

FRIDAY CRUSADER

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21 - 25, 2026

†

Rooted in Faith. Growing in Virtue. Striving for Excellence.

SFX PARENT HUB

QUICK LINKS | *EVERYTHING YOU NEED ALL IN ONE PLACE*

- CHURCH BULLETIN
- SCHOOL WEBSITE
- SCHOOL CALENDAR
- HOT LUNCH MENU
- FACTS PARENT PORTAL
- BUY A RAFFLE TICKET ONLINE



An important message from Father Peter:



St. Francis Xavier Parish

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(231) 348-2210 • Fax: (231) 347-4134
petoskeysfx.org • church@petoskeysfx.org

Dear Parents and Guardians of Saint Francis Xavier School,

I would like to share a brief reflection on the importance of our School Masses and the essential role they play in the mission and Catholic identity of Saint Francis Xavier Parish and School. Above all, I want us to keep the Eucharist at the heart of all that we do. The celebration of the Holy Mass is not simply another activity on the school calendar. It is at the very heart of who we are as a Catholic school and parish.

One of the greatest blessings of a Catholic school is that our children have the opportunity to encounter Jesus not only in the classroom, but also through prayer and, most especially, through the celebration of the Holy Mass. Our mission is not simply to educate our children intellectually, but also to help them grow in faith and in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Mass is at the heart of our mission. Our school exists as part of the Church's mission to form young people in faith, hope, and love and to help them become faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. When our students come to Mass, they listen to God's Word, pray together as a community, and encounter Christ in the Eucharist. They learn that Jesus is not simply someone they study in religion class. He is alive and present among us. Our children also learn by watching us. When they see their parents, grandparents, teachers, staff, priests, and parishioners participating reverently at Mass—praying, listening, singing, and approaching the Eucharist with reverence—they receive a lesson that cannot be taught from a textbook. Our example may be one of the most important lessons of faith we give our children.

This is why the partnership between home, school, and parish is so important. Parents are the first educators of their children in faith. The school supports that formation, while the parish provides the sacramental and spiritual life in which our children encounter Christ and grow as members of His Church. Together, we have the responsibility to help our children know, love, and follow Jesus.

Therefore, our School Masses matter. They matter deeply. They should not be viewed simply as another part of the school schedule, but as an opportunity to gather our children around Jesus, to pray with them, and to help them discover the joy of belonging to the Church. I encourage all of us—parents, grandparents, teachers, staff, students, and parishioners—to support our School Masses through our presence, prayer, and example. Parents, whenever your schedule permits, I especially encourage you to join your children at School Mass. Your presence communicates something powerful: the Eucharist matters to our family.

The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. May it always remain the source and summit of our parish and school life. Jesus is at the heart of our parish. Jesus is at the heart of our school. And Jesus must always remain at the heart of all that we do.

May our children come to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ more deeply through the gift of the Eucharist.

