

Sunday November 24, 2019

Pastor's Corner

Happy Thanksgiving and December Things

We Give Thanks: On Thursday, our nation will celebrate Thanksgiving, a day to thank God for all the many blessings experienced by our country. As I mentioned last year, before my family eats on Thanksgiving Day, we gather in a circle with joined hands and offer up prayers of gratitude to God: for family, friends, faith, food, freedom, provision and health. After that, we pray grace. I hope your family finds a way to keep the religious spirit of the holiday as we celebrate Thanksgiving this year. And a reminder: we will have Thanksgiving Day Masses at St. Francis at 6:30 am and 8:00 am. Feel free to bring bread and wine for blessing and use at your family meal. Happy Thanksgiving to all from me, Fr. Thien, our Deacons and our Parish and School Staff.

December Happenings: December has a full slate of spiritual, pastoral and social activities to help prepare for and celebrate the glorious birth of Jesus. These include:

Advent Celebrations: On the first weekend of Advent, November 30-December 1, we will distribute Advent Prayer Books, Calendars and Wreaths. We will have an Advent Morning of Prayer and Spiritual Enrichment presented by Jan and Lloyd Tate on Saturday, December 14, from 8:30 am to 12 noon on the theme, "Advent Peace amidst the Christmas Storm." We will be collecting Christmas gifts for our Giving Tree in Advent and preparing Christmas baskets to be distributed to the needy in our area.

Pre-Christmas Events: On Saturday, December 7, we will have the 2nd Annual Old Metairie Christmas Market with over 80 vendors in the school, school yard and St. Joseph Hall. On Friday, December 13, the Children's Choir will perform a Christmas Concert in Church at 6:30 pm, followed by the Lighting and Blessing of our new Nativity Set and Outdoor Christmas Tree – followed by caroling and refreshments. On Tuesday, December 17, we will have the St. Francis Xavier Christmas Home Tour. Seven Old Metairie Homes will be on the tour, including the. Tickets for the tour are \$35. On December 20, the school children will perform the Christmas Nativity Play in church. Throughout December, school and parish ministries will have Christmas parties to add to the festivity of the season. And on Sunday, December 22, at 7 pm, we will decorate the Church for Christmas. It is an enormous task. All hands-on deck!

Christmas Masses: There will be Christmas Eve Masses at 4 pm (Children's Mass and Children's Choir) and 6:30 pm (with caroling led by the Adult Choir at 6:00 pm). On Christmas Day, masses will be at 8:00 am, 10:00 am and 12 noon. There will not be an Evening Mass on Christmas Day. We have Christmas gifts for parishioners and children.

December is going to be a blessed and joyous month at St. Francis Xavier Parish.

*God bless you,
Fr. Joe*