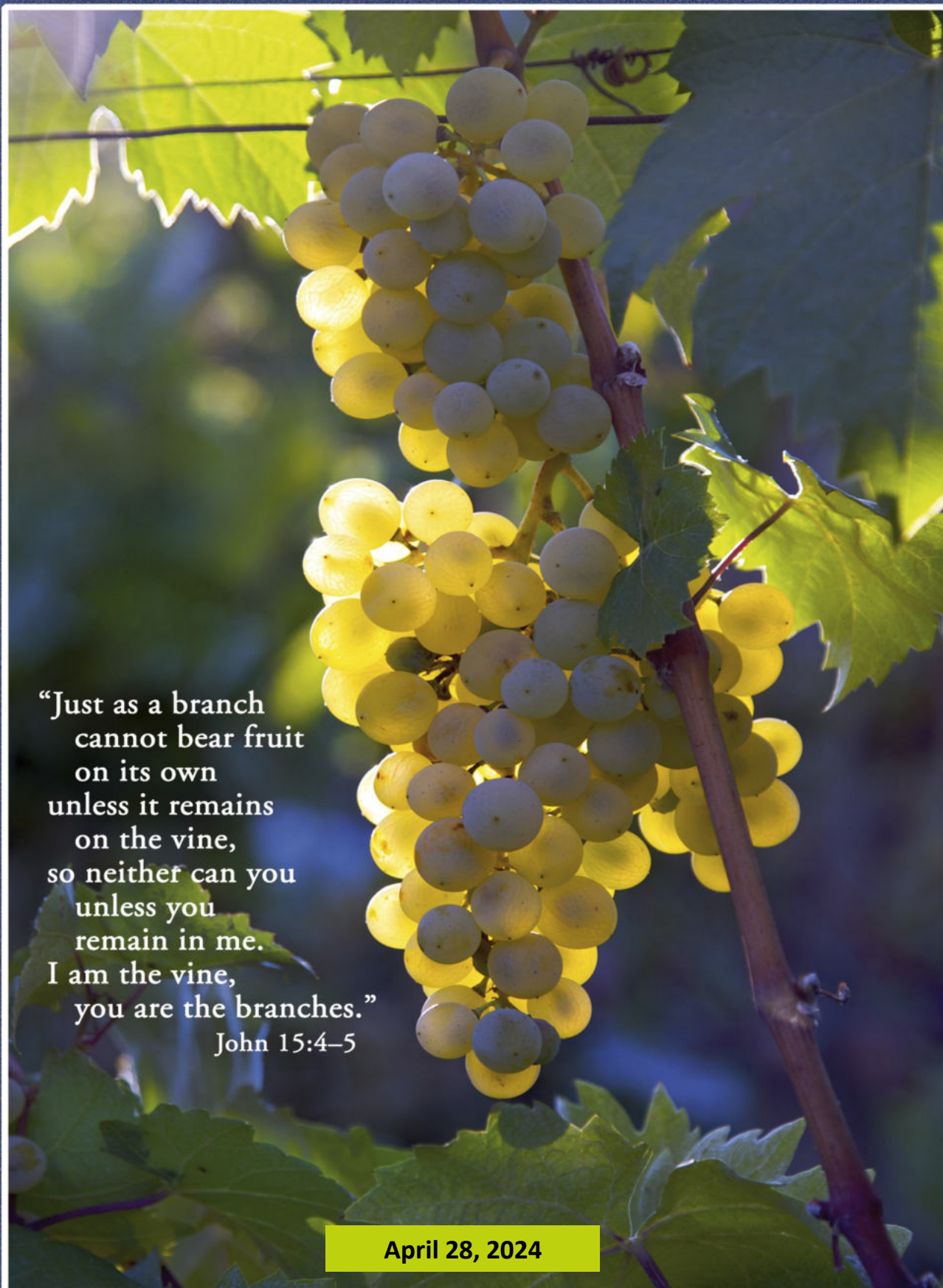


St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

www.xavierbrunswick.org, 912-265-3249



“Just as a branch
cannot bear fruit
on its own
unless it remains
on the vine,
so neither can you
unless you
remain in me.
I am the vine,
you are the branches.”
John 15:4-5

April 28, 2024

The Vine and the Branches

A few years ago in Savannah, we were out in the ocean exploring some islands at low tide. We were trying to get a good look at one of the islands and we ran up on a sandbar. I jumped out of the boat and the water was knee deep and looked for a good channel that the boat could run in. The problem was that the tide was quickly going out. We pushed and pushed trying to get the boat in deeper water. As more water rushed out there was no way we could budge the boat, which must have weighed 1,500 pounds. So, **I joined the ranks** of those who have been stranded on the sand waiting for the tide. Our fate wasn't too bad. We had food and drinks and we walked to the nearby island until the tide turned. **There are worst fates than sitting at the beach watching the tide roll in.**

Part of the memorable moments of that afternoon was **pushing on that large boat and feeling it going nowhere.** About two hours and a half later we returned to the boat and the water was rushing back in. As the water rushed under the boat, I could feel it lift the boat off the sandbar. At that point a **five-year-old** could have pushed us off.