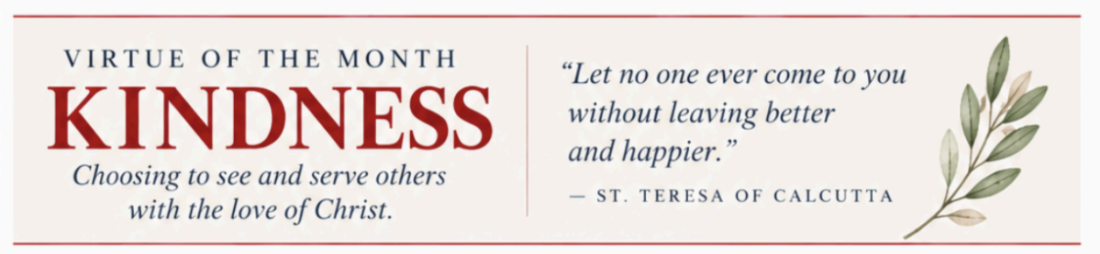
With prayers and gratitude,

Rev. Peter Eke

Fr. Peter Eke
Pastor



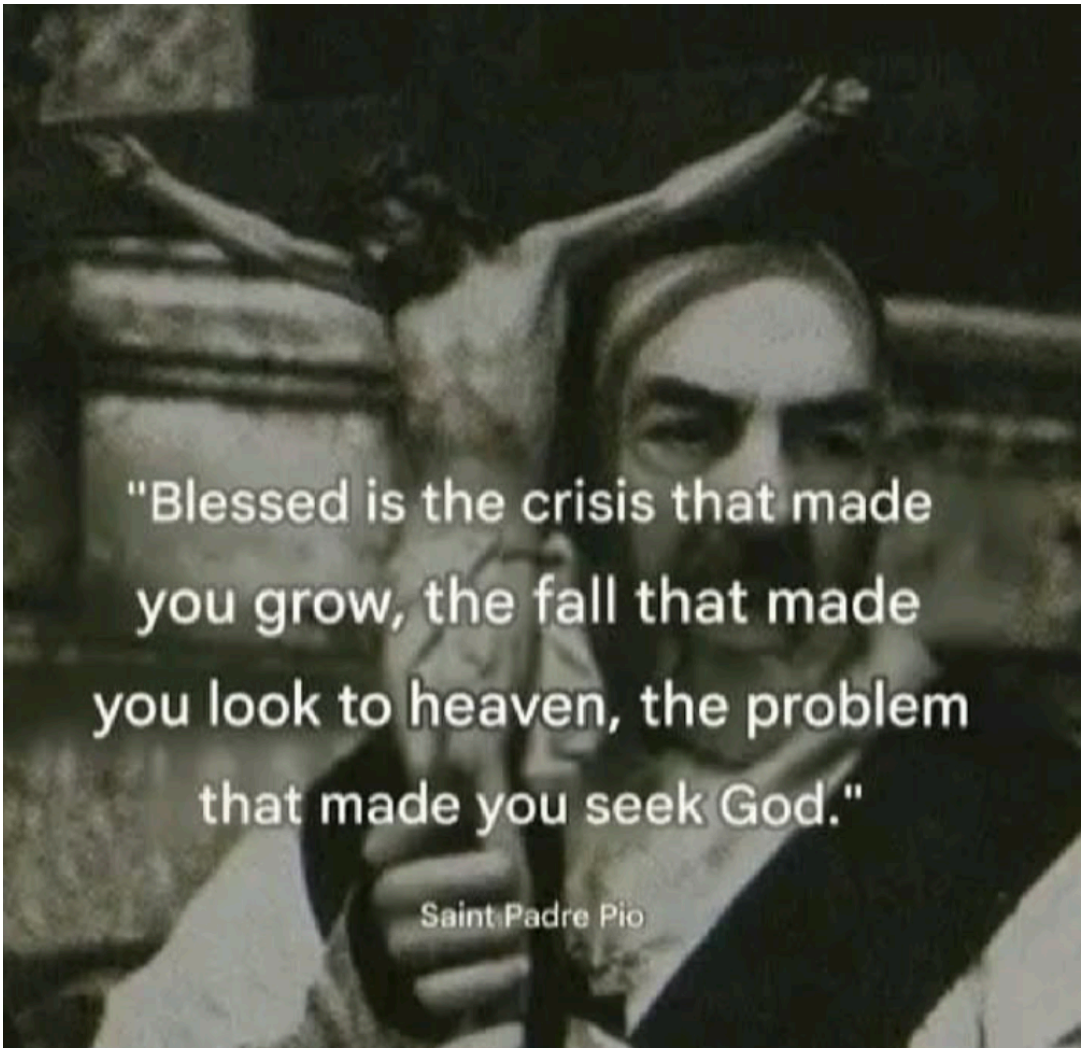
Everything we do at this school is made possible by our families, teachers, donors, parishioners, and this wonderful community. We can't thank you enough!

