

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

408 West Catholic St.

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Pierceton, IN 46562

Office 574-594-5750

Website: www.sfxpierceton.org

Facebook: StFrancisXavierPierceton

Father Daniel Chukwuleta, Pastor

Email: father@sfxpierceton.org

Secretary: Dulcie Stevens

Email: office@sfxpierceton.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://diocesefwbsb.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: 24th Sunday of Ordinary Times, Year A

Reading 1 Sirach 27:30—28:7

Palm Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12

Reading 2 Romans 14:7-9

Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

REFLECTIONS... from Father Daniel

Theme of the Sunday: Forgiveness without Limit. The Gospel of today is from the last part of chapter 18 which, as we saw last Sunday, deals with the problems of Matthew's communities. Today it emphasises forgiveness. How should Christians deal with those who offend them? Should they retaliate? Not even once? Both the Gospel passage and the first reading say clearly that the only possible Christian attitude is one of forgiveness. The second reading is connected to this; it recommends patience in dealing with those who hold opinions different from ours.

Forgiveness can be difficult. It hurts our pride to have to forgive. Sometimes the pain goes so deep that it takes a long time to be set free of the hurt that a person has experienced? Probably, we may have heard the story of St. Maria Goretti before. She was stabbed to death at the age of 12, by a young man named Alexander Serenelli. Alexander was put into prison, and he was released after 27 years. His first act of freedom was to seek forgiveness from Maria Goretti's mother. She could not believe what he was asking. She paused for a long time. It was very difficult for her. Then she invited him into the house. It was Christmas Eve. Later that evening at the Midnight Mass they both received Holy Communion together side by side at the Communion rail. Many of the people in the church were shocked. Some expressed horror. They asked: How could she possibly forgive him? The Mother of Maria Goretti thought carefully. Then she gave a simple reply. She said, "I looked to Jesus who forgave His murderers from the cross. I followed His example."

When St. Peter asked Jesus, "how often must I forgive- seven times?" Jesus' answer was really not an answer because he was saying there is no limit- we always have to be forgiving. Because that's the way God has been toward all of us. C.S. Lewis wrote, "Forgiveness is a beautiful word, until you have something to forgive." It is easy to proclaim the virtue of forgiveness, but reality is another matter. Remember, forgiveness does not change the past, it changes you. When you forgive, you heal. When you let go, you grow.

Please Keep in Your Prayers this Week:

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

Mass Intentions for the Week and Activities:

Saturday, September 12, 3:00 Reconciliation

4:00 +Leo Dahm

Sunday, September 13, 24th Sunday of Ordinary Times

9:00 Our Parish Family

Following Mass Annual Parish Back 2 School Breakfast

Following Mass Religious Education

(students will spend 1st 30 min of class at breakfast)

Monday, September 14, No Mass

Numbers 21:4b-9 Philipians 2:6-11 John 3:13-17

Tuesday, September 15, 8:00 Mass +Bill Gonya

Wednesday, September 16, 8:00 Mass + Rose Coy

Thursday, September 17, 8 Mass + Elaine Hoffman

5:00 Community Dinner

Friday, September 18, 8:00 Mass +Loretta Dahm

Saturday, September 19, 3:00 Reconciliation

4:00 Our Parish

Sunday, September 20, 25th Sunday of Ordinary Times

9:00+Susan Turman

Upcoming Calendar Events:

Sunday, September 13th, Annual Breakfast Following Mass

Sunday, September 13th, Religious Education starts

Thursday, September 17th, Community Dinner 5-Out

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

Saturday, September 26th, Euchre Tournament Following Mass

Friday, October 2nd, Adoration Following Mass

Friday, October 2nd, Ladies Fellowship Meet-up Following Adoration

Sunday, October 4th, Annual Life Chain 1:45pm-3pm

Tuesday, October 6th, Knights of Columbus Meeting 6:30pm

Tuesday, October 13th, Parish Council Meeting 6:30pm

Ministers Schedule:

Saturday, September 19, 4:00pm

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Sharon DeLong

Lectors: Bill Johnson Sr.

Sunday, September 20, 9:00am

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Tracy Gaunt

Lector: Mary Sutton

Right to Life Banquet:

The Annual Right to Life Banquet will be Monday, September 21, 2026 at the Grace College MOCC. Doors open at 5pm, dinner will be served at 6pm. The speaker this year is George Dennehy, born without arms, he plays music from his heart with his feet. When just 18 months old, he was adopted from a grim Romanian orphanage that was in dire circumstances. Tickets are \$40 per person and are available from Bill Landrigan 574-551-3860.

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

Last Week's Collection:

Loose: \$591 Envelopes: \$1,287

ABA Goal: \$10,170.26

Current Pledges: \$9,430

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

Events Happening in the Parish Hall This Month:

Annual Parish Breakfast will be this Sunday, September 13th following 9am Mass. Parishioners are invited to bring a casserole to share. Knights of Columbus will be manning the kitchen and a 50/50 drawing with proceeds going to a worthy cause. **Community Dinner** will be Thursday, September 17th starting at 5pm till food runs out. Knights of Columbus will host a **Euchre Tournament** on Saturday, September 26th following 4pm Mass. Cost is \$5 per person with cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, lowest score and a 50/50 drawing.

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@sfxpiercetn.org.

Attention Ladies of the Parish:

Those interested in attending the Kingdom Builders conference on Saturday, October 3rd, please see Sharon DeLong or contact the office immediately. The parish is trying to put together a table. Office@sfxpiercetn.org

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

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**

diocesefwsb.org/aba



Come celebrate Our Lady of Fatima with the Fort Wayne—South Bend Diocesan Division of the World Apostolate of Fatima (Blue Army) at our Annual Holy Mass & Breakfast:

 **Saturday, October 3, 2026**

 **Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception**

Morning Schedule

7:30 AM – Confessions

8:00 AM – Holy Rosary & First Saturday Devotions

9:00 AM – Holy Mass with Bishop Joseph N. Perry, Fr. Glenn Kohrman & Fr. Robert Garrow

After Mass, join the **Marian Procession** to the Grand Wayne Center for breakfast and a keynote address by **Bishop Joseph N. Perry.**

 **Tickets Available Now:**

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/annual-october-breakfast>

RSVP (optional): christine@fatimafwsb.org