

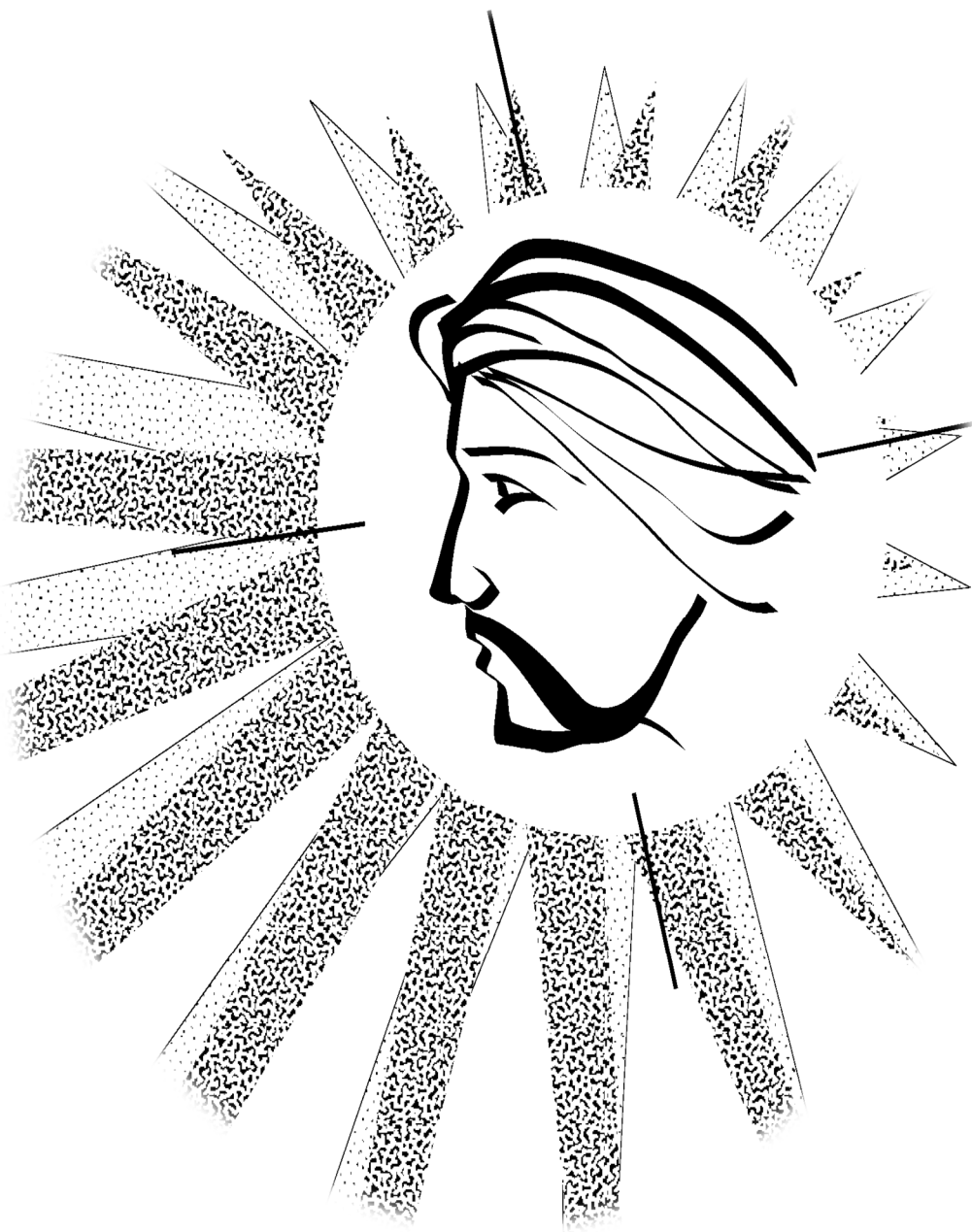
SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

2nd Sunday of Lent

February 25, 2018



**Challenged
on our
Lenten
Journey
we ask
ourselves,
What
Does it
mean
for us
to have
faith?
We go now
to love and
serve the Lord
and each other.**



Mass Intentions For The Week

Monday, February 26	7:45 am 9:00 am	Joe Shannon Steven Wendt	John & Marilyn Lux The Duelm Family
Tuesday, February 27	7:45 am 9:00 am	Bill Purcell, Jr. Keeley Johnson Andrew Kapp	The Bock Family Jerry & Nancy Johnson Mike & Kathy White
Wednesday, February 28	7:45 am 9:00 am	Victoria Fontana Douglas Peterson Mary & Joseph Potsch	The Freeman Family FSA Sunshine Committee Jim & Joan Potsch
Thursday, March 1	7:45 am 9:00 am	Word & Communion Service Mary Ellen Shannon	Noreen, Carol, Julie & Peg
Friday, March 2	7:45 am 9:00 am	Douglas Peterson Word & Communion Service	The Freeman Family
Saturday, March 3 Saint Katharine Drexel, Virgin	9:00 am 9:30 am 4:15 pm	Helen Tkachuk Steve Setzke Sacrament of Reconciliation Sacrament of Reconciliation	Family Tom & Alice Hanna

Please Pray For...

Vince Anzalone
Tony Banda
Keeley Barr
Barbara Bier
George Braasch
Larry Byrne
Louis Darovic
Diane Discipio
Blake Donegan
Fr. Dave Dowdle
Pat Eaton
William Egbert
Bill Elliott
Lily Fielding
Baby Collins Fitzpatrick
Betty Goff
Lilli Gregory
Wilson Gregory
Frank Grippo
Jim Harris
Patricia Hassler
Loretta Haxel
Linda Hillsman
Rose Ilo
Jane Jacobson
Mike Kelly
Benny Kilman
Jerry Kolman

Virginia Kottaridis
Ayanna Kucera
Judy Magielski
Molly Anne McKenna
Emmett Miller
Mike Morrison
Fr. Jim O'Connor
Jane O'Reilly
Ryan Patyk
Donna Pekarek
Carissa Pessetti
Nancy Phillip
James Pridmore
Baby Madison Raupp
Anna Rose
Marilyn Rutkowski
Matthew Schiek
Carol Smolen
Baby Greyson Stanley
Kate Frugoli Sullivan
Sharon Sullivan
Jerry Tazic
Marty Thuerk
Anne Titzer
Michael Ungari
Amanda Valerugo
Gregory Van Gorp
Vlasta Vicenik
Dawn Wilmsen

Prayers are requested for our relatives and friends who are sick. To add a name to the prayer list, please call the rectory at 708-352-0168.

Names of the sick are listed for two months in the bulletin. If there is a recurrence of illness, names can be listed again. Know that our parish prays daily for the sick and the dying.

Born Into Eternal Life



Please remember in your prayers,
those who have died,
as well as their families:

Marie Ann Barry

Wife of John and Mother of John, Ann Marie,
Barb, Catherine, Robert and the late Raymond

Payton Young

Family Friend of Amy Schaeffer

Barbara Schemmel Van Natta

Sister of Sr. Marlene Schemmel & June Laven

Mass Intentions

We have received some requests for Mass Intentions in 2019. The Mass Book for 2019 will be available as of March 1.

