

Amidst the beautiful readings at the Christmas Masses is a reading from a small New Testament letter from Saint Paul to his protégé, Titus, read at Midnight Mass. Saint Paul reminds Titus that God has given us a gift in the person of Jesus Christ. This gift represents God's active presence in our lives and in our world. This gift redeems us from evil and death. This gift purifies us as God's people. This is a gift that also comes with an expectation: that we receive it with thanksgiving, allow it to transform us into Christ's image; and from it, learn how to live a life "eager to do what is good." Take time the next few days to reflect on the marvelous gift we celebrate at Christmas, and how we might become better stewards of this gift.



Calendar of Events

December 26, 2016:

Parish Office Closed

NO Monthly Mass and Healing Service

December 27, 2016:

Renacer en Cristo meeting 7:30 pm

December 30, 2016:

Parish Office Closed

December 31, 2016:

4pm Vigil Mass

January 1, 2017:

Masses: 7:30am, 9am & 11am

No Portuguese Mass on New Year's Day

January 2, 2017:

Parish Office Closed

January 3, 2017:

Parish School of Religion 6:30 pm

Renacer en Cristo 7:30 pm

January 7, 2017:

Preach My Psalter Adoration 5 - 6 am
Confession available during Adoration

Mass 6:15 am

Legion of Mary meeting 10:00 am

January 8, 2017:

The Epiphany of the Lord

Second Collection: Parish Improvement Fund

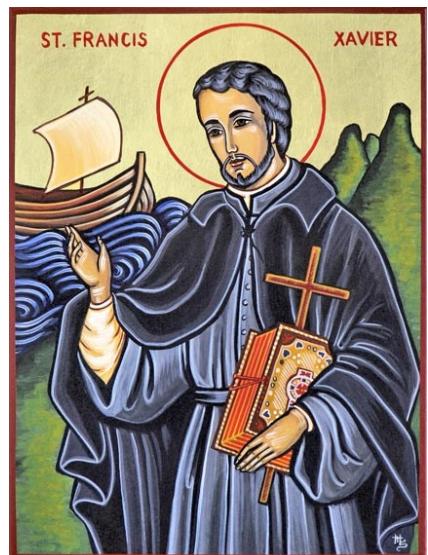


Saint Francis Xavier

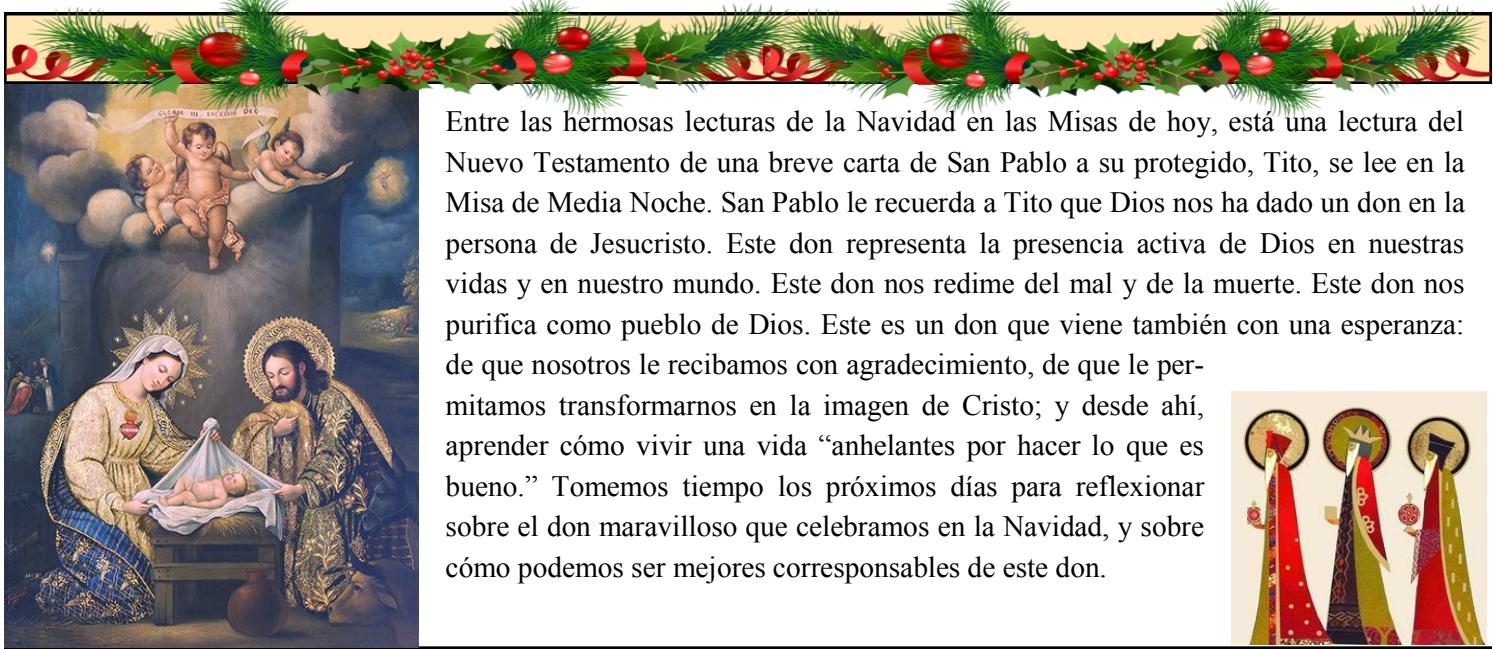
Francis Xavier was born in 1506 to an aristocratic Basque family near Navarre, Spain. At the age of 19, he went to study at the University of Paris, and by age 24, he was already a teacher of philosophy who had a promising aca-

