

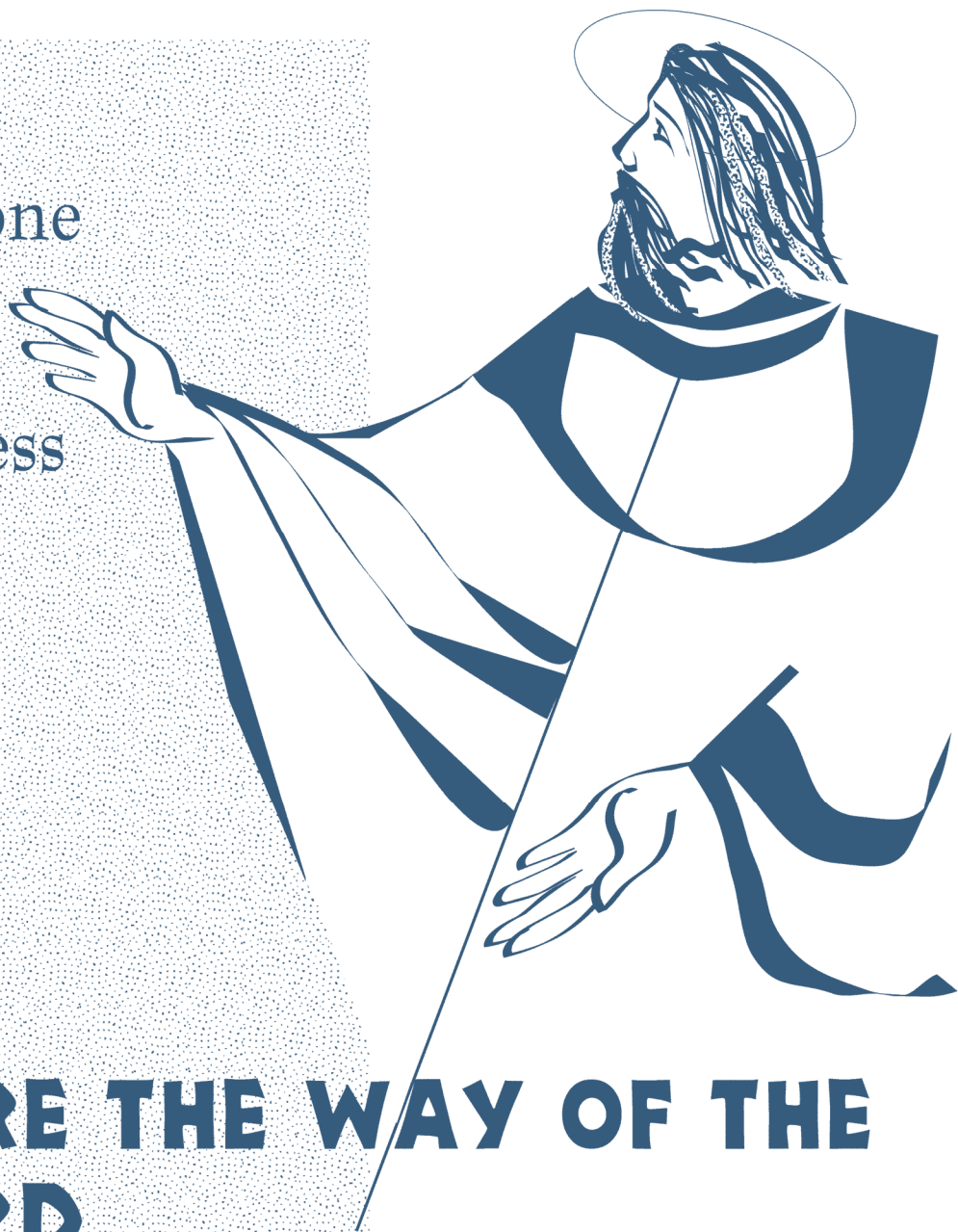
SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017



