

**From the desk of the Director of
Religious Education**

Happy New Year! It is with great joy that we begin the year 2018 at St. Francis Xavier. We have many projects planned for the children and for you in the weeks and months ahead, and your help is needed to complete

these projects. Please make sure to read the newsletter and keep it on the refrigerator or in a place where you can see it daily. All project dates and information are to the right of this column.

To the parents of students who will receive First Communion and Confirmation: Please sign up for the mandatory Eucharist/Confirmation Seminar coming up in February/March. You can sign up when you drop off your child to class. Both parents will need to attend this seminar. Sign up now to reserve the date you want.

Parents: Please make sure your children attend classes regularly and come to class on time. The students are in class for such a short amount of time that any distractions—including students coming to class tardy—take away from their learning. In today's world it is crucial that you give your children the tools needed to face the moral, social, political, and religious issues of our day and in the future. It is expected, therefore, that you practice the faith and celebrate it with your family by actively participating at Mass each week. How can we have a relationship with the Lord Jesus unless we spend time with Him in prayer and in worship?



Please thank your child's catechist every time you have an opportunity. As I mentioned before, your child's catechist comes week after week to teach your child everything he/she needs to know about our Catholic faith. The catechist is the person that keeps our Catholic faith alive! These faith-filled persons deserve our admiration and gratitude.

Thank you to all the parents and students who brought donations for the poor and the needy. Everything was taken to different places to be used by local people. God bless you for your generosity.

Thank you to all the parents who brought milk and chocolate for Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration and for RE. Thank you to the parents who brought sugar, cinnamon, and oil for the buñuelos. Special thanks to Mrs. Martha Hurtado for making those delicious buñuelos for all the kids to enjoy. They loved it all!

The Department of Religious Education and the Youth Department of St. Francis, St. Gregory's and St. Michael need to raise funds for Totus Tuus and Steubenville this summer. The plan is to raise \$15,000 this year. Your children are taking home information and tickets to sell. Please make sure to sell these tickets.

The best gift you can give your child is the gift of your Catholic Faith!

God bless you and your family in 2018. In the Spirit of St. Francis Xavier!

Mrs. Miriam Day, DRE

Absences: All students in year 9th grade, and year one and two who are receiving sacramental preparation cannot have more than three absences in the entire year. If your child is sick or your family is in some type of emergency, please call the office so your child is not counted absent. Thank you.



January 27—St. Francis, St. Gregory's, St. Michael—**South of the Border Fundraising Dinner.** Parents are needed to chop vegetables, cook rice & beans and make Fajitas on the 27th. Please let me know how you can help. Thanks.

February 3, 10, 17 (in Spanish)—Eucharist/Confirmation Seminar. This seminar is mandatory, remember to sign up. Time: 9am-1pm-LC

February 24 & March 3 (in English)—Eucharist/Confirmation Seminar. This seminar is mandatory, remember to sign up. Time: 9am-1pm-LC

March 10—First Communion Retreat/Parent & Child must attend this retreat. Please make sure to write this date in your calendar. Time: 9am-Noon-LC

April 7—Confirmation Retreat at Bison. This is a mandatory retreat for all Confirmandi. If your child is unable to attend on this date, please contact me right away to discuss an alternative venue. Time: 9am-3pm

April 11—Reconciliation Day for all Confirmandi. This will be during class.

April 14—Dinner/Showcase for parents, confirmandi, and sponsors. Students will showcase their project at this dinner. We understand if some sponsors live out of town and are unable to attend. **Parents and Confirmandi must attend.** Time: 6:30pm-LC

April 22—Confirmation Rehearsal. This rehearsal is for candidate and sponsor. Time: 5pm-Church

April 25—Confirmation Mass—6pm.

First Three Weekends in May
First Communion Celebrations

May 20: Blessing of Graduates—11am Mass

Going to Mass: There are four Masses every weekend. Choose the best time for you and your family to attend!