There are still dates and times available for Mass Intentions in 2018. Please contact the Rectory for availability.

Pastor's Notes

"If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Romans 8:31b

Two mountaintop experiences are set before us. In one, Abraham is about to sacrifice the son of the promise God made to him and Sara. On this mountaintop, he is willing to sacrifice his son if that be God's will. This story presents us with something impossible to consider. *How could God ask a father to sacrifice his son?* We cannot relate to Abraham's world, in which many religions considered human sacrifice a way to please the gods. For Abraham, it was not inconceivable that God would ask this of him. On the mountaintop, God responds to Abraham's willingness by praising Abraham's devotion and then clarifying that *God does not desire the sacrifice of human lives*. God asks only a willing heart that restores, rather than sacrifices, human life.

On another mountaintop, Peter, James, and John see Jesus transfigured and hear a voice proclaim Jesus as God's beloved Son. At the beginning of Mark's gospel, *God proclaims this to Jesus*. At the end of Mark's gospel, *a centurion proclaims this to all who have witnessed the death of Jesus on the Cross*. Here, in the center of Mark's gospel, *God begins to reveal that God will make a sacrifice for our sake that he would not allow Abraham to make*. God will allow humankind to crucify God's Son, so that in his death, we all will be saved. The disciples will not understand this until sometime after the resurrection. In time they will look back to this day, when God spoke to them of the depth of God's love and

willingness to destroy the power of death – whatever the cost to God. God, out of love for us, was willing to sacrifice more than God would ask of us. *If the God of love is for us, who can be against us* in any way we need fear?

This week we introduce **a revised policy for accepting Mass intentions**, effective this Thursday, March 1. We will limit the number of Masses for which we accept more than one intention to *two per week*. This is to comply with the policies of the Archdiocese and the universal Church. At the same time, *we will begin accepting intentions for Sunday Masses*, beginning on the weekend of April 7/8, 2018. We ask your patience and understanding as we transition to these new policies. All intentions that we already have accepted will be *honored without change*; and exceptions will be made for pastoral reasons. You can find more information elsewhere in this bulletin.

May our Lenten journey grace us with deeper trust in God, who is with us in times of joy as well as times of confusion, struggle, loss, and sadness. May our witness bring comfort and hope to others in a world so much in need of softer hearts and deeper love.

Peace,

J. Bill

Scripture Reflection

Reflection for the 2nd Sunday of Lent

Liturgy Planning Team #6

Susan Lindsay, Susan Nedza, Barbara Szulc,

Marie Ann Barry and Susan Martin

The call of the Lenten gospel is a call to be transformed into a more hopeful, faithful and loving people. We see Abraham's faith as an example. Can we respond "Here I am?" Can we allow our faith to grow? After all, in the second reading we are told "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Can we be faithful to the love God showers on us? God speaks to us as well as to Peter, James and John when God says "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Peter, James and John did listen: on the way down from the mountain, "questioning what rising from the dead meant." Do we listen? What does it mean to have faith? Do we contemplate the deep questions of our lives? How is the Lenten journey helping with that?

Lent 2018
Catholic Lenten Practices

Fasting and Abstinence

All Catholics 14 years of age and older follow the discipline of abstinence from all meat on Ash Wednesday and every Friday of Lent, including Good Friday.

All Catholics 18 years of age, but not yet 59 years of age, follow the discipline of fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. We eat only one full meal on a Fast Day and other smaller meals necessary to maintain strength and health.

Almsgiving

This traditional Lenten practice is associated with Fast and Abstinence. Money saved as a result of eating less or from “giving up” is given as alms to others who are hungry. CRS Rice Bowl or the St. Vincent de Paul Society are suggested charities for Lenten alms.

Prayer

During Lent all are called to renewal of our relationship with God through personal prayer. The community has opportunities for Lenten prayer as well:

Stations of the Cross

will be prayed at 8:20 am on Fridays

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Lenten Season of Repentance and Renewal is the most appropriate time for Catholics to confess sin and celebrate absolution.

Parish Reconciliation Service

Monday, March 19 at 7:00 pm

Individual Private Confession

Saturday morning—9:30 am

Saturday evening—4:15 pm

Private Prayer in church each day.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH
Holy Week Services 2018

Palm Sunday – March 25th

Masses at 5:00 pm Saturday
and Sunday at
7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am, 12:00 pm
and 6:00 pm

Wednesday – March 28th

Tenebrae - 7:00 pm
Church open until 9:00 pm

Holy Thursday – March 29th

Morning Prayer - 9:00 am
Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:00 pm
Church open until midnight

Good Friday – March 30th

Morning Prayer - 9:00 am
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion -
3:00 and 7:00 pm

Holy Saturday – March 31st

Morning Prayer - 9:00 am
Blessing of Easter
Food Baskets - 1:00 pm
Easter Vigil Mass - 8:00 pm
(No 5:00 pm Mass)

Easter Sunday – April 1st

Masses at 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am
and 12:00 pm - Church
Masses at 9:15 and 10:45 am – SFX
School Gym
(No 6:00 pm Mass)



REVISED PARISH MASS INTENTION POLICY

A long-standing Catholic practice has been to offer a Mass for the soul of someone who has died. Some also ask that a Mass be offered for a special intention, such as a birthday or wedding anniversary. Local policy recommends a \$10 donation, which the presider at that Mass receives as part of his income. If we accept additional intentions for any Mass, the additional donation is used to support parish ministries. Every parish is asked to accept multiple intentions for no more than two Masses each week.

We will begin accepting Mass intentions for 2019 on Thursday, March 1. To align parish policies with those of the Archdiocese, as of March 1, 2018 the parish office will accept new intention requests as follows.

- *We will accept intentions for Sunday Masses* as of the weekend of April 7-8. On a rotating basis, two Masses each weekend will be reserved as follows.
 - One Mass each weekend will be reserved for the "People of the Parish."
Per Archdiocesan policy, no other intentions will be accepted for this Mass.
 - One Mass each weekend will be reserved for "Multiple Intentions."
More than one intention will be accepted for this Mass.
- We will accept more than one intention for the *Monday 9:00 Mass each week*.
- We will accept only one intention for the remaining Sunday or weekday Masses.
- *We will honor all multiple Mass intentions that we already have accepted.*
- We will do our best to make *exceptions for special circumstances*, such as the anniversary of a death.

We appreciate your patience as the office staff transitions to these new procedures,

J. Bill

Lenten Stewardship of Treasure

**Think about Sunday as the first chance
to help someone this week.**

**Consider signing up for online offertory
giving for Sunday collections and/or
Easter donations to start your week
by supporting our many ministries.**

Easter Flower Donation

If you would like to donate to the Easter Flowers in Memory and/or Honor of a Loved One, please take an envelope that can be found at the entrances of the church. Place your donation into the envelope and write the name on the envelope. We will publish the names in the Easter Sunday and following bulletins.

Thank you for making our worship space prayerful and lovely for this liturgical season.