demic career ahead of him. His life changed after he became acquainted with Ignatius Loyola, and along with Ignatius and others, he helped found the religious community, the Society of Jesus. He was ordained to the priesthood in Venice in 1537. As King John III of Portugal desired Jesuit missionaries for the Portuguese East Indies, Francis was ordered there in 1540. He landed at Goa, India, the capital of the then Portuguese colonies, on May 6, 1541. Francis had a passion for proclaiming the Gospel and he evangelized to such widely scattered people as Hindus, Malaysians and Japanese. His letters reveal him as a tireless and enthusiastic missionary. Wherever he went, he lived with the poorest of the population, sharing their food and modest accommodations. He also spent countless hours ministering to the sick, particularly those afflicted with leprosy. Francis ministered for more than two years in Japan and learned enough Japanese to preach in a simple style, administer the sacraments, and establish missions for missionaries who were to follow him. From Japan he had dreams of going to China, but this plan was never realized. He died on December 2, 1552, at age 46, on his way to mainland China. On December 11, 1553, Xavier's body was shipped to Goa and remains there still in the Basilica of Bom Jésus. He was canonized in 1622, at the same time as Ignatius Loyola. St. Francis

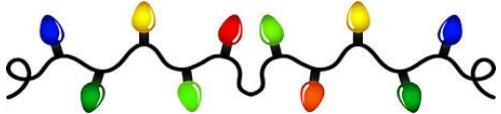
Xavier has been called the patron of Catholic missions, and has been considered to have converted more people to Christianity than anyone else since St. Paul. Though his apostolate in the Far East lasted barely ten years, his example has inspired an immense amount of missionary activity in the countries of the Asian continent. He is the patron saint of Australia, Borneo, China, East Indies, Goa, Japan and New Zealand.



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Entre las hermosas lecturas de la Navidad en las Misas de hoy, está una lectura del Nuevo Testamento de una breve carta de San Pablo a su protegido, Tito, se lee en la Misa de Media Noche. San Pablo le recuerda a Tito que Dios nos ha dado un don en la persona de Jesucristo. Este don representa la presencia activa de Dios en nuestras vidas y en nuestro mundo. Este don nos redime del mal y de la muerte. Este don nos purifica como pueblo de Dios. Este es un don que viene también con una esperanza: de que nosotros le recibamos con agradecimiento, de que le permitamos transformarnos en la imagen de Cristo; y desde ahí, aprender cómo vivir una vida “anhelantes por hacer lo que es bueno.” Tomemos tiempo los próximos días para reflexionar sobre el don maravilloso que celebramos en la Navidad, y sobre cómo podemos ser mejores corresponsables de este don.



