

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

408 West Catholic St.
Box 376
Piercetown, IN 46562

Office 574-594-5750

Website: www.sfxpiercetown.org

Facebook: StFrancisXavierPiercetown

Father Daniel Chukwuleta, Pastor

Email: father@sfxpiercetown.org

Secretary: Dulcie Stevens

Email: office@sfxpiercetown.org

Masses: Saturday at 4:00pm

Sunday at 7:30 (Memorial-Labor Day) & 9:00am

Tuesday – Friday 8:00 a.m.

Holy Days: check bulletin, Facebook, or website

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

Confessions: Saturday 3:00 – 3:30 pm, Other times by request

Parish Office Hours: Tuesdays 11am-4:30pm

Blessing of 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 a 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: There are registration forms on the bulletin board at the back of church, feel free to fill one out and throw it in the collection basket. Or you may register on our website.

Knights of Columbus: Meet every 1st Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm

Women's Fellowship: Meet every 1st Friday for Mass/adoration, then meet up for breakfast

Parish & Financial Councils: Meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm

For job openings in the diocese visit: <https://diocesefwsh.org/hr/>

For more events in the diocese or to subscribe to Today's Catholic visit: <https://todayscatholic.org/> (digital subscription is free!)

Readings for: 20th Sunday of Ordinary Times, Year A

Reading 1 Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

Psalms Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8

Reading 2 Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

Gospel Matthew 15:21-28

REFLECTIONS.... from Father Daniel

Theme of this Sunday: What Does "Catholic Church" Mean? "Catholic" stands for "universal", that is, open to all people. The first reading tells us that Israel, before going into exile and before coming in contact with other peoples, was not "Catholic", it was closed in upon itself. Later Israel, more enlightened, realised that the one God is Father of all. The Gospel shows what Jesus thinks. Christian communities must be really "Catholic", open to receive everybody. The second reading is related to this topic and shows that salvation is not a result of privilege or because one is a member of a certain people, but because one accepts the saving initiative of God.

We have all been pre-judged at some time in our lives. We know what the Canaanite woman felt. A gentle woman approached Jesus with her concern about her daughter. For whatever reason, no one knows, Jesus rejected her request for healing for her daughter. The only time in the Gospels that Jesus ignored someone who came to him in need. Maybe, because she's a Canaanite. However, the important thing to notice is that the woman didn't turn and walk away. She was humble. She shows courage and boldness in approaching Jesus in order to gain His help to heal her daughter, because she knows and understands that Jesus has what she wants, the power to heal. It turns out, her faith and humility were enough to win Jesus over when she accepted his insulting remark: "it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." And so the Lord changed his mind. Her love for her daughter far outweighed any pride she may have had as she accepted his insulting remark. How many times have we prayed for something, and God seems to have "ignored" us? Do we still remain strong in our faith, like the Canaanite woman in today's Gospel?

There is one place, though, where everyone is welcome. What does make a difference is our faith. We are all welcome into the house of God. "A house of prayer for all people." No one is to be turned away. At its best, the place where you worship accommodates the whole spectrum of people. It is a sign of the Kingdom. The community you want to join opens its arms to you, and to people around the whole earth. You are welcome with all your strengths and talents and gifts, and with your weaknesses and limits and sinfulness. The only requirement is that your faith is strong.

INTRODUCING VIBRANT CATHOLIC

In July, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend launched Vibrant Catholic, a new quarterly magazine that will inspire faith, deepen formation, and highlight the life of the Church throughout our diocese. The magazine features stories of Christian witness, catechetical resources, diocesan news, Spanish-language content, and a message from Bishop Rhoades.

As the diocese transitions from the Today's Catholic weekly print newspaper to a more mission-focused communications model, Vibrant Catholic will help strengthen unity and support evangelization across our local Church.

The magazine will be mailed free of charge to households that support the Annual Bishop's Appeal. If you have not yet made a gift and would like to receive Vibrant Catholic, please consider participating in the Appeal. Every gift supports our shared mission!

To learn more, visit

diocesefwsb.org/vibrant-catholic-announcement

ST. AUGUSTINE MEN'S GROUP:

If you struggle with addiction to pornography or sexual struggles, you are invited to be made new. With groups meeting in Fort Wayne and South Bend, the lives of men have been transformed because of their willingness to change, to be honest, and to seek connection not only with God but with their fellow brothers through the Saint Augustine Men's Group. Meetings focus on the positive and what we can do to overcome our daily struggles. Discover a path to true freedom by visiting diocesefwsb.org/augustine or e-mailing staugustinefwsb@gmail.com

INTRODUCING VIBRANT CATHOLIC

In July, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend launched Vibrant Catholic, a new quarterly magazine that will inspire faith, deepen formation, and highlight the life of the Church throughout our diocese. The magazine features stories of Christian witness, catechetical resources, diocesan news, Spanish-language content, and a message from Bishop Rhoades.

As the diocese transitions from the Today's Catholic weekly print newspaper to a more mission-focused communications model, Vibrant Catholic will help strengthen unity and support evangelization across our local Church.

The magazine will be mailed free of charge to households that support the Annual Bishop's Appeal. If you have not yet made a gift and would like to receive Vibrant Catholic, please consider participating in the Appeal. Every gift supports our shared mission!