Lowering the Flag to Half Staff

A few parishioners asked over the weekend why the American flag flying from our flagpole at Ogden and Spring had not been lowered to half staff. We realized that the parish had no procedure for responding to such requests at the federal, state, or local level. We have registered with a notification system to inform us when such requests are made in the future. We will respond to these requests whenever the appropriate staff is available to lower the flag, and then raise it again at the end of the designated period. Thank you to those who asked, and to those who donate the flags that fly from our pole.



St. Francis Xavier Early Education Program

Preschool 3

Half day classes with three and five day options

PreK 4

Runs Monday through Friday with half day and full day options

Kindergarten

Runs Monday through Friday with half day and full day options



Our Preschool program combines cognitive and play-based philosophies. We believe purposeful play with experiential learning fully engages the child and develops a true love of learning. In addition, SFX focuses on actively living one's faith and providing an example of character to others in daily life. Our goal is to guide children in their journey to realizing their own personal gifts and learning to value the contribution of others.

Application deadline is March 1, 2018.
Before and After Care available!
Call our school at 708-352-2175 for more information.



Welcome Wednesdays at St. Francis Xavier School



We would like to invite you to attend our Welcome Wednesday admissions event and learn all about our programs and tour our school. Reservations are suggested, but not required.

2018 Welcome Wednesday date: May 16, 2018

Welcome Wednesday kicks off at 8:30 am at our East Campus with an informal presentation from our principal and an early education teacher, and ends with a school tour.

Our East Campus (Pre-school 3 – Kindergarten) at
21 North Catherine Avenue in LaGrange
morning begins at 8:30 am

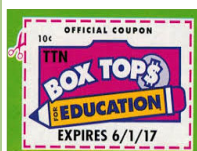
Families interested in enrolling a child in grades 1-7,
please call the school to arrange for a private tour
at your convenience.

To make reservations, schedule a private tour,
or request a shadow day for your child,
contact Jennifer Courier at 708-352-2175.

Open Enrollment began in mid-November.

Our early education classes reach capacity very quickly.

Contact Jennifer Courier jcourier@sfxlg.org to be placed on
distribution list for the application paperwork.



Box Tops For Education Collection

Please help in earning cash for our school. We would like your help in collecting Box Tops For Education. There is a drop box located at the back of church in the vestibule. Please place Box Tops that you have collected inside. Thank you for your help!

It's Flu and Cold Season!

As a reminder during cold and flu season, please remember to protect your health and that of others. Recommended steps include:

- * If you have a serious cold or the flu, please stay home on Sunday. You are not obligated to attend Sunday Mass if you are sick.
- * Be aware that others might not want to shake hands during the Sign of Peace or hold hands during the Our Father. They might be protecting YOU. Please don't attempt to force others to shake or hold hands against their will.
- * If you are not feeling up to par, but you are not sick enough to stay home, or if you are coughing or sneezing: please receive the Host in your hand, not on your tongue; refrain from receiving Communion from the cup; do not hold hands during the Our Father; do not shake hands or hug other people at the Sign of Peace – a smile and nod of the head with the words, "The Peace of the Lord be with you" will suffice. Although there is no evidence that germs are transmitted in this way, your fellow communicants might be reluctant to receive.

We show concern for our brothers and sisters in the community, especially the elderly and chronically ill, when we follow these simple guidelines to ensure a healthier winter for us all!



The St. Francis Xavier Day School is one of the many wonderful ministries within the St. Francis Xavier Parish. We are fortunate to have an active School Advisory Board that works throughout the year on behalf of our school and parish community.

The purpose of the School Advisory Board is to:

- Develop, formulate, and adopt policies which govern the operation of the School
- Review and advise on the annual budget and determine sources of funding for the School
- Provide counsel and advise on the operation of the School
- Participate in the school's development, student recruitment efforts, and long-range plans
- Assist in achieving the goals and objectives of the new St. Francis Xavier Elementary School Three-Year Strategic Plan
- Promote the School and support the School's public relations and marketing efforts

The Board currently consists of eleven members who each serve a three-year term. The School Advisory Board will be reviewing its structure in light of the new School Strategic Plan. Currently, board members are organized across five main areas of concern:

- Tenet 1: Inspire our students to do God's work
- Tenet 2: Offer an excellent academic experience
- Tenet 3: Provide a sustainable Catholic education
- Tenet 4: Engage the community
- Tenet 5: Create and maintain a physical space that inspires

Interested in Becoming an Advisory School Board Member?

***** FINAL APPLICATION DEADLINE 3/31/2018 *****

Interested in giving back to the children of SFX? The SFX School Advisory Board is accepting applications for a three-year term on the Board. Wonder what it takes or how the process works? Below are some common questions people have about becoming a board member.

Common Questions:

- Do you have to have experience on a board or had a job in education? NO, you do not have to have prior experience on a school board or experience in education to apply.
- How much time is this commitment? We meet once per month plus 1-2 supplementary meetings each month. Expect approximately about 6-10 hours per month.
- Do you have to have a child at the school to apply? NO, we encourage parent (guardian) of a Religious Education student, young adult parishioners and alumna/us of SFX. Candidates need not be parents.

To receive an application or for more information regarding the application process and timing, **any interested parishioner or school parent (guardian)** can contact School Board member Derrick Hesser at derrick.hesser@icloud.com, 847-650-4971 (cell), or 708-579-0608 (home).

The application and more detailed information about the Board can be found on the St. Francis Xavier School Web site <http://school.sfxlg.org/parents/school-board/>. We look forward to receiving your application!

SFX YOUTH MINISTRY WEBSITE:

www.youthministry.sfxlg.org

Young Women's Church League

Registration for the 2018 Young Women's Church League season is now available! Pick up a registration on the Youth Ministry section of the Parish website (www.sfxlg.org) or in the rectory. Registration form and fee are due Wednesday, March 14th. The Player/Parent/Coach meeting will also be Wednesday, March 14th at 7pm in **UNITY HALL**. Contact Olivia Hollman with questions.

YOUNG NEIGHBORS IN ACTION 2018

Blessed, Broken, and Shared



Summer Service Trip

We will be going to Detroit, MI through Young Neighbors in Action (YNIA) June 24-30. The cost of the trip is \$525 and covers meals, transportation, lodging, and supplies for the week. **THERE WILL BE FUNDRAISING DONE TO LOWER THIS COST!** For more information or to sign up, stop by the rectory, visit the Youth Ministry section of the Parish website (www.sfxlg.org) or contact Olivia Hollman at ohollman@sfxlg.org or 708-352-0168 x338.

Young Men's Church League

Looking to watch a Church League basketball game and support the young men of St. Francis Xavier? Check the Youth Ministry website for the schedule! Go to www.sfxlg.org then click on the "Youth Ministry" tab. There you will find a "Church League" section. Click on the "Men" tab.



We're on social media!

Did you know Youth Ministry has an official Facebook page? Search "St. Francis Xavier Youth Ministry" on Facebook. Make sure to like our page!

