

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH

245 WEST FRONT ST.

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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

March 5, 2017

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.

LENTEN FASTING

There is great wisdom in the Christian practice of fasting. Though Christian fasting has been largely abandoned, the one expression of fasting (and penitential practice) that seems to have survived the turmoil of this modern era is that of Lenten penance. Although I suspect it is hanging on by a very thin cultural thread, which will break unless we can make people aware of the great beauty and spiritual significance of these acts.

The forty days of Lent are an ideal period for renewal. Lent is the perfect span of time to form new life-giving habits and abandon old self-destructive habits. But most of us just give up chocolate and when Easter arrives, we are not much further advanced spiritually than we were at the beginning of Lent!

If you wish to have a rich and abundant experience of life, you must allow your soul to soar. But in order to do that, you first need to tame and train the body. You cannot win this war once a week, once a year, or even once a day. From moment to moment, our desires need to be harnessed.

Fasting should be a part of our everyday spirituality. For example, you have a craving for a coke, but you have water or cranberry juice instead – a very small thing. Nobody notices. And yet, by this single action, you say no to the cravings of the body that seek to control you and assert the dominance of the soul. The will is strengthened and the soul is a little freer.

Personalize your fasting. You know what it is that has a grip on you. Friday has always been a traditional day of fasting, and I would encourage you to employ this tradition in your own way. Only you can decide what the right fast is for you.

Try not to be prideful about it. Come humbly to God in prayer, and there in the classroom of silence, decide upon some regular practice of fasting and abstinence.

Fasting is a simple yet powerful way to turn toward God. If there is a question in your life, fast and ask God to lead you. He will. If you have a persistent sin that you just cannot seem to overcome, then fast. Some demons can only be cast out by prayer and fasting together.

Fasting is radically countercultural, but so is Christianity.

Rediscover Catholicism by Matthew Kelly

MASS INTENTIONS

Week of March 5, 2017

Monday, March 6

8:15 AM +Thomas Maddox

Tuesday, March 7—NO MASS

Wednesday, March 8

5:15 PM Mass +Cpl. Leo J. Merrigan
and Raymond Merrigan

Confessions 4:30—5:00 PM

St. John of God, Religious

Thursday, March 9—NO MASS

Friday, March 10

8:15 AM +Monsignor William Stanton

12 Noon Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 11

Second Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM +Jeff DeWitt

Confessions 3:00-3:45 PM

Sunday, March 12

8:00 AM Spanish Mass +Fr. Lawrence Gregovich

10:00 AM +Christine Korenak

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

What temptations lure us from the path of discipleship? Possessions? Pride? Power? Oh, Lord, create for us a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within us!

STEWARDSHIP OF YOUR TREASURE

Sunday, February 26	Collection Report
Envelopes	\$5,123.67
Plate	279.25
Automatic Deductions (env.)	352.00
Poor Box	43.00
Mass Offerings	30.00
Bulletin Advertising	157.00
Debt Reduction/Capital Improvement	5.00
Spanish Mass	120.00
Memorial Fund	30.00
Holiday Flowers	15.00
Altar Sodality	5.00

MONTHLY OPERATING ACCOUNT

Projected expenses FY 2017-2018	\$32,675.00
Received February 26, 2017	6,159.92
Received for February, 2017	27,959.25

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be held at St. Francis Xavier every Friday during the Lenten season at 12 Noon, beginning Friday, March 10.

DINNER/DANCE/AUCTION

St. Francis Xavier School Annual Dinner/Dance/Auction will be held next Saturday, March 11. Doors open at 5 pm, dinner at 5:30 pm, and tickets are \$30 per person. Reverse Raffle tickets are \$50-win up to \$1,500, Party Barrel tickets-\$5 or 5 for \$20, Raffle tickets for Yeti Basket-\$20. Silent auction is at 5 pm, live auction at 7 pm. For more information: 573-471-0841. PLEASE HELP SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!!!!!!

RICE BOWLS

Don't forget to pick up your Rice Bowl located in the entrance to Church! CRS Rice Bowl is a Lenten Faith-in-Action Program to help change the lives of the poor and those in need worldwide. Whatever you give will be greatly appreciated!