To learn more, visit

diocesefwsb.org/vibrant-catholic-announcement

ST. AUGUSTINE MEN'S GROUP:

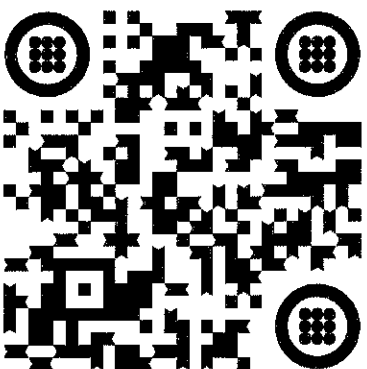
If you struggle with addiction to pornography or sexual struggles, you are invited to be made new. With groups meeting in Fort Wayne and South Bend, the lives of men have been transformed because of their willingness to change, to be honest, and to seek connection not only with God but with their fellow brothers through the Saint Augustine Men's Group. Meetings focus on the positive and what we can do to overcome our daily struggles. Discover a path to true freedom by visiting diocesefwsb.org/augustine or e-mailing staugustinefwsb@gmail.com

Parish Volunteers Wanted:

Looking for a way to volunteer or participate more in the parish? We are still in need of a few more counter volunteers for collections for the 1st & 2nd Sundays of the month. Counting happens after Mass on Sunday. Contact the office for more info. The Parish Council would love to welcome more Saturday Mass parishioners to the council. We are always looking for more usher/greeters, gift bearers, lectors and Eucharistic ministers or choir members. So we invite you to share your gifts with the Lord. If you would like to volunteer to help at Mass please contact the office at office@sfxpierceton.org or join us after Mass August 29/30.

United In Mission - Annual Bishop's Appeal:

The Annual Bishop's Appeal invites each of us to participate in the life and mission of the Church across our diocese. Your generosity helps strengthen our parishes and schools, provide formation for seminarians and clergy, and serve those most in need through diocesan ministries and Catholic Charities. As Bishop Rhoades reminds us, we are called to be the "salt of the earth and light of the world." Thank you for your generosity and for helping our diocese continue this mission together. **Learn more and make your gift at** diocesefwsh.org/aba

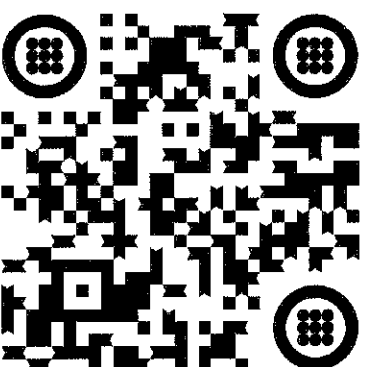


Parish Volunteers Wanted:

Looking for a way to volunteer or participate more in the parish? We are still in need of a few more counter volunteers for collections for the 1st & 2nd Sundays of the month. Counting happens after Mass on Sunday. Contact the office for more info. The Parish Council would love to welcome more Saturday Mass parishioners to the council. We are always looking for more usher/greeters, gift bearers, lectors and Eucharistic ministers or choir members. So we invite you to share your gifts with the Lord. If you would like to volunteer to help at Mass please contact the office at office@sfxpierceton.org or join us after Mass August 29/30.

United In Mission - Annual Bishop's Appeal:

The Annual Bishop's Appeal invites each of us to participate in the life and mission of the Church across our diocese. Your generosity helps strengthen our parishes and schools, provide formation for seminarians and clergy, and serve those most in need through diocesan ministries and Catholic Charities. As Bishop Rhoades reminds us, we are called to be the "salt of the earth and light of the world." Thank you for your generosity and for helping our diocese continue this mission together. **Learn more and make your gift at** diocesefwsh.org/aba



Please Keep in Your Prayers this Week:

Sue DeLaCruz, Tom & Jena Brovont, Brent Widman, Belia Moran, Kathy Biltz, Donald Gebert, Dan Gagnon & Maggie Elpusan.

Last Week's Collection:

Loose: \$280 Envelopes: \$1,640

ABA Goal: \$10,170.26 Current Pledges: \$5,270

Local Food Pantry: Item of the week-Paper Products!

Mass Intentions for the Week and Activities:

Saturday, August 15, 3:00 Reconciliation

4:00 +Dave & Kay Harter

Sunday, August 16, 20th Sunday of Ordinary Times

7:30 Our Parish

9:00 +Mike Marshal

Monday, August 17, No Mass **Ezekiel 24:15-23 Matthew 19:16-22**

Tuesday, August 18, 8:00 Mass + Alma Sankus

Wednesday, August 19, 8am Mass + Sally Henderson

Thursday, August 20, 8am Mass + Susan Hausotter

Friday, August 21, 8am Mass +Loretta Dahm

Saturday, August 22, 3:00 Reconciliation

4:00 +Kameron Brown

Sunday, August 23, 21st Sunday of Ordinary Times

7:30 Our Parish

9:00 + Al Gilson

Upcoming Calendar Events:

Sunday, August 30th, RE Registration Following Mass

Sunday, September 6th, Last 7:30 Mass of Season

Monday, September 7th Labor Day

Sunday, September 13th, Annual Breakfast Following Mass

Sunday, September 13th, Religious Education starts

Monday, September 21st, Right to Life Banquet Door open @ 5pm

Saturday, September 26th, Euchre Tournament Following Mass

Ministers Schedule:

Saturday, August 22, 4:00pm

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Mary Mort

Lectors: Angie Bunkhart

Sunday, August 23, 9:00am

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Fred DeLaCruz

Lector: Pat Landrigan