

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church
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Father Daniel Chukwuleta, Pastor

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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 beginning and the end of all Christian leadership is to give your life for others. Where does authority come from? To understand today's reading we must first ask that question. Living in a democracy, our answer naturally is "from the people." The biblical answer is different, and can be hard for us to accept. In today's second reading, St. Paul talks about the wisdom and knowledge of God. God is Creator. God needs no counselor. Everything comes from God -everything, including authority.

In the first reading, Shebna was a powerful man in the court of king Hezekiah in Judah, 700 years before Christ. But he was taking advantage of his position and power to step on innocent people and to make himself filthy rich. So, Isaiah prophesies that Shebna will be pulled down from his position and Eliakim will take his place. Who makes the change? Who will fix Eliakim like a peg in a sure spot? None other than God, who created the world in the first place!

In the Gospel, Jesus asks the disciples a key question, "Who am I?" Simon Peter answers, "The Messiah, the son of the living God." With what authority does Jesus speak then? He then tells Peter that he will be the "rock of the Church" and gives him authority to bind and loose sins. Peter's authority comes from God. The Church's authority comes from God as well. What gives the whole thing a different slant is Jesus' preaching on authority. Authority is for service. Those in power are not to make their importance felt; rather, they are to be the servants of the people. To be a Christian means to be a servant in God's kingdom. Like Shebna who was an advisor to the king Hezekiah, but he used his position to exploit the poor, have you ever used your authority badly? A man loved a young girl who just didn't want to marry him. Day after day he would write her love

letters trying to change her mind. After many months his persistence got results: the girl he loved got engaged...to the mailman who delivered the letters. That's the risk one takes in sending someone else to do a job.

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: \$356.65

Envelopes: \$1,097

Readings for 21st Sunday of Ordinary Times:

Reading 1 Is 22:19-23

Psalms Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8

Reading 2 Rom 11:33-36

Gospel Mt 16:13-20

Mass Intentions for the Week and Activities:

Saturday, August 26, 3:00 Reconciliation

4:00 + Beverly Meinert

Sunday, August 27, 21st Sunday of Ordinary Times

7:30 Our Parish Family

9:00 A Special Intention

Monday, August 28, No Mass 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10 Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday, August 29, 8:00

Wednesday, August 30, 8:00 + Matt Thomas

Thursday, August 31, 8:00

Friday, September 1, 8:00 + Beverly Meinert

Saturday, September 2, 3:00 Reconciliation

4:00 + Tiana & Tynan Cain

Sunday, September 3, 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Times

7:30 Our Parish Family

9:00 Fr. Charles Herman

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, September 3	Last 7:30 am Mass of Summer Season	7:30am
Sunday, September 10	Religious Education Starts	Following Mass
Sunday, September 17	Parish Brunch Bash	Following Mass
Monday, September 18	Right to Life Banquet	6pm
Thursday, September 21	Drive Thru Community Dinner	5pm-out

Ministers Schedule:

Saturday, September 2, 4:00pm

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Sharon DeLong

Lector: *Chris Lennon*

Sunday, September 3, 9:00am

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Fred & Sue De La Cruz

Lector: Pat Landrigan

Volunteering and ways to get involved:

Religious Education is in need of two volunteers for the younger grades. If interested, contact the office or DRE. Religious Education starts Sunday, September 10th and will run from 10am-11:05 am in the basement of the Church. Sign up will be that Sunday.

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.

Right to Life Banquet Monday September 18th:

The Right to Life of Northern Indiana Banquet will be held on September 18, 2023 at the MOCC building at Grace College in Winona Lake at 6pm. Ashley Bratcher will be the keynote speaker and she is recognized as the star in the pro life film, Unplanned. Pat Miller from WOWO will Emcee. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased from Pat/Bill Landrigan, by calling (574)306-7406(RTL office), or by going to www.prolifebanquet.com.

Central Catholic Reunion Meeting:

Central Catholic Alumni Association All Alumni Reunion & Annual Meeting. Wednesday September 20, 2023 at 11:00 AM with lunch served at 12:00 PM.

Cost is \$20 per person. Please register by September 1, 2023.

Call Laura Fleckenstein Stucky at 260-486-1000 or Vickey Avila Linker at 260-341-6209

Local Food Pantry: Item of the week- *Cereals!*