

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church
408 West Catholic St.

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Website: www.sfxpierteton.org
Facebook: **St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church**

Father Daniel Chukwuleta, Pastor

Email: father@sfxpierteton.org

Secretary: Dulcie Stevens

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Masses: Saturday at 4:00pm & Sunday at 7:30(Memorial -Labor Day)& 9:00am
Tuesday – Friday 8:00 a.m.

Holy Days: check bulletin

Adoration: 1st Friday of the Month Following 8am Mass

Confessions: Saturday 3:00 – 3:30 pm, Anytime by request

Parish Office Hours Wed 10:30-4:00 pm

REFLECTIONS... from Father Daniel

The kingdom of God is coming. The kingdom of God is here already. These two statements seem to contradict one another, yet both are true. We know that some time in the future God's reign will reach its fulfillment, but what about right now? Where is the kingdom? If it is already here, why do bad things happen? A professed atheist, who was convinced that God could not exist because there was so much evil in the world. He was like the farm workers in today's Gospel who wanted to go out into the field and pull up all the weeds.

In the first parable of today's Gospel, Jesus tells us about the presence of evil. He says that we must be patient and not scandalized about what we see. The weeds, he assured us will eventually be separated from the wheat.

The second and third parables in today's Gospel reflect another reality of the kingdom. It starts out very small! Mustard seeds and yeast are almost invisible. They grow like mad and make a big difference in their environment. They change things! The kingdom is happening now! Mustard seed teaches us to overcome our shortcomings or barriers in order to make room for all people. The yeast prompts us to love ourselves in order that the community may be transformed into something that is life-giving. The first reading reminds us not to worry. God is "lenient to all", and God who is just, must be kind.

Even though we know all this, sometimes we are still at a loss for words in prayer. We want to ask God why things happen the way they do. We become angry, and yet, we want to show our love for God and let God love us back. We come to prayer

distracted, or tired, or joyful or empty. We want to enter into communion with God, but can't.

In writing to the Romans, St. Paul tells them to pray as best they can and let the Spirit speak for them. There are times when the best you can do is sit still and let your heart do the talking. That's Ok, St. Paul tells us, because in our weakness God can speak directly to our hearts.

When the German Christian reformer and founder of the Protestant Lutheran Church, Martin Luther (1483-1546, former Catholic Priest) criticized Erasmus of Rotterdam for remaining in the Catholic Church despite its corruption, Erasmus answered him: "I put up with this church, in the hope that one day it will become better, just as it is constrained to put up with me in the hope that one day I will become better." The church is a human church full of saints and sinners. This is no excuse for wrongdoing, it is simply a statement of fact. St. Mother Teresa says "Prayer in action is love, and love in action is service."

Homes: please contact the Parish Office.

Homebound: Wishing to receive Communion? Please contact the parish office.

Anointing of the Sick is available anytime, please contact the parish office.

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated as needed.

One parent must be a practicing Catholic. One godparent must be a Catholic at least 15 years of age. Contact the Parish Office for more info and to schedule.

Marriage: Anyone contemplating marriage in the Catholic Church must be a practicing Catholic. Father must be contacted six months prior to the wedding. Prenuptial requirements must be completed prior to the wedding. Contact the Parish Office.

In the Event of Death: Please notify the parish office

Those interested in being put on a prayer list: Please contact the parish office.

There is also a form on the website.

Register w/the Parish: Can do so on the website or by requesting a form from the parish office.

Last Week's Collection:

Loose: \$304

Envelopes: \$1,155

Readings for 16th Sunday of Ordinary Times:

Reading 1 Wis 12:13, 16-19

Psalms Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16

Reading 2 Rom 8:26-27

Gospel Mt 13:24-43

Mass Intentions for the Week and Activities:

Saturday, July 22, 3:00 Reconciliation

4:00 + Tiana & Tynan Cain

Sunday, July 23, 16th Sunday of Ordinary Times

7:30 Our Parish Family

9:00 + Beverly Meiner

Monday, July 24, No Mass Ex 14:5-18 Mt 12:38-42

Tuesday, July 25, 8:00 + Judy Smyjnas

Wednesday, July 26, 8:00 The DeLaCruz Family

Thursday, July 27, 8:00 + Mario Martinez

Friday, July 28, 8:00 + *Deborah Frantisak*
Saturday, July 29, 3:00 Reconciliation

4:00 + Dennis Lemmon

Sunday, July 30, 17th Sunday of Ordinary Times

7:30 *Our Parish Family*

9:00 + *Wanda Smyjunas*

Upcoming Events:

Friday, July 28th - July 29th Piercetown Days

Tuesday, August 1 Parish Council Meeting 7pm

Sunday, August 6 Donuts & coffee Following Mass

Ministers Schedule:

Saturday, July 29, 4:00pm

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Sandy Miner

Lector: *Bill Johnson Sr.*

Sunday, July 30, 9:00am

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Tracy Gaunt

Lector: Rhonda Jubinville

Please Keep in Your Prayers This Week:

Teresa Crockett, Joseph Hempling, Larry Cobble, Martha Bohn, & Todd Cobble.

FYI:

Regular Church office hours will be Tuesday this week. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Volunteering and ways to get involved:

If you are interested in helping out with funeral dinners, would like to be a eucharistic minister or lector or want to connect with fellow ladies in the parish, please contact the office via email at sixpiercetown@aol.com, through the registration form on the website, or by phone at (574)594-5750. You can also volunteer to bring the gifts up during Mass.

Restoration Project:

Our stained glass windows are being restored. We pray for the hands of the craftsmen doing the work. Work will be completed in the near future.

Isaiah 42 Ministry:

Sacred Heart's jail ministry program has an immediate need for pen pals for prison inmates. We have nine men who are waiting to be matched to someone who will write a letter at least once a month and be a positive influence by offering encouragement and hope through friendship, scripture and prayer. Our pen pal program has been in place for over five years and we currently have 10 members on the team. For safety and to protect privacy, mail is always sent and received using our ministry's post office box address. If you are interested in this ministry and would like more information, please call/text Jody Burns at 574-267-6447 or e-mail jodyburns6927@gmail.com

Local Food Pantry: Item of the week- *Boxed Foods*