A voice of one
crying in
the wilderness



**PREPARE THE WAY OF THE
LORD**

**MAKE STRAIGHT
HIS PATHS**

Mass Intentions For The Week

Monday, December 11 Saint Damasus I, Pope	7:45 am Joseph Brodner 9:00 am Virginia Hirsch 7:00 pm Parish Advent Reconciliation	Pam Oplawski The Wielgos Family
Tuesday, December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe	7:45 am Michael Bannach 9:00 am Joe Shannon Jim Ruth	Bill & Karen McLaughlin Nancy Cummings
Wednesday, December 13 Saint Lucy, Virgin & Martyr	7:45 am Paul Lucas 9:00 am Jack Shaver Rosemary Sherman	Marian Lucas Meg Miles Dolores Lewis
Thursday, December 14 Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church	7:45 am Word & Communion Service 9:00 am Joseph Salvatore & Jerry Frustaci Claire Griffin	The Frustaci Family The Michael Griffin Family
Friday, December 15	7:45 am Helen Nigida 9:00 am Word & Communion Service	Jeff & Shirley Augustyn
Saturday, December 16	9:00 am Michael Bannach Marlene Hauch 9:30 am Sacrament of Reconciliation 4:15 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation	The Bannach Family The Morgan Family

Please Pray For...

Ryne Baird
Tony Banda
Keeley Barr
Carol Domecki
Blake Donegan
Fr. Dave Dowdle
Pat Eaton
Bill Elliott
Lily Fielding
Baby Collins Fitzpatrick
Lilli Gregory
Wilson Gregory
Frank Grippo
Patricia Hassler
Linda Hillsman
Diane Hughes
Rose Ilo
Jane Jacobson
Mike Kelly
Benny Kilman
Jerry Kolman
Virginia Kottaridis

Molly Anne McKenna
Emmett Miller
Mike Morrison
Fr. Jim O'Connor
Leanne Oleson
Jane O'Reilly
Ryan Patyk
Donna Pekarek
Carissa Pessetti
James Pridmore
Baby Madison Raupp
Karen Reato
Anna Rose
Marilyn Rutkowski
Matthew Schiek
Greyson Edward Stanley
Kate Frugoli Sullivan
Jerry Tazic
Marty Thuerk
Anne Titzer
Michael Ungari
Amanda Valerugo
Gregory Van Gorp
Josita Witte

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.

Weddings



Marissa Mackenzie & Anthony Weihofen

One mightier than I is coming after me.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.



Pastor's Notes

"Comfort, give comfort to my people. Speak tenderly."
Isaiah 40:1, 2

Tuesday is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. It marks the last of four appearances of the Virgin Mary to Juan Diego, a poor man of mixed blood. Over several days, Mary appears to Juan Diego and asks him to announce to the bishop God's desire that a church be built on that spot. The bishop is skeptical, and Juan Diego is distracted by his care for a sick uncle; but Mary persists. On the fourth day, December 12th, Mary asks Juan Diego to gather the roses of many colors and varieties that have bloomed on the hillside into his tilma (cloak), and to bring these to the bishop as the sign that he has requested. When Juan Diego opens the tilma and the roses fall to the floor, the image of Mary as she appeared to Juan Diego is revealed. For 486 years, this tilma has been honored by the people of Mexico as a sign of God's love and mercy.

The image is of a style and of colors not known to artists in Europe or the Americas at the time. Although now under bullet-proof, light-protective glass, it has survived the elements, fire, physical attack, and the touch of thousands of believers. Most importantly, Mary's appearance (the style of her clothing, her

pregnancy, and the symbols on and around her) led the indigenous people to understand the Franciscan teachings about Jesus. A massive conversion of the indigenous people occurred in the months following her appearance; this prevented the genocide that the conquistadors were about to initiate with the blessing of the King of Spain. The *church* that Mary asked to be built indeed came into being. But not simply the structures that have been built over time on and around the hill of Tepeyac. More importantly, *church* was built in the Americas as God brought together the indigenous, Spanish, and mestizo (mixed blood) peoples. God's people in the Americas were to be a people of *many* races and languages and cultures. We would be challenged constantly to comfort all those most in need among us; to speak tenderly to those whose dignity might be challenged by the structures or attitudes of civil society. Mary called for the justice that is at the heart of the Advent call of the prophets.

May this Advent deepen our commitment to work for justice among all peoples.

Peace,

J. Bill

Scripture Reflection

Reflection for the Second Sunday of Advent Liturgy Planning Team #1

Marge Branecki, Jude Dumfeh, Maureen Lang, Ed & Michelle Mirecki, Lisa Durham Young

We can sometimes have a warped perception of God, that He is out to get us! That He is a fire and brimstone God, ready to pounce on us for all the wrongs we have done. Our sense of guilt keeps us even farther away from getting to know God for who He truly is. But we should see not only God's judgment but also His love. We have to realize that we serve a God who knows what is good for us, and so calls us to holiness. He is the same God who is "patient" with us, "not wishing that any should perish."