SPECIAL COLLECTION—MARCH 12

Next week, we will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection supports the Church in over 20 countries, many of which are still struggling to recover in the aftermath of Soviet rule. Funds from this collection support pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations, and seminary formation. Your support **restores the Church and builds the future** in this region. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection next week. For more information: www.usccb.org/cee.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

You still have time to sign up for the Bishop's Walk on Saturday, April 1, from 9-11 am at the Complex. If you have misplaced your registration form you may pick one up at the parish office. You must register by March 8 to receive a T-shirt.

SEMINARY VISIT

Plans are underway for a trip to Conception Seminary beginning April 1-3, 2017 (Encounter with God's Call), a weekend for all young men discerning a call to the priesthood to come and visit the seminary. Contact Fr. Patrick at pnwokoye@dioscg.org or call 573-388-1833 or Fr. J. at jfriedel@dioscg.org or 417-866-0841.

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

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO HER O LORD, AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON HER

Catherine T. Fitzgerald

JOB OPENINGS IN DIOCESE

- St. Denis Catholic School—7th & 8th grade class, full time teaching position. Apply 573-545-3017.
- St. Mary Cathedral School, Cape Girardeau—Principal position.
- St. Augustine Catholic School, Kelso—Principal, Math/Social Studies Teacher Grades 6-8/Part-time music.

BLACK LIGHT BASH

St. Joseph School of Scott City is having a Black Light Bash Spring Fling on Saturday, March 25. Doors open at 5 pm, Bingo starts at 7 pm. Cost is \$30 at the door or \$25 with a gift certificate. Over \$1,000 in cash prizes! There will be a cash bar, raffles, a silent auction, and food. For more information or to purchase gift Certificates, contact Janice Madalon—573-212-0790.

ST. AUGUSTINE HOME & SCHOOL DINNER AUCTION

Backyard BBQ, Saturday, March 18, School Gym, Kelso, on March 18. Doors open at 4 pm, dinner at 5 pm. Tickets-\$30, limited to adults 21 and over. Contact school office, 264-4644 to purchase tickets.

ALL 7TH AND 8TH GRADERS! THIS IS JUST FOR YOU!

Be a part of Luke 18 Retreat at Immaculate Conception Church, Jackson, Missouri. Through games, songs, skits, personal sharing, small group time, and a series of talks, teens are encouraged to have fun, break down walls, and see that God and His love are present in their relationship. Retreat begins Friday evening, April 7, concludes Sunday afternoon, April 9. Cost \$35. Contact Meg at icyouthspirit@gmail.com or call 573-579-2188.

ST. AMBROSE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. Ambrose in Chaffee will be hosting an All You Care to Eat Fried Chicken Buffet on Sunday, March 26. Serving at 10:30am until 1:00pm. Price will be \$8 for adults, \$4 ages 6-12, and free for 5 and under. Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, corn, green beans, slaw and desserts will be served.

JOB OPENING

St. Francis Xavier Parish in Sikeston & St. Henry in Charleston, two parishes with 650 families, is seeking a full time, enthusiastic, energetic, faith-filled Youth Minister who is passionate about bringing our youth to a deeper relationship with Christ. This position collaborates with a myriad array of interlocking ministries including: pastoral care, youth formation, our school, and music and worship. Our successful candidate will assist in the development and growth of our middle school youth ministry, high school youth ministry, and young adult ministry. As a member of our parish staff, they will also be a pivotal member of our Ministry Team. Our Youth Minister will coordinate our Confirmation preparation, ongoing parish formation, and other parish youth programs all in support of our parish mission, "To be disciples who know, love, and serve God." We seek an active, practicing Catholic with at least a B.A. in Theology, Youth Ministry, or a Certificate of Youth Ministry. Salary follows diocesan guidelines and is commensurate with experience and education. Please submit a cover letter and resume to: fatherpatrick@stfxsikeston.org.

CATHOLIC CENTER POSITION OPEN

The Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau is seeking to fill a permanent full-time director position working as the Director of Evangelization, Catechesis, and Youth Formation. Applicant must be a practicing Catholic and have a Master's degree in Pastoral Ministry, Theology, religious studies, social science or other appropriate degree. Applications will be accepted through March 10. To request an application, please contact Janet Smith by emailing jansmith@diosco.org or calling (417) 866-0841.

LIFT US UP IN PRAYER

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

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<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>
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