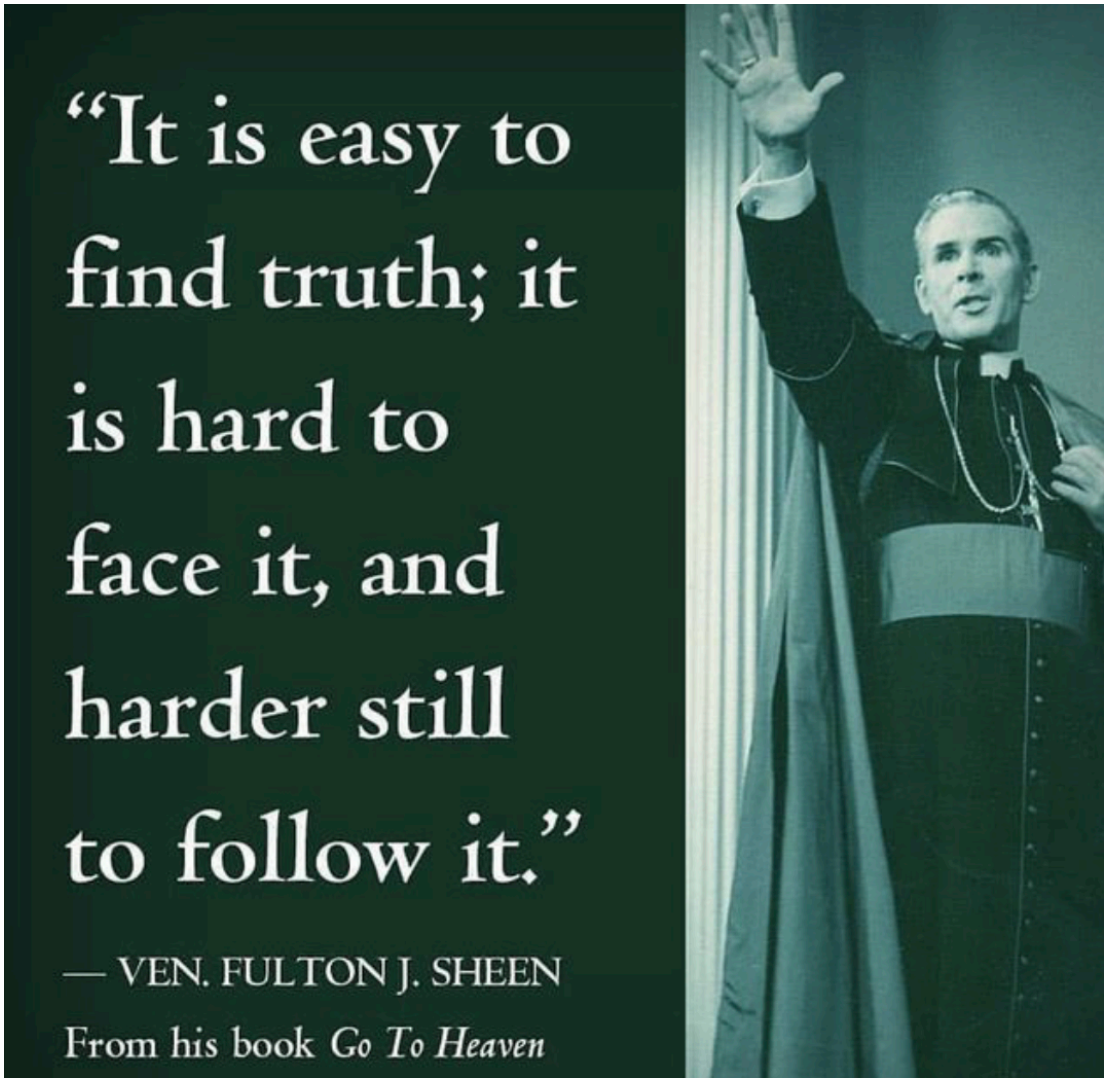




Wednesday's Mass: September 23rd is the Feast Day of St Padre Pio. His love for the Eucharist and Confession dictated his spiritual life. He is widely known for bearing the wounds of the Stigmata for over 50 years. Father Peter's message to the children: don't worry about making everyone happy....always do what Jesus would want you to do. Would you like to learn more about Padre Pio? Click here!

Friday's Mass: Father Roman of Holy Childhood celebrated mass with us today. He just returned from a pilgrimage in Europe and he described how beautiful it was to be in Medjugorje and celebrate mass with 7,000 people. Many different languages were spoken but there was one commonality: the Eucharist. He tied it in with the gospel when Jesus asks "Who do you say that I am?" Father Roman reminded the students that Jesus is all over the world and He is always there - in our sufferings and on our bad days. And, finally, he announced the beatification of Archbishop Fulton Shein on September 24th. Learn about his life by listening to this podcast - click here!


"Blessed is the crisis that made you grow, the fall that made you look to heaven, the problem that made you seek God."
Saint Padre Pio



PTO CORNER

Connect • Volunteer • Support

Many hands make a strong school community.

THANK YOU to all of the parents who showed up to our first PTO meeting on Monday. It was a productive meeting with lots of ideas. Were you unable to attend? **Click here** to read the Meeting Minutes from 9/21! Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 12th. **Would you like to check out the survey results? Click HERE!**

This year's Fall Fun Run on 10/9 supports the *heart* of our school: our students, staff, and teachers. Funds raised will help us provide extra classroom supplies, more field trips (and the buses to get there!), hands-on learning materials, enrichment experiences, and professional development for our amazing staff. Every dollar is overseen through a PTO review process, ensuring thoughtful, transparent use that benefits our entire school community.

SAVE THE DATE! Turkey Bingo has been scheduled for Friday, November 13th.

Check out all of the cool things going on with PTO - see below!

2026 FALL FUN RUN

Parents are encouraged to show up and cheer on our students on October 9th!

FUNDS RAISED WILL GO TOWARD:

- Providing extra classroom supplies
- Scheduling more field trips (and the buses to get there!)
- Providing hands-on learning materials
- Increasing enrichment experiences
- Offering professional development for our amazing staff



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR CRUSADERS!