~ *Olivia Hollman*

Religious Education Important Dates & Class Dates

Sunday, February 25	Class
Wednesday, February 28	Class
Sunday, March 4	Class
Wednesday, March 7	Class
Sunday, March 11	Class
Wednesday, March 14	Class
Sunday, March 18	At Home Lesson
Wednesday, March 21	At Home Lesson

Important Dates

Grade 2 Eucharistic Prep Liturgy
Sunday, February 25 at 1:30 pm

Reconciliation During Class Time in Chapel
Grade 7

Sunday, February 25 and Wednesday, February 28

Grade 2

Sunday, March 4 and Wednesday, March 7

Grade 3

Sunday, March 11 and Wednesday, March 14

Fourth Grade Reconciliation (Four Services)

March 10 1:00 and 3:00 pm in Church

March 11 1:30 and 3:30 pm in Church

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Our Saturday evening 5:00 pm. Mass offers the opportunity for children in Grades Kindergarten—Fourth to experience hearing and reflecting on the Word of the Lord in a way that is an empowering experience. Children in these grades are invited to follow their Reflectors of the Word to a prayer space away from the gathered assembly to hear the Scriptures in words they can understand.

Children's Liturgy of the Word takes place in church whenever the children's choirs lead us in song/prayer. The Scriptures we hear will then be taken from the Children's Lectionary and the homily will be given in a way that children are able to relate to a little more readily. The children in Grades K thru 4 will go to their prayer space on the Saturdays that the choirs are not singing.

Here is the tentative schedule:

February 24—Choristers;

March 3—Cherub and March 24—Choristers

Children in Grades K-4 will be invited to join their Reflectors in a prayer space away from the adults and to hear The Word of The Lord in words they can better understand on the following Saturdays (subject to change): March 10 & 17; and April 7, 14, 21 & 28

You can call 708-352-0168 and direct your questions to:

Terri Simeoni, RE Coordinator or
Allen Sterwalt, Director of Music

SFX Parish Children's "First Communion" Choir



A special invitation goes out to all children in grades 1, and 3 – 8, who are not currently singing in a SFX Parish Children's Choir, to join for the upcoming First Communion Masses, which will be held on **Saturday, May 5 at 9:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.** Children are NOT required to sing at all three Masses.

Please pick up a registration packet from one of the tables located at each of the exits as you leave church or pick one up at the front desk of the Rectory office. Registration information will also be posted on our website at www.sfx-lg.org

IF YOUR CHILDREN ARE CURRENTLY SINGING IN ONE OF THE PARISH CHILDREN'S CHOIRS, THERE IS NO NEED TO RE-REGISTER. **Rehearsals will begin the week of March 19.** Please see below for the breakdown:

Cherub Choir (grades 1 and 3).....
Tuesdays: 3:45 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.
First Rehearsal: Tuesday, March 20

SF Choristers (grades 4 – 8).....
Thursdays: 3:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
First Rehearsal: Thursday, March 22

You can contact Allen Sterwalt, our Director of Liturgical Music with any questions at asterwalt@sfxlg.org or 708-352-0168.

A Call To Ministry

A new year with new challenges! What about that nagging feeling deep in your hearts? Is God calling you to be more fully a part of the ministries here at SFX? Have you thought that maybe you'd like to minister to those assembled as an extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion? As a Eucharistic Minister, you would be a sign and carrier of Eucharistic joy. Please consider His call to serve our parish in this way.

At SFX we are in need of ministers especially at the 10:30 am and Noon Masses. To discuss the possibility of becoming a member of this ministry please contact either David at d2rsherman@aol.com or George at grutkowski@aol.com.

Taizé Prayer

St. Francis Xavier
and
Grace Lutheran

*All are invited to our
Taizé Evening Prayer
Friday, March 9
7:30 pm at
St. Francis Xavier*



Taizé Prayer is contemplative and most importantly communal, combining simple repetitive melodies that are sung by all, prayerful silence, scripture reading and intercessory prayer. This prayer can promote a kind to inner unity of person, allowing the spirit to be more open and attentive to what is essential. It is our hope that you will join us, especially at this time when our world is much in need of prayer.

Why Buy Fair Trade Coffee??

The coffee sold at St. Francis Xavier is purchased from *Equal Exchange Fairly Traded*. There is a lot behind this coffee. "We work closely with our farmer partners, year after year, to better understand each other's needs. The result is a trusting relationship and delicious coffee."
Beth Ann Caspersen, Quality Control Manager

Fair Trade builds right relationships between buyers and sellers that are rooted in the principles of human dignity and solidarity.

Fair Trade:

- Respects human dignity
- Promotes the common good
- Advances economic justice
- Empowers disadvantaged people
- Connects us with the people who create the things we buy
- Cultivates global solidarity

The Catholic Relief Services Fair Trade Program creates opportunities for us to bring these core values of our faith to bear on the choices we make as consumers—choices that have the power to lift our brothers and sisters out of poverty.

Effort is made to see that these coffee farmers are given a fair wage!!!

Small Faith Groups – Lent 2018

It's Not Too Late to Join!

Join others to discuss faith in everyday life, based upon the reflections presented in the *Little Black Books* which are being distributed in church. Please register here, at www.sfxlg.org or by contacting Mary Sue McDonald (marysue.mcdonald@yahoo.com or 708-409-9595). As groups fill, participants will receive confirmation and details.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

Preferred Group Number: _____ Second Choice Group Number: _____

Grp #	Day/Time	Leader	Location	Dates
1	Sunday, 7:15 pm All Welcome	Rick & Donna Olund	Olund's Home in La Grange Park	Feb. 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25
2	Monday, 7 pm All Welcome	Maureen & Bill Windmoeller	God's Garage	Feb. 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26
3	Tuesday, 1:00 pm All Welcome	Mary Sue & Scott McDonald	McDonald home in Westchester	Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27
4	Tuesday, 7:30 pm Women's Group	Joan Stopka	Unity Hall (except 2/20 - M. Freeman's Office)	Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27
5	Tuesday, 8:30 pm All Welcome	Mary Beth Niziol	Church sacristy	Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27
6	Wed, 9:30-10:30 am All Welcome	Shared Leadership	Unity Hall	Feb. 14, 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21
7	Wed. 1:00 pm (except 2/14, noon) Women's Group	Martie Lukanich	Courtyard Room	Feb. 14, 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21
8	Wednesday, 7 pm All Welcome	Julie Hoover & Tim Hejna	God's Garage	Feb. 14, 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21
9	Thursday, 6:15-7:15 pm All Welcome	Barb Kalnes & Kate DeVries	Unity Hall	Feb. 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22
10	Moms/Dads & TOTS 9:30 am	Cathy Hernandez	East Rectory Mtg Room	Feb. 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28
11	Young Married Couples Grp (20s & 30s), 7:30 pm	Shared Leadership	TBA	TBA (possibly Tuesday evenings)
12	Saturday, 9:30 am All Welcome	Katie Stetz	Unity Hall (except 3/24 in Church Sacristy)	Feb. 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24



The Presentation of the Creed, the Rite of Election, and the Call to Continuing Conversion

This Sunday, Feb. 25, the participants in the RCIA Process will move closer to receiving their sacraments. For the St. Francis Xavier group, the celebration will begin at the 10:30 am Mass, when they will be presented our Creed. Next, after Godparents, sponsors, RCIA Team Members and the assembly affirm that the catechumens and candidates are prepared to be admitted to the sacraments of Christian initiation, each will, as the rite states, come forward and inscribe their names in the Book of the Elect.

