

December 3, 2020

Good Morning All - bundle up! It's COLD outside!

No First Friday Adoration tomorrow. We have a funeral Mass for Adeline Glanowski who lived a long life. Ms. Adeline is also the mother of Diane Mish. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ms. Adeline and for the Mish family.

We also lost Marjorie Harvey, wife of Tom Harvey. Her funeral will be next week. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Ms. Marjorie as well as for her devoted husband, Tom.

1. Today's Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/120320.cfm>
2. **The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus:** Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier, Priest
It is not the actual physical exertion that counts towards one's progress, not the nature of the task, but by the spirit of faith with which it is undertaken. *St. Francis Xavier*
3. Advent Calendar Quote of the Day: There was no room for them at the inn. Luke 2:7

Attached please find a Bible reading schedule recommended by Presentation Ministries - the provider of our One Bread, One Body booklet. We are behind a few days but you can catch up! *"An Isaiah Advent" continues to teach about Advent!* You can use the following link to read online: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/isaiah/0>

--



Linda McCormick
St. Joseph Catholic Church & School
1200 Cornelia Road
Anderson, SC 29621

Phone: (864) 225-5341, ext. 102
Fax: (864) 225-6432

Saint Francis Xavier



Image: *The miracles of St. Francis Xavier* Peter Paul Rubens

(April 7, 1506 – December 3, 1552)

Jesus asked, “What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?” (Matthew 16:26a). The words were repeated to a young teacher of philosophy who had a highly promising career in academics, with success and a life of prestige and honor before him.

Francis Xavier, 24 at the time, and living and teaching in Paris, did not heed these words at once. They came from a good friend, Ignatius of Loyola, whose tireless persuasion finally won the young man to Christ. Francis then made the spiritual exercises under the direction of Ignatius, and in 1534, joined his little community, the infant Society of Jesus. Together at Montmartre they vowed poverty, chastity, obedience, and apostolic service according to the directions of the pope.

From Venice, where he was ordained a priest in 1537, Xavier went on to Lisbon and from there sailed to the East Indies, landing at Goa, on the west coast of India. For the next 10 years he labored to bring the faith to such widely scattered peoples as the Hindus, the Malayans, and the Japanese. He spent much of that

time in India, and served as provincial of the newly established Jesuit province of India.

Wherever he went, Xavier lived with the poorest people, sharing their food and rough accommodations. He spent countless hours ministering to the sick and the poor, particularly to lepers. Very often he had no time to sleep or even to say his breviary but, as we know from his letters, he was filled always with joy.

Xavier went through the islands of Malaysia, then up to Japan. He learned enough Japanese to preach to simple folk, to instruct, and to baptize, and to establish missions for those who were to follow him. From Japan he had dreams of going to China, but this plan was never realized. Before reaching the mainland, he died. His remains are enshrined in the Church of Good Jesus in Goa. He and Saint Thérèse of Lisieux were declared co-patrons of the missions in 1925.

Reflection

All of us are called to “go and preach to all nations—see Matthew 28:19. Our preaching is not necessarily on distant shores but to our families, our children, our husband or wife, our coworkers. And we are called to preach not with words, but by our everyday lives. Only by sacrifice, the giving up of all selfish gain, could Francis Xavier be free to bear the Good News to the world. Sacrifice is leaving yourself behind at times for a greater good, the good of prayer, the good of helping someone in need, the good of just listening to another. The greatest gift we have is our time. Francis Xavier gave his to others.

Source: *franciscanmedia.org*

An Isaiah Advent

For centuries, the Catholic Church has been led by the Spirit to prepare for Christ's Christmas coming by reading the prophet, Isaiah. I invite you to ask for the grace to read Isaiah in the following 22-day format. (22-days is the briefest possible Advent.) This will help you have the best Advent ever and prepare you to celebrate Christmas in a life-changing, world-renewing way.

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| December 1 | Isaiah 1-5 |
| December 2 | Isaiah 6-8 |
| December 3 | Isaiah 9-12 |
| December 4 | Isaiah 13-17 |
| December 5 | Isaiah 18-21 |
| December 6 | Isaiah 22-23 |
| December 7 | Isaiah 24-25 |
| December 8 | Isaiah 26-27 |
| December 9 | Isaiah 28-29 |
| December 10 | Isaiah 30-33 |
| December 11 | Isaiah 34-35 |
| December 12 | Isaiah 36-39 |
| December 13 | Isaiah 40-42 |
| December 14 | Isaiah 43-45 |
| December 15 | Isaiah 46-48 |
| December 16 | Isaiah 49-51 |
| December 17 | Isaiah 52-53 |
| December 18 | Isaiah 54-55 |
| December 19 | Isaiah 56-57 |
| December 20 | Isaiah 58-60 |
| December 21 | Isaiah 61-64 |
| December 22 | Isaiah 65-66 |

Source: PresentationMinistries.com (One Bread, One Body)