CRUSADERS THEME FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9TH

DONATE to the Fall Fun Run - Click Here!

SCHOOL SPIRIT WEAR SALE

CLICK HERE
SHOP ONLINE



T-shirts, Hoodies, Crewnecks, Hats, More

Available in youth and adult size

Order by OCTOBER 1st

ALL FUNDS RAISED WILL GO TO CURRICULUM ENHANCEMENT AND TEACHER SUPPORT - ALL FUND DISPERSEMENT APPROVED BY PTO

CLICK HERE to buy Spirit Wear!



The PTO has booked a school wide Eagle program with the Michigan Avian Experience. We are excited for the students to see it. Would you like to learn more about the program? **Click here!**



PTO is excited to launch a **PTO Stock Closet** stocked with replacement supplies and resources to support our teachers, classrooms, and students. PTO has allocated $500 to get us started, and we're off to a great start!

SUPPORT SFX

Give • Serve • Strengthen

"If you have nothing to give, give yourself."
— Blessed Rosalie Rendu

The operation of our school is made possible by the generosity and involvement of our school families and surrounding community.

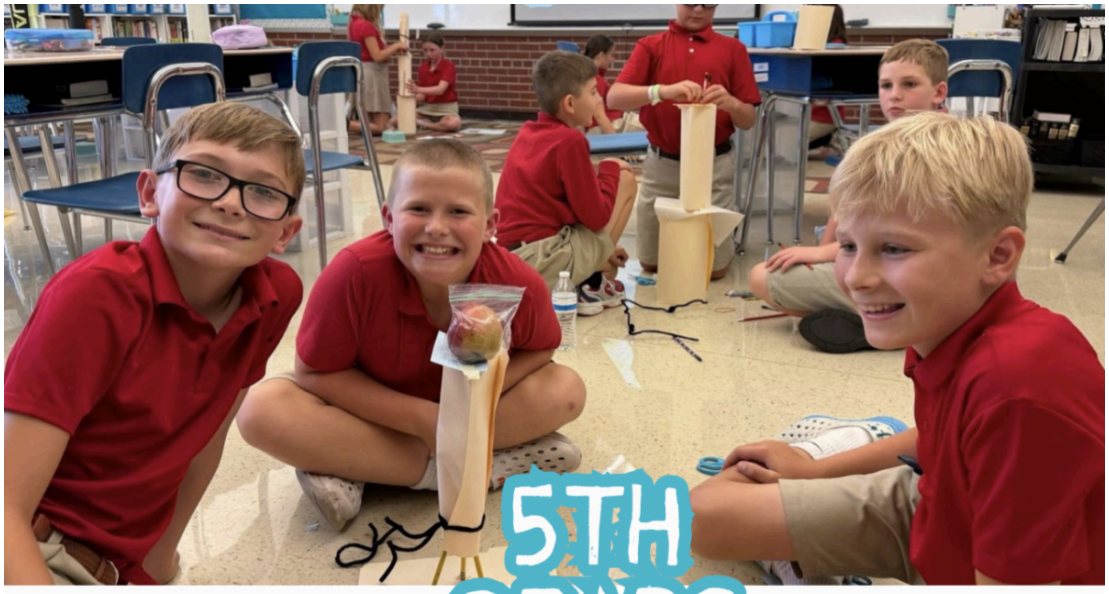
Our mandatory Parent Commitment Meeting has also been scheduled. This year, we are offering TWO dates to make attendance more convenient for our families. Simply choose the date that works best for you. We will be discussing school finances, fundraising, and volunteer opportunities, as well as ways each of us can play a part in supporting SFX. Our 2nd date has been updated - see below!

Parent Commitment Meeting - MANDATORY
September 29th at 3:30pm - SFX Assembly Room
October 8th at 7pm - SFX Assembly Room

Thank you for being an active part of our school community.

SFX BULLETIN BOARD

NEWS • EVENTS • OPPORTUNITIES


5TH
GRADE















CRUSADERS
MIDDLE SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL



The Crusaders volleyball team **came out victorious against Alpena All Saints!**

Next week, they will face tough competition with Rogers City - come cheer them on!

NEXT HOME GAME:
September 29th at 6:00 PM
against Rogers City

Go Crusaders!

LITTLE CRUSADERS
PRESCHOOL SPOTLIGHT



Our Little Crusaders had so much fun exploring apples and worms this week during center time!

Small Learners. Big Hearts.



GOLF Outing 2027

We have a great planning committee working on this -
we just need 3 more volunteers!
Contact the school office if you are interested in helping.

MAY 23, 2027

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PETOSKEY, MI

More Than a School. A Mission.
Forming the Next Generation of Crusaders.

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