The image this brings to mind is **living life under the power of the Holy Spirit versus living under our own power.** When we live under our own power it is like sitting on that sandbar. Life is tough and we don't seem to make too much progress. When we are operating in the Holy Spirit life seems to flow along.

This is the message of Jesus this week in the Gospel. Sometimes the parables of Jesus can be rather challenging. This one is rather **straightforward. We are the branches. Jesus is the vine. The Father is the vine grower.** If we stay attached to the vine we will prosper, we will receive **life-giving sustenance.** If we **break off from the vine we will wither.** In the parable we see that it is very important to **stay close to the vine.** This is the source of nutrients for the branch. This is a clear message for us to stay close to Jesus. **This begins with the Sacraments.** The means, par excellence, of union with Christ is through the Sacraments.

After we have been baptized, we have the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Communion to help us stay close. **What a blessing that Jesus in the Holy Eucharist is with us every day.** Do I bring my family every Sunday to receive the Bread of Life? Is confession part of my pruning? When is the **last time I have availed myself of the Sacrament of Reconciliation?**

After the Sacraments come our **daily prayer life.** The way we stay close to Jesus is to talk to Him every day. Every adult should have at least a **fifteen-minute prayer time** every day. Part of that prayer should be to remain in **the Word.** The Word of God fills our life like water coming down on thirsty plants.

What else does remaining on the vine mean? It means **staying close to the Church's teaching.** Jesus founded the Church. The Church nourishes us during our sojourn on earth. Do I know the teachings of the Church? Do I live them? Do I know what the Church teaches, and do I live those teachings? **Am I on the vine or do I break from the vine. The Sacraments, daily prayer and living the teaching of the Church are ways to ripen and bear much fruit.**

At one point during my adventure, I looked at our boat and **all I could see was beach.** All the water had rushed out. It looked like a boat parked in the desert. **That is what life without Christ is like, dry, difficult and no movement. We feel stranded. When the Holy Spirit is present it is like the tide coming in.** The boat moves smoothly. May we always stay attached to Jesus who is the true vine, the source of our life!

-Fr. Tim McKeown

Dear St. Francis Xavier Community,

For over 120 years **St. Francis Xavier Catholic School** has been synonymous with educational excellence, strong Catholic faith formation and a supportive, loving community. Today, and in the future, we remain committed to continuing this legacy. After concluding our search for the next great leader of our parish school, we were able to interview several qualified candidates. The members of the search committee represented parents, faculty, staff, and administration. After prayer and careful consideration, I am pleased to announce **Mrs. Annemarie Marr** as St. Francis Xavier Catholic School's next dynamic leader. She has a genuine love of children, the proven ability to organize and lead reliably, and a dedicated work ethic. Mrs. Marr will assume the role of **Principal on July 1, 2024**. I look forward to hosting meet and greet opportunities for our school community to welcome Mrs. Marr. Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to an exciting new chapter in our St. Francis Xavier Catholic School legacy.

Sincerely,

Fr. Tim McKeown



Dear St. Francis Xavier Community,

With the growth of Saint Francis Xavier Catholic school and our dedication to continuing excellence in all areas, I would like to announce a new position of leadership at our school. We have created the new position of **Assistant Principal**. Our new Assistant Principal will be someone very familiar to you, an alumna of our school and a teacher, **Mrs. Katie O'Connor!**

This promotion recognizes Mrs. O'Connor's leadership and teaching skills and her deep ties to our school community. She will begin her new role on July 1. While keeping some of her teaching assignments she will pick up a more administrative role. We are excited about this new position at our school and the gifts Mrs. O'Connor will provide. Thank you for your support of St. Francis Xavier School and let us pray for Mrs. O'Connor in this new role!

Sincerely, Fr. Tim McKeown





Confirmation Mass
Tuesday, May 7th
 at 6 p.m.

RCIA class will be on **Monday, April 29** in the Narthex at 7 p.m.

First Communion
Mass Saturday,
 May 11th
 at 10 a.m.