Then, after being dismissed from Mass to *Break Open the Word*, we will travel to St. John of the Cross (SJC) parish, and connect with others in our joint process. Candidates from SJC will celebrate at their 10:45 am Mass, and sign their Book of the Elect. St. John of the Cross is hosting Sunday brunch for the group at noon. From there, all will travel to our Mother Church, Holy Name Cathedral, where all our catechumens and candidates will be presented to Bishop Manz.

Please continue to pray for all who are being welcomed fully into the communities of St. Francis Xavier and St. John of the Cross, and all who are joining the Catholic Church.



St. Francis Xavier Church will be hosting a Confirmation program for any Adult Catholics who have received Holy Communion, but for whatever reason, did not receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Sessions will be held on Monday nights, February 26, March 5, March 12, March 19, April 9, in Unity Hall. Sessions will go from 7:30–9:00 pm, with the exception of March 19, when we will gather at 6:45 pm, attend the Parish Reconciliation Service, and continue until 9:00 pm. Please also plan to be with us Friday, April 20, from 7:00-8:30 pm in Church with your sponsor (if possible) for rehearsal. The celebration of Confirmation will take place in St. Francis Xavier Church on Saturday, April 21, beginning at 10:00 am.

Registration is necessary. Details and the registration form can be found on the parish website: www.sfxlg.org (and click Parish, then Sacramental Preparation, then Confirmation), or contact Kate DeVries at kdevries@sfxlg.org or 708-352-0168.

JOIN A SMALL FAITH GROUP THIS LENT

Do you want to dive more deeply into your Lenten experience this year? Are you seeking opportunities for relaxed-yet-focused conversation about faith and finding God in a quick-paced, complex world? If so, **St. Francis Xavier Parish invites you to participate in Small Faith Groups**, a faith enrichment program that meets weekly throughout the Lenten Season.

All are welcome! Join as a newcomer, seasoned parishioner, or returning Catholic. Gathering dates and times vary in order to make Small Faith Groups available to most everyone. Please refer to the church bulletin or visit the St. Francis Xavier parish website for options.

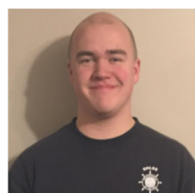
Group discussions center on the weekly spiritual readings, their meaning, and the inspiration they provide. Participants share reflections and learn more about Catholic traditions. *Little Black Books* are provided free-of-charge at all church entrances; the daily readings and information about the Catholic tradition facilitate faith sharing and spiritual growth.

Make this a part of your Lenten promise. Some groups continue to meet throughout the year. The level of involvement is entirely up to you. Give yourself the gift of Small Faith Groups to enhance your Lenten experience.

The Little Black Books are Back!



Whether you are able to join a Small Faith Group or not, please consider praying through the Little Black Book. The book presents a brief daily meditation, along with some interesting element of the Catholic faith. Books will be distributed in church on Ash Wednesday and the following weekend, and available at the parish rectory.



Welcome, Neil, into the RCIA Process!

Please join us in welcoming Neil Donegan into RCIA – the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Neil is moving toward receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil on March 31.

“I grew up in Brookfield, and currently call North Riverside home. I recently turned 23. I am an Able seaman and a member of the Seafarers International Union. I was not raised with any religion, but I am very excited for the opportunity offered by St. Francis Xavier and RCIA. I look forward to joining the community at St. Francis Xavier, and to becoming a part of the Catholic Church.” – *Neil Donegan*

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Office of Human Dignity & Solidarity-Immigration Ministry



"I encourage all the faithful to share the Lenten Campaigns promoted by many Churches...favor the culture of encounter in our one human family. Let us pray for one another so that, by sharing in the victory of Christ, we may open our doors to the weak and poor." -Pope Francis

The fate of nearly 1.8 million Dreamers remains uncertain as Congress has yet to reach a bipartisan deal to protect these youth. Unfortunately, every day that passes without a solution is a day where DACA youth fall out of status and lose their ability to go to school, serve in the military, and work legally.

ACTION: As we begin the Lenten Journey this month, we ask you to join us in prayer, fasting and action by urging your lawmakers to work together for an immediate solution for Dreamers.

Visit the USCCB website:
www.JusticeforImmigrants.org

For additional ways to advocate for immigrants and refugees this Lent visit:
www.CatholicsAndImmigrants.org

First Annual Magdalene House Chicago Benefit Concert

Come gather for music, conversation and celebration! Magdalene House Chicago, Inc. warmly invites the congregation of St. Francis Xavier to join us for All Our Voices: 1st Annual Benefit Concert, featuring award-winning singer-songwriter, Bobby Joe Valentine. The concert will take place March 9th at 8:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church of Oak Park. All proceeds will support MHC's work to build a safe home for women survivors of sex trafficking in Chicago.

For tickets, go to:
www.magdalenehousechicago.org/events
or call 516-384-1169.

Our team will also be speaking at Emmanuel Episcopal Church as part of their Lenten series. The date is Monday, February 26th at 7:00 pm at 203 South Kensington Avenue in LaGrange. Please feel free to join us!



15th Annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Thursday, March 8
6:30-9:30 pm
FitzGerald's
6615 Roosevelt Road in Berwyn

Reservations are \$60 each by March 5; \$65 after March 5 or at the door. Includes outstanding hearty Irish fare, beer, wine, and pop.

Featuring entertainment by The Shannon Rovers, The McNulty Irish Dancers, and the Irish Musicians Association-Chicago, a Silent Auction and a Grand Raffle with prizes including a Microsoft Surface Pro 4, an iPad Pro, and an iPad!

This celebration benefits the New Hope Housing Program, making permanent housing and self-sufficiency a reality for homeless families.

For more information contact Esmeralda Zepeda at 708-329-4022 or ezepeda@catholiccharities.net.

Register online at www.catholiccharities.net/stpats.

This Lent, Journey with



Solidarity Bridge, together with our Bolivian partners and US supporters, responds to the need for accessible lifesaving surgery and medical care for families with scant resources in Bolivia.

Will you join us in prayer, fasting and almsgiving throughout this holy season? **Sign up for our weekly reflections throughout Lent** and grow in the conviction that we are one human family.

www.solidaritybridge.org/lent

God of all people,

Your compassion invites us to be transformed.

Your love calls us to be one human family.

May our journey this Lent be a time of renewal and growth, so that with changed hearts, we might heal and transform your world.

Amen.



**Crispina and Her Sisters:
Women and Authority in
Early Christianity**~Saturday,
March 3 from 9:30 am–Noon.

Join author Christine Schenk, CSJ as she takes us on a journey through women's history in the first four centuries of Christianity. Exploring visual imagery found in tombs of prominent early Christian women, a fascinating picture of women's authority in the early church emerges. Free to parishioners of co-sponsoring parish SFX.