San Francisco Javier

Francisco Javier nació el año de 1506 en una familia vasca aristocrática, cerca de Navarra, en España. A la edad de 19 años, fue a estudiar a la universidad de París, y a los 24 años, ya era maestro de filosofía, con una prometedora carrera académica para su futuro. Su vida cambió después de encontrarse con Ignacio de Loyola, y junto con Ignacio y otros, él ayudó a fundar la comunidad religiosa conocida como la Sociedad de Jesús. Fue ordenado al sacerdocio en la ciudad de Venecia en 1537. Cuando el

deseo del Rey Juan III de Portugal fue enviar misioneros a las Indias Orientales Portuguesas, Francisco recibió la orden de ir allá en 1540. Él llegó a Goa, India, la entonces capital de las colonias portuguesas, el 6 de mayo de 1541. Francisco proclamó el Evangelio con pasión, y evangelizó a una gran diversidad de gente y nacionalidades, como hindúes, malayos y japoneses. Sus cartas lo revelan como un misionero incansable y entusiasta. A todos los lugares que él fue, vivió con los más pobres de la población, compartiendo sus alimentos y sus modestos espacios para vivir. Invirtió también incontables horas en el ministerio del cuidado a los enfermos, particularmente a aquellos afligidos por la lepra. Francisco ejerció su ministerio en Japón durante más de dos años y aprendió suficiente el idioma japonés para predicar en un estilo sencillo, administrar los sacramentos, y establecer misiones para los misioneros que fueron a seguirlo. Él tuvo sueños de ir de Japón hacia China, pero su plan nunca se realizó. Murió el 2 de diciembre de 1552, a la edad de 46 años, en su camino a tierra firme en China. El 11 de diciembre, de 1553 el cuerpo de Javier fue embarcado a Goa y permanece ahí todavía, en la Basílica de Bom Jesus. Fue canonizado el año de 1622, al mismo tiempo que Ignacio de Loyola. San Francisco Javier ha sido

nombrado patrón de las misiones Católicas, y se ha considerado que



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convirtió al Cristianismo a más personas que cualquier otro misionero, después de San Pablo. A pesar de que su apostolado en el Lejano Oriente duró sólo diez años, su ejemplo ha inspirado una inmensa cantidad de actividad misionera en los países del continente asiático. Es el santo patrón de Australia, Borneo, China, Indias Orientales, Goa, Japón y Nueva Zelanda. Su fiesta se celebra el 3 de Diciembre.

Liturgy Intentions: December 24 to 30
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

SAT	Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79 Christmas Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
4:00	†Dr. Charles Wagner, †Josephine Wagner, †Dr. Joseph A. Failla, †Gloria D. McCornin †Junius Chauvin, †Pierre Nogues, Jr., †Newell Wambsgans, Veronica Wambsgans, †Troy A. Meilleur, †R.J. Henry, †Gerry Saunders, †Benji Vienne
Midnight	†Patricia Algeier
SUN	The Nativity of the Lord Night: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
7:30	The Parishioners of St. Anthony of Padua
9:00	†Eva Balbuena, †Manuel y †Addys Cardet, †Eva Couillard, †Elisa Corral, †Jaime Parellada
11:00	Anthony D'Alfonso, Brian J. D'Alfonso, Brad A. D'Alfonso, Austin A. D'Alfonso, Matthew A. D'Alfonso, Aubrey N. Ganus, †Wanda Balestra, †Tripp Marquez, †Sarah Champagne, †Felicie Basile, †Merlin "Muggsy" Beal, †Dalton Woolverton, †Keith, Aubert and Brotmeyer Family , †Lisa Forshag Comarda, †Valerie Thibodaux
MON	Saint Stephen, The First Martyr Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
	8:15 †Valerie Thibodaux
	12:10 NO 12:10 MASS TODAY
TUES	Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
	8:15 Gasper Schiro
	12:10 †The Souls in Purgatory
WED	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs 1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18
	8:15 †Patricia T. Fleury
	12:10 †Marie T. Blaum, †Benji Vienne
THUR	Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
	8:15 †Valerie Thibodaux
	12:10 †Curtis Coney
FRI	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
	8:15 †The Souls in Purgatory
	12:10 Becky N. McGoe

Liturgy Intentions: December 31 to January 6
Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