First Friday, May 3, Mass is at 8:00 a.m. **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** in the church from 1:00 pm to 7:00 p.m. for silent prayer.

We have contributed \$49,646 of our \$67,829 goal for the **Annual Catholic Appeal** which puts us at 69%. If you have not yet made your pledge please do so this week!

Mass in English and Spanish at 7:00 p.m. O come, let us adore Him!

ST. VINCENT de PAUL

FOOD PANTRY REQUESTS

Baked Beans, Cereal,
 Stove top stuffing

Keep in touch with us via text!

Mass times, ministry updates, & more delivered to your phone **TO SIGN UP, TEXT SFX150 TO 84576**

SIGN UP ONLINE AT: stfrancixavier-catholic2.flocknote.com

Knights of Columbus State Charity Raffle: The 2023-2024 Charity Raffle to benefit both statewide and local charities is now being held through the end of April. **Up to 70% of the proceeds from local ticket sales will be used to fund improvements to the parking area between SFX church and the school.** Winners will be drawn on May 18th at the Georgia Knights of Columbus Convention. For tickets or more information, call Don Heinecke at 912-577-8722.

MASS INTENTIONS

April 27 - May 5

Saturday, April 27

5:00 p.m. † Nick & Mary Faust

7:00 p.m. † Charles Lennon

(at Jekyll United Methodist Church)

Sunday, April 28

8:30 a.m. † Emma Lou Abel

11:00 a.m. † Renata Silvia Simone

6:00 p.m. (Spanish) † Maria Mendez &
† Rafael & Rafael Rojas

Monday, April 29

Noon † Bill Flynn

Tuesday, April 30

Noon † Bill Flynn

Wednesday, May 1

7 p.m. † Caridad Tuya &
† Naomi Baba Acres

Thursday, May 2

8 a.m. † Frank Stevens

Friday, May 3

8 a.m. Fr Anthony Pillan (int.)

7 p.m. † Benjamin Acevedo

Saturday, May 4

5:00 p.m. † Wesley Tait

7:00 p.m. † Jean & John Gluckler

(at Jekyll United Methodist Church)

Sunday, May 5

8:30 a.m. † Jim Holland

11:00 a.m. † Inez Sasser

6:00 p.m. (Spanish) Efrain Lopez (int.)

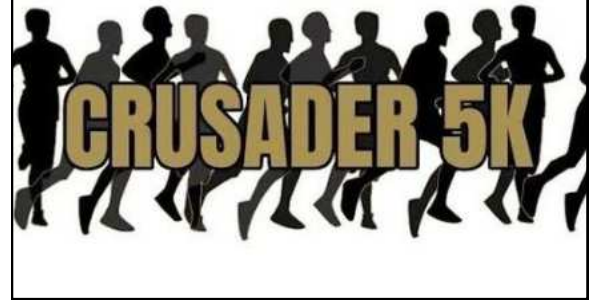
Do you pay most of your bills online? You can donate to SFX online through Our Sunday Visitor (OSV) on our website.

Would you prefer to receive your bulletin each week via email? Go to www.DM.CHURCH/4324 or you can scan the code on the back of the bulletin.

2024 Mass Intention book is open. If you are interested in having some Masses said for a loved one, contact Ann in the office. You can call, email or stop by. Suggested donation is \$10 per Mass.

If your baby or toddler is feeling restless, the **Narthex** is open with a **live video and audio feed**. There are about 25 seats available. There is also a room located at the back of the Church you can go to.

May 18 starting at
7:30 a.m. in front
of the school



<https://runsignup.com/Race/GA/Brunswick/StFrancisCrusader5k>

St. Francis Xavier Catholic School is hosting the Second Annual Crusader 5k Run and Fun Run. We are excited to encourage movement and promote health and fitness to the community. This event is for all levels of fitness. While the run/walk itself will be fun, the 5k will be professionally timed, with awards to each age group. The Crusader Run will begin and end near St. Francis Xavier Catholic School in downtown Brunswick. All proceeds from the Crusader Run will help support the funding of the new parking lot.

St. Francis Xavier School



St. Francis Xavier Staff email addresses and exts.

912-265-3249

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Deacon Chris Sadowski, csadowski@bellsouth.net, ext. 305

Nalleli, **Hispanic Ministry**: SFXHispanicMinistry@gmail.com, ext. 402

Kathy, **Finance Director**: kwood@sfxcs.org, ext. 401

Deacon Dr. Mermann, **Principal**: tmermann@sfxcs.org, **912-265-9470**