Untying the Knots-Polarization in America~Saturday, March 24 from 9:00 am–12:30 pm. Licensed Clinical Social Worker Mike McGillicuddy is convinced that there is an accelerating crisis of polarization in American society. In this interactive workshop, Mike will invite participants to step outside their comfort zones and explore the worldviews of others with curiosity and humility, while refraining from persuasion and judgement. Free to parishioners of co-sponsoring parish SFX. Prior registration greatly appreciated.

Discover Your Core of Love: Awaken the Larger Love That Wants to Free You! Wednesdays, April 11, 18; May 2, 16, 30; June 13, 27; and July 11 from 1:00-3:00 pm. The deepest, truest part of who we are is LOVE: yet often this identity eludes us. Come and discover the unconscious patterns expressed through our way of being that are obstacles to love, in this 8 week workshop facilitated by Carol Cummins and The Well's Bridget Sperduto. Participants will learn about and practice a unique process to free us from these old patterns. Cost: \$250 Pre-registration required.

The Well Spirituality Center, 1515 Ogden Avenue in LaGrange Park. To register: 708-482-5048 or thewell@csjoseph.org; www.csjthewell.org.

**The Comboni Mission Center
Announces the Departure of
Fr. Jose Manuel Garcia Oviedo**

Fr. Jose will be leaving the LaGrange Park location to move on to a new assignment with the Comboni Missionaries. He would like to thank everyone for the support and kindness he has been shown, during his seven year stay in America. Fr. Jose especially thanks the supporters, volunteers and friends of the LaGrange Park Comboni Mission Center.

Please join us, for a farewell Mass and reception:

Saturday, March 10th, 2018
Mary Queen of Heaven, 5300 24th Street in Cicero

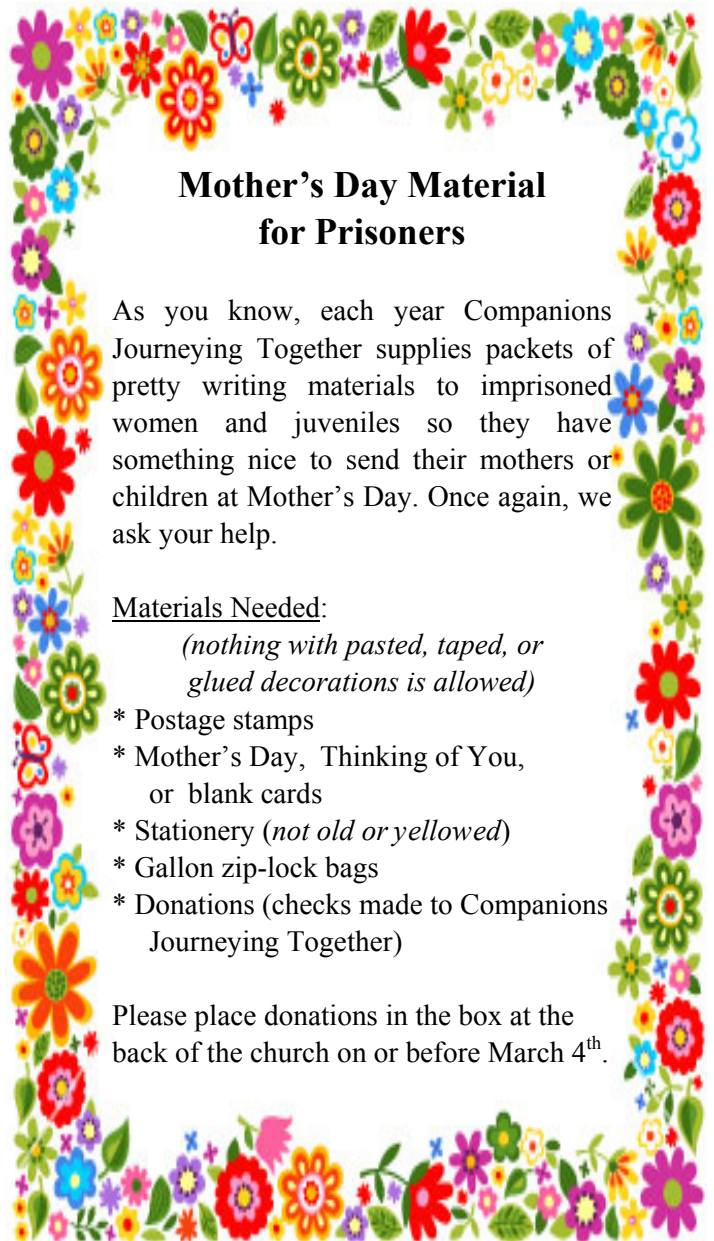
6:30 pm Mass and Reception to follow.

Interfaith Career Network

Quarterly Resume Review

Interfaith Career Network invites you to join us on Saturday, March 3 from 9:30-11:30 am. Come in for a helpful one-on-one conversation with a HR, or other search related professional for some ideas and suggestions that may enhance or refresh your resume. Looking for some helpful job search strategies? Need some coaching with your elevator speech? This is a great opportunity for you or someone you know in a job search. There is no charge for this service. Join us at St. John of the Cross Parish Center, 5000 South Wolf Road in Western Springs.

ICN offers job support through various programs throughout the month. For further information, please contact our website at www.interfaithcareernetwork.org.



Mother's Day Material for Prisoners

As you know, each year Companions Journeying Together supplies packets of pretty writing materials to imprisoned women and juveniles so they have something nice to send their mothers or children at Mother's Day. Once again, we ask your help.

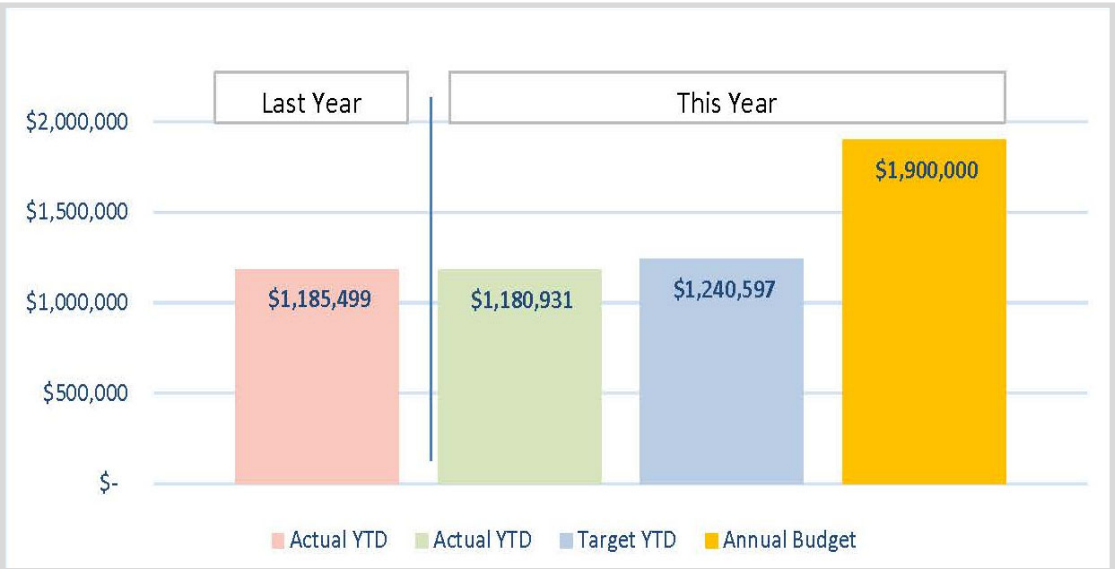
Materials Needed:

(nothing with pasted, taped, or glued decorations is allowed)

- * Postage stamps
- * Mother's Day, Thinking of You, or blank cards
- * Stationery *(not old or yellowed)*
- * Gallon zip-lock bags
- * Donations (checks made to Companions Journeying Together)

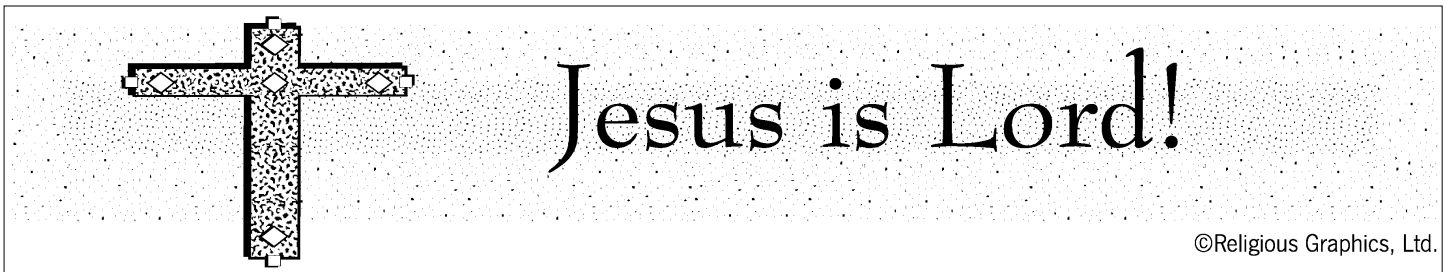
Please place donations in the box at the back of the church on or before March 4th.

Your Parish Finances as of February 18, 2018



Prior Month's Offerings:	<i>EFT/Credit Card</i>	+	<i>Basket</i>	=	<i>January Total</i>
January 2018	\$ 54,103		\$ 76,532		\$ 130,635
January 2017	\$ 42,548		\$ 87,642		\$ 130,190

God bless you for your generosity to St. Francis Xavier Parish!



SENIOR WOMEN'S GROUP

Dr. Kate DeVries
SFX Pastoral Associate
Presents

Lent, Liturgy and Everyday Life

Wednesday, March 7, 2018
9:30am Coffee
10:00am Presentation

St. Francis Xavier
124 N. Spring Avenue, La Grange
Unity Hall
Questions Call the Rectory 708-352-0168

Catholic Women's Club

All women of the parish are members of the Catholic Women's Club. If you would like to get involved or if you would like to receive monthly newsletters about our upcoming events via email, please contact Tiziana Lambert at tizianalambert@gmail.com.

SFX Men's Club

All men of the parish are welcome.
For further information, please contact:

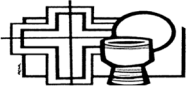
Matt Hubert at mthubert@gmail.com or
Joseph Enright at joseph_owen@hotmail.com.



Please Pray For...all those Serving Overseas in the Military including:

- **Sgt. David Phillips**—brother of Rebecca Casiple
- **Commander Robert O'Donnell**—son of Agnes O'Donnell
- **Staff Sgt. Bryan Pickens, U.S. Army Airborne Ranger 1-75th Ranger Battalion RGR REGT**—
son of Rob & Bernadette Pickens and brother of Robert & Gabriel
- **Lt. Christopher Ocasio, U.S. Army**—friend of the Berger Family
- **Staff Sgt. Rhonda Russell, USAF**—daughter of Deidre & John Russell and granddaughter of Mary F. Russell
- **Ensign Jonathan Devitt Brown**—nephew of the Devitt Family
- **LCPL Gregory Allen, USMC**—nephew of Barbara Triggs & Anthony Anscombe
- **Kevin Peterson, U.S. Army Infantry, Major Marcos Melendez, USMC and Major Michelle Melendez, USMC**—
son, nephew and niece of Jon Peterson
- **Sgt. Nolan Kemna, USMC**—nephew of John & Linda Hill
- **Capt. Maura Hoffman & Capt. Christopher Hoffman**—niece and nephew of Margie & Steve Hull and
cousins of Kate, Janie & Caroline Hull
- **Phil Lukanich, U.S. Navy & Lt. M. Ryan Lukanich, U.S. Army**—husband and brother-in-law of Joanna and
sons of Mark & Martie Lukanich
- **Master Sgt. Andrew Lang**—son of Marge & Ray Lang
- **Scott Conway, U.S. Navy**—nephew of Robert Dunne & Mark Conway
- **Staff Sgt. Scott Blunk**—husband of Brianne and son-in-law of Maureen Becker
- **Lt. Daniel McGue**—grandson of Jack & Sue Ryan
- **Lt. Col. Jeremy Hutchins, USAF**—brother-in-law of Valerie & Michael Schierl
- **Commander Brian Riegler, U.S. Navy**—husband of Elizabeth and father of Kaylee, Mackenzie, Grace & Liam
- **Capt. Colt Marcyan, USMC**—nephew of Noel Cusack
- **Capt. Trent McMullen, USAF**—son-in-law of Tom & Maureen Hunt
- **Private William Baker, U.S. Army**—son of Meg & Barry Baker
- **Private Jerry Delgado, U.S. Army**—friend of Liz Wilk
- **Spec Timothy Lucas U.S. Army**—grandson of Marian, nephew of Rosemary and Sr. Kathleen Lucas,
and Kate & Beau Medlock
- **Deanna Ciaccia, U.S. Navy**—daughter of Julia & Anthony Ciaccia and granddaughter of Harold Held
- **Chris Johnson, USCG**—nephew of Judi Kudlacz and grandson of Jerry & Nancy Johnson
- **Michael Rodden, USAF & Christopher Osterhaus, USMC**—son and nephew of John & Vicki Rodden
- **Dominic James Greco, U.S. Navy**—nephew of Rita Pantoni
- **Robert Weiler, U.S. Navy**—brother of Rebecca Dionisio
- **Joseph Somers, U.S. Navy**—nephew of Maureen & Nick Burriesci
- **Major Meghan Cumpston, U.S. Army**—cousin of Lauren Schultz

**Please inform us of those serving in the Military Overseas...
and please let us know when friends and loved ones
return from their deployment Overseas.
Email the bulletineditor@sfxlg.org.**