SAT	Saint Sylvester I, Pope 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18
4:00	†Dr. Charles Wagner, †Josephine Wagner, †Junius Chauvin, †Pierre Nogues, Jr., †Benji Vienne, †Logan Pfeifer, †Bryan Galindo
SUN	Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
7:30	The Parishioners of St. Anthony of Padua
9:00	De LaSalle Christian Bros. of San Francisco N.O. Dist., †Eva Couillard, †Jaime Parellada, †Gladys M. Gutierrez
11:00	Mercedes Veliz, Jeanne Sciortina, Bret Bari, †Sarah Champagne, †Valerie Thibodaux
MON	Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28
	8:15 Our Spiritually Adopted Babies
	12:10 NO 12:10 MASS TODAY
TUES	The Most Holy Name of Jesus 1 Jn 2:29—3:6; Jn 1:29-34
	8:15 †Patricia Algeier
	12:10 Staff of St. Anthony of Padua Parish
WED	Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious 1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42
	8:15 †Robert Drozdzewski
	12:10 Priest and Religious of the Archdiocese
THUR	Saint John Neumann, Bishop 1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51
	8:15 Faculty and Staff of Christian Bros. School
	12:10 †The Souls in Purgatory
FRI	Saint André Bessette, Religious 1 Jn 5:5-13; Mk 1:7-11
	8:15 Vic Hughes
	12:10 †Richard Ray
SAT	Saint Raymond of Peñafort 1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 2:1-11
SUN	The Epiphany of the Lord Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12



Are you interested in serving at one of our Masses?

Altar Servers

Mike Vance + 812-0318 + micvance@gmail.com

Eucharistic Ministers

Dawnell Anders + 488-2651 + church@sapparish.org

Lectors

Greg Ernst + 484-7435 + gregoryernst@cox.net

Ushers

Pat Johnson + 319-1091

Mass Schedule

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Saturday, December 31, 2016 - 4:00 pm Vigil Mass

Sunday, January 1, 2017 as follows:

7:30 am, 9:00 am (Spanish), and 11:00 am

Please note: NO 7:00 pm Portuguese Mass this day.



*May the blessing of the Christ-child be with you
this Christmas Season and throughout the new year!*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Eucharistic Adoration

You are invited to Eucharistic Adoration each Friday. Adoration begins after 8:15 Mass and ends with Benediction at 11:50 am. You can spend as much or as little time as you desire.

Please pray for the Priests of our Archdiocese						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 Rev. Joachim Viet Chau Nguyen SSS	26 Rev. John Baptist Han Vu	27 Rev. Ivan Dawson CSsR	28 Rev. Randy Roux	29 Rev. Zachary Dominguez LC	30 Rev. Peter Damian Harris OP	31 Rev. Gregory Heslip LC
Jan. 1 Pope Francis	2 Rev. Leo Cormier	3 Rev. Richard Burton	4 Rev. James Moran	5 All Bishops	6 Rev. Thomas Donohoe	7 Rev. Ronald Gomes

Prayer for Priests

Dear Lord,
We pray that the Blessed Mother will wrap her mantle of protection around Your priests and through her intercession may they be strengthened in their ministry.

We pray that Mary will guide Your priests, dear Lord, to follow her own words, "Do whatever He tells you". (John 2:5)

May Your priests have the heart of St. Joseph, Mary's most chaste spouse. May the Blessed Mother's own pierced heart inspire them to embrace all who suffer at the foot of the holy cross for the love of God the Father.

May Your priests be Holy, as you are holy, And through the power of the Holy Spirit, may they be filled with the fire of Your love seeking nothing but Your greater glory and the salvation of souls. Amen! St. John Vianney, pray for us!

St. Anthony of Padua ★ PRESCHOOL ★

Montessori Method

2-3 Year Olds

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2017-2018
504-488-8510



Bible Trivia

Mary gave birth to Jesus and wrapped him in "what" then laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.

(Hint: look in today's readings)

Last week's answer:

"God with us"

(See Matthew 1:18-24)

Spiritual Adoption Program

Our babies are due soon!

In honor of our *Spiritually Adopted Babies*, we are hosting a Baby Shower on the weekend of January 22, 2017. Proceeds will benefit the Woman's New Life Center and their mission to women who have chosen life for their babies.



Details coming soon!

Our Mission Statement

The mission of Saint Anthony of Padua Parish is to develop an atmosphere for the members of our Faith Community to live out the four-fold goals of the Catholic Church:

Worship, Word, Service, & Community.