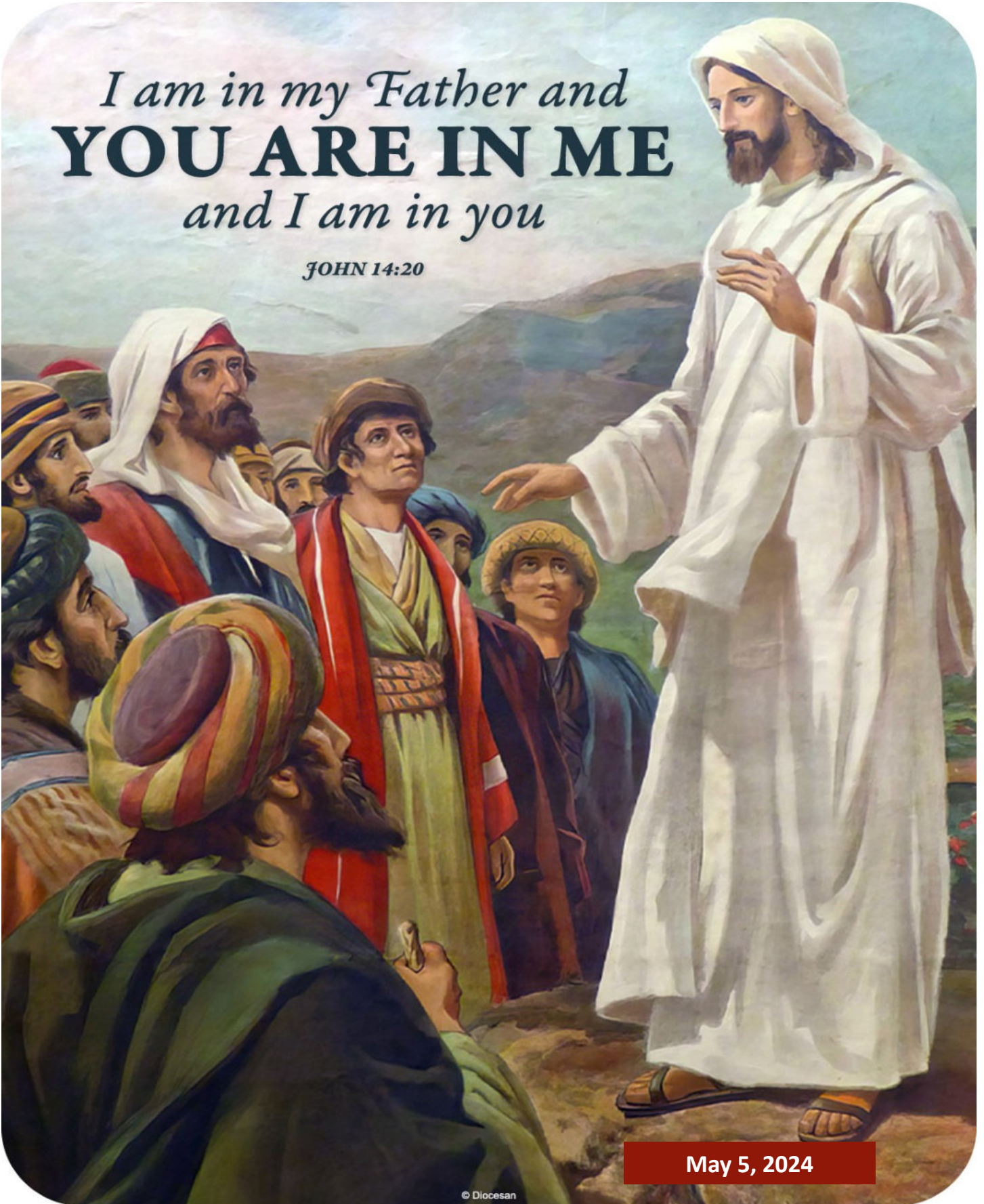


St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

www.xavierbrunswick.org, 912-265-3249

I am in my Father and
YOU ARE IN ME
and I am in you

JOHN 14:20



May 5, 2024

Looking Back and Looking Forward

In April of 2014 I was in my third year of working as Vice Rector of the Pontifical North American College in Rome, Italy. Bishop Hartmayer wrote to me: *Peace and all good things! I am sure that the seminary is getting ready for Holy Week and then the canonizations. I am finishing the pastoral assignments and want to share your assignment with you. The Franciscans are leaving St. Francis Xavier on July 1st. I am asking you to become the pastor of St. Francis Xavier parish and school in Brunswick.*

I was assigned to become pastor on July 1, 2014. Fr Chris Ortega was assigned as parochial vicar. What is interesting is that we were the first priests of the **Diocese of Savannah** to be assigned to SFX in over 100 years! Priests of the Diocese of Savannah were here from 1871 until 1897. At that point **Marist** priests (Fathers of the Society of Mary) took over. The Marists served here from 1897 until 1988! In 1988 the Marists turned the parish over to the **Conventual Franciscans** and the first Franciscan pastor was Fr. Benjamin Knopp. The Franciscans served here from 1988 until the summer of 2014 when I arrived.

For that reason, there was not too much of a scouting report on St Francis Xavier. Usually as a priest you ask your fellow diocesan priests for insights on the parish and the local community but no priests from the diocese had been assigned here in 100 years. By the same token people were not used to diocesan priests. My first year here, people kept asking me, “Are you Franciscan? Are you a Marist? Are you a Jesuit? What are you?”