Liturgical Ministers' Schedule—March 3-4, 2018

Mass Time	Presider	Lectors/ Commentators	Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers	Cantors	Greeters
5:00 PM	Fr. Tkachuk	Children's Liturgy A. Mulcahy W. Foster	L. Bannach M. Becker J. Denson A. Fekrat M. Milligan D. Mulvenna A. Saladino P. Saladino Not Filled	C. Narbutis A. Dillon T. Dudek	TBA	M. Becker
7:30 AM	Fr. Tkachuk	M. Hermesdorf T. Nichol D. Walsh	N. Kalkowski K. McInerney J. Morsch P. Olson S. Zavala	C. DelGiudice C. Stetz K. Smith	TBA	J. Morsch T. Morsch
9:00 AM	Fr. Ilo	A. Stowe M. Quigley C. Michel	M. Branecki V. Bracht J. Cogelja C. Froemel E. Froemel A. Gargano L. Hill M. Hull M. Lukanich	N. Gannon M. Hayford B. mcGovern	Gallery Choir	G. Nalumansi
10:30 AM	Fr. Killeen	S. Madell T. Hill E. Anderson	M. P. Flaherty M. Joscelyn O. Lastres S. Martin P. McGinnis J. Nowak L. Ovník K. Parisi G. Rutkowski	C. Holmes A. Holmes C. Gonzalez	Celebration Ensemble	M. Joscelyn
12:00 PM	Fr. Tkachuk	C. Anderson C. Pietrzak J. Clark	A. Chimento L. Donegan B. Edelmann A. Gatsos K. Johnson	T. Duffy N. Havenaar A. McCarty	TBA	D. Foss
6:00 PM	Fr. Killeen	A. Conneely J. Gatsos	B. Metzger M. K. Kelly M. Cooley M. Cooley M. K. Gannon		Spirit Choir	



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Readings For The Week of February 25, 2018

Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-10/Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Next Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25

St. Francis Xavier Personnel

Pastoral Ministry

Pastor
Associate Pastor
Deacon
Pastoral Associate
Weekend Sacramental Ministers
Weekend Sacramental Ministers

Rev. William Tkachuk
Rev. William Killeen
Mr. Andrew Allison
Dr. Kate DeVries
Rev. Stan Ilo
Rev. Keith Muccino, S.J.

wtkachuk@sfxlg.org
bkilleen@sfxlg.org
aallison@sfxlg.org
kdevries@sfxlg.org

Education Ministry

Day School Principal
Assistant Principal
Assistant to Day School Principal
Day School Secretary (Main Campus)
Day School Secretary (East Campus)
Coordinator (East Campus)
Advancement Director
Tuition Accounts
Religious Education Coordinator/Sacrament Prep
Religious Education Office Staff
Religious Education Office Staff

Mrs. Sharon Garcia
Mrs. Janice Carr
Mrs. Mary Hoffman
Mrs. Peggy Evans
Mrs. Kathie Kinahan
Mrs. Margaret Houston
Mrs. Jennifer Courier
Mrs. Jennifer Zeisloft
Ms. Terri Simeoni
Mrs. Cindy Johnson
Mrs. Lucile Nichol

sgarcia@sfxlg.org
jcarr@sfxlg.org
mhoffman@sfxlg.org
pevans@sfxlg.org
kkinahan@sfxlg.org
mhouston@sfxlg.org
jcourier@sfxlg.org
jzeisloft@sfxlg.org
tsimeoni@sfxlg.org
cjohnson@sfxlg.org
lnichol@sfxlg.org

Youth Ministry

Coordinator

Ms. Olivia Hollman

ohollman@sfxlg.org

Music Ministry

Director

Mr. Allen Sterwalt

asterwalt@sfxlg.org

Parish Office Staff

Business Manager
Parish Accountant
Pastor's Secretary
Parish Secretary
Staff Secretary

Mrs. Jennifer Zeisloft
Mrs. Jane Bandyk
Mrs. Maureen Pipal
Mrs. Melissa Westerhoff
Ms. Debra Soulje

jzeisloft@sfxlg.org
jbandyk@sfxlg.org
mpipal@sfxlg.org
mwesterhoff@sfxlg.org
dsoulje@sfxlg.org

Food Pantry/Community Outreach

Coordinator

Mrs. Mary Freeman

mfreeman@sfxlg.org

Contact Information

Parish Office 124 N. Spring708-352-0168
St. Francis Xavier Day School708-352-2175
School of Religious Education708-352-4555
S.P.R.E.D. (Special Religious Education)708-352-0168
Fax Number708-352-4904
e-Mailsfxinlg@sfxlg.org
Main Day School e-Mail.....sfxmain@sfxlg.org
Main Religious Education e-Mail.....sfxreligious@sfxlg.org
Parish Web Sitewww.sfxlg.org

Rectory Hours

Monday-Friday.....8:30 am-8:30 pm
Saturday.....9:00 am-5:00 pm
Sunday.....9:00 am-2:00 pm

Sabbath Liturgy

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am, 12:00 Noon and
(6:00 pm September until first weekend of May)

Holy Days of Obligation as scheduled in bulletin.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday morning.....After 9:00 am Mass
Saturday afternoon.....4:15 pm
The Reconciliation room is located off the walkway behind the
tabernacle prayer area.

Liturgy Schedule

Monday through Wednesday7:45 and 9:00 am
Thursday.....9:00 am
Friday.....7:45 am
Saturday.....9:00 am

Word Communion Services

Thursday.....7:45 am
Friday.....9:00 am

Bulletin Deadline

The deadline for submitting all bulletin articles is 9:00 am on the
Monday preceding the Sunday of publication. If a holiday falls on
a Monday, articles are due by 12:00 Noon on the previous
Thursday. All articles must be emailed to the
bulletineditor@sfxlg.org.

Domestic Violence Resources

Family Shelter Services—24 hr. counseling 630-469-5650
LaGrange Police Emergency Assistance 911 or 708-579-2354

Food Pantry

The St. Francis Food Pantry is open every Tuesday from 9:30 to
11:00 am. The pantry serves clients who live in the 60525 and
60526 zip codes.

Home or Hospital Visitation & Communion Calls

If you would like a priest or Minister of Care to visit, please
contact the Parish Office directly. In the case of hospitalization,
specifically request that the hospital contact the parish. Hospitals
do not routinely inform churches of admissions due to Privacy
Laws.

Infant Baptisms

Please call the Parish Office for scheduled 1:30 pm Sunday Baptismal
dates. Baptism Preparation Classes: 4th Thursday of every month at
7:30 pm. We encourage participation in this program before the baby's
birth or adoption.

Marriage

Please call the rectory office at the time of your engagement to
schedule your wedding. We ask that you are a registered parishioner
for 6 months before requesting your wedding date. Saturday wedding
times are 1:00 and 3:00 pm. Rehearsals are usually scheduled on
Friday evening. We do not schedule weddings during Lent.

Parish Counselor

All counseling services are confidential, respectful, understanding, and
take place in a safe environment. Counseling and psychotherapy
services are available for individuals, couples, and families
experiencing difficulty with anxiety, depression, grief, relationship
conflicts, work stress or job loss problems, or feelings of being
overwhelmed. For further information or to make an appointment, call
our parish counselor, Nancy Kennedy, 773-643-6259 ext. 31 at the
Claret Center or email nkennedy4@luc.edu.

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