have received. It is the time when we review our finances and do our tax planning. As you consider your end-of-year tax planning, please consider a gift to St. Francis Xavier and School. Any donations received or postmarked by December 31 can reduce your income taxes if you itemize, and make a positive impact on our parish and our school.

MARY OF NAZARETH MOVIE

Coming Up! Sunday, December 11, from 2-4:30 PM, a presentation of the movie, **MARY OF NAZARETH**, will be shown in the St. Joseph Room of the Parish Center for all members of the Parish. Bring lawn chairs. Mark your calendars for this Advent family event!

FEAST of OUR LADY of GUADALUPE

This very important celebration will take place on Sunday, December 11, at **10 PM in the St. Francis Xavier Parish Center Gym**. Mass will be celebrated, and there will be a Mariachi band and food. Tamales are also being sold after the masses, and a donation will be most welcome!

ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS FOR THE ALTAR IN CHURCH

An envelope has been provided for placing your order for poinsettias. Your intention can be for someone living or deceased. Each intention will be \$15, and we need specific information (please check In Memory Of or In Honor Of on envelope) and donor. Please have this information turned in by December 18, so it is included in the special flyer. Thank you for your support to make our altar and Church look beautiful for Christmas!

MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S EVE AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

- Christmas Masses:**
Saturday, December 24, 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM
Sunday, December 25, 10:00 AM
 St. Henry's Mass times are Saturday, December 24, 11:00 PM, and Sunday, December 25, 10:00 AM
- New Year's Masses:**
Saturday, December 31, 4:00 PM and Sunday, January 1, 10:00 AM
 St. Henry's Mass times are Saturday, 6:00 PM and Sunday, 8:00 AM

NOTRE DAME HOLIDAY CONCERTS

Notre Dame Regional High School, Band/Mixed Chorus will perform this Sunday, December 4, at 7 pm, in the Notre Dame Auditorium.
 The annual Men, Treble Select & Concert Choirs performance takes place Sunday, December 11, at 7 pm. The location will be at "old" St. Vincent's church downtown. All alumni choir members are encouraged to attend and participate in the 'finale'.

LIFT US UP IN PRAYER

Please remember all those in our parish who are ill, homebound and in nursing homes.
 Mary Schuchart, Laverna Rennie, Jerome Rennie, Malcolm Sandvos, Emme Lankheit, Stuart Cawthorn, Andrew & Mickie Ormsby, Annabel Connors, Mark Blanton, Joan Moss, Donald Cento, Beulah Leible, Karen Matthews, Marge Ferrenburg, Ralph Henneman, Rodney Abney, Father Glenn Eftink and Alma Eftink. For all serving in the Armed Forces, for the protection of the unborn, for religious vocations, and our religious freedoms.