It has been a wonderful ten years for me. Thank you for welcoming me into the Golden Isles Community. There is a great spirit of **hospitality** here. A great legacy of the past ten years has been the **assignment of seminarians** to the parish. Because we are a very active parish and have a large rectory the bishop likes to assign seminarians to us. We have hosted Tony Visintainer (2015), Chris Hassel (2016), Patrick May (2017), Bobby Phillips (2018), Esteban Mallar (2019), Lewis King (2020), Will Cook (2021) Kevin Braski (2022), Noah Pace (2023) and several seminarians for summer assignments. Most of that list were ordained priests or are still in formation as seminarians. They have all profited from your hospitality and spirituality.

I have been blessed by your **endurance!** We have certainly faced our share of **adversity** over the past decade: Hurricane Matthew in October of 2016, Hurricane Irma in Sept 2017, the capsizing of the Golden Ray in September of 2019, and of course the Coronavirus and the closing of churches in March 2020.

You are good stewards of what God has given you. In **January 2017** we replaced our particle wood pews with **red oak pews**. We removed one row to give us a walk-through space. In **December 2018** we opened the church addition (**Narthex**) adding much needed meeting and gathering space, a modern confessional and an large upgrade to our restroom facilities. In **January 2019** we cleaned and repaired all of our **stained-glass windows**, painted and repaired and replaced the wood and protected them with aluminum framing, protective storm coverings and laminated glass. In **September 2021** we replaced our **sound system** to improve our sound and installed acoustic panels to reduce reverberation. In **September 2022** we added a new **baptismal font, altar, ambo and tabernacle table**. And of course, in August 2023 we opened the brand new, state of the art St. Francis Xavier Catholic School.

Of course, all of this is driven by a deep love for Jesus Christ. Your Faith and devotion have inspired me in these years. Bishop Parkes has asked me to become pastor of St. Teresa of Avila in Grovetown, GA effective July 1. We will have time to say our goodbyes, but I thank you for your love of Jesus and your faithful discipleship and stewardship these past ten years. Praised be Jesus Christ!

-Fr. Tim McKeown

Save the date!

Sunday, May 5- **Final day of PSR**

Monday, May 6- RCIA Q&A Session 7:00 pm

Tuesday, May 7- **Confirmation Mass** with the Bishop at 6:00 pm (all are invited)

Wednesday, May 8- **Final day of Youth Group**

Saturday, May 11- **First Communion Mass** at 10:00 am (all are invited)

Saturday, May 11- Blessing of the Fleet (blessing of shrimp boats at Mary Ross Park) 1:00 pm

Sunday, May 12- Mother's Day. 11:00 Special **Our Lady of Fatima Mass** with procession in Hanover Park to follow.

Monday, May 13- **Final RCIA class/dinner** 7:00 pm Narthex

Friday, May 17- **SFXCS graduation Mass** at 6:00 pm

Sunday, May 19- Solemnity of **Pentecost!**

Thursday, May 23- Final day of school at SFXCS

Saturday, June 1- Priest Ordination at the Cathedral in Savannah

Saturday, June 15- **Ordination of Kevin Braski at St. Joseph Church, Macon, GA**

We have contributed \$51,068 of our \$67,829 goal for the **Annual Catholic Appeal** which puts us at 75%. If you have not yet made your pledge please do so this week!

That Man is You! For more information contact Deacon Chris at csadowski@bellsouth.net

Adult Bible Study Sundays in the St. Anne Room Meets between 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. Please come join us!

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: stfrancisxavier-catholic2.flocknote.com

Our **Young Catholics** (18-35, single or married) meet each Friday night. Please contact Rob Sadowski for the schedule. Phone - (912)230-4863 or email robertsadowski@yahoo.com

The SFX Community extends their **prayers and condolences** to the family and friends of **Toni Van Alstine, mother of Fr Mark Van Alstine**. May she rest forever in the peace of Christ



Please join the Knights of Columbus Sunday **May 19** for the **Red Cross blood drive**. Thank You for giving your precious gift to save a life

MASS INTENTIONS

May 4 - 12

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.)

Monday, May 6

Noon † Laurie Anderson

Tuesday, May 7

Noon Fr Jim Holloway

Wednesday, May 8

7 p.m. † Bill Flynn

Thursday, May 9

8 a.m. † Toni Van Alstine

Friday, May 10

8 a.m. † Lynne Fitzgerald Sellers

Saturday, May 11

5:00 p.m. † Rita & George Doubek &

† Rosanne Hale

7:00 p.m. † Anne Leach Brown

(at Jekyll United Methodist Church)

Sunday, May 12

8:30 a.m. † Caridad, Yolanda &
Josephina Tuya

11:00 a.m. † Manuel & Manuela Rocha

6:00 p.m. (Spanish) † Maria Mendez,

† Rafael & Rafael Rojas

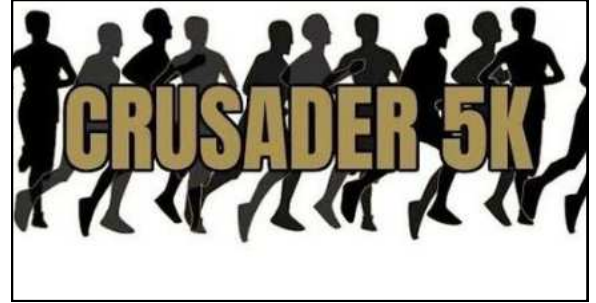
Do you pay most of your bills online? You can donate to SFX online through Our Sunday Visitor (OSV) on our website.

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.

Retirement Recognition

HONORING DR. TERRY MERMANN

*Please help us celebrate our
amazing leader!*

Saturday, May 18, 2024

7:30 A.M. - Crusader 5K
Dr. Mermann, Grand Marshal

9:00 A.M. - Mermann Mile Fun Run, and
Finish Line Retirement Celebration in
Hanover Square.

Make a gift to the Crusader 5K in honor of
Dr. Mermann.



St. Francis Xavier Staff email addresses and exts.

912-265-3249

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