God sent the prophet Isaiah to "speak tenderly" and to give "comfort" to the people, reminding them that their "guilt is expiated." It is also a message for all of us now, during our special Advent journey. When we realize that our Father is like the shepherd, who "feeds his flock," "gathers the lambs in His arms," "carrying them in his bosom," it should put our hearts at ease as we seek to follow Him. He is a true Father, who doesn't stop seeking out His children no matter how far away they are, or how many times they reject Him.

God's mercy should however not be mistaken for an excuse to continue in sin. He calls us to conduct ourselves "in holiness and devotion," as we wait for the "coming of the day of God." We are to "prepare the way of the Lord," and to be part of Christ's redeeming work in a "rugged" world that sometimes seems so far from its Creator. Let us press on to fulfill the call of our baptism, to be all God wants us to be, knowing who we are: beloved children of the most high God! That is comfort!

Retirement Fund For Religious

This weekend, December 9 and 10, we will be taking up a collection in support of the appeal for the Retirement Fund For Religious. This annual collection benefits nearly 33,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. Your gift provides vital support for medications, nursing care, and more. It also helps religious communities implement long-term retirement strategies that ensure both quality eldercare and continued service to the people of God.

Thank you for your support.

The Giving Tree

Please Return Your Gifts This Weekend December 9-10 Before The Start of the Noon Mass on Sunday. St. Agatha's Parish Will Be Enjoying Their Christmas Celebration This Afternoon.



Thank You For Your Donation and Generous Support!

SPRED Christmas Liturgy

Please join the St. Francis Xavier SPRED group on Sunday, December 10 at the 6:00 pm. Mass for the SPRED Christmas liturgy. This Mass will incorporate some of the special ways our SPRED group celebrates liturgy. Come experience our unique way to celebrate God's love for all of us.

After Mass, we will continue our celebration with a reception in Joyce Hall, hosted by 6th Grade students and families from the Day School. All are welcome!

Parish Advent Reconciliation Service December 11

Please join us as we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with seasonal music, scripture and reflection, on Monday, December 11 at 7:00 pm in Church. The Advent Season is a wonderful time to celebrate reconciliation and prepare for the feast of the Incarnation.

St. Francis Xavier Christmas Mass Schedule 2017

Sunday, December 24
7:30 am, 9:00 am and 10:30 am
NO NOON MASS

Christmas Eve
3:00 pm and 5:00 pm in Church
are Masses for which
Tickets have been distributed

Christmas Eve
3:00 pm and 5:00 pm
Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Chapel
Tickets are only required and have been
distributed for 3:00 pm Mass

Christmas Eve in Church
7:00 pm

Midnight Mass in Church
preceded by Christmas Carols
at 11:30 pm

Christmas Day in Church
NO 7:30 am
9:00 am, 10:30 am and NOON



Monday, December 18, 2017
Due to the Office Christmas Party

The rectory will be closed

@ 12:30 pm

And will reopen

@ 4:30 Pm

Sorry for any inconvenience

Thank You

Thank you to all who purchased wreaths from Cub Scout Pack#33 and Boy Scout Troop #33. Your generous support every year is so greatly appreciated.



AN UPDATE ON OUR PARISH FINANCES

God bless you for your stewardship! During this month of Advent, we are reminded of the generosity of those in the past who have celebrated Christmas Day at St. Francis Xavier Parish. Your financial gift assists the parish in providing liturgies that families will remember for a life time. The nativity scene, Advent wreath, music, Giving Tree, and so much more – all at work in making December a time of excited anticipation for our newborn King!

You may have received an email this past week about signing up for electronic giving using your credit card or bank account. Since the beginning of our November appeal to increase the number of families who use automatic giving, 49 parishioners have signed up for regular offertory program (our goal is 100 by December 31)! To enroll, visit www.sfxlg.org.

Note that in the graph below, collections received so far are **less** than last year at this time by about \$28,000. Our operating expenses are expected to be **greater** than last year's. Please assist us with this shortfall if you are able. Make the Prince of Peace be with you all!

Jennifer Zeisloft, SFX Business Manager

P.S. In the past month, we have collected \$13,357 for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development fund!



Prior Month's Offerings:	<i>EFT/Credit Card</i>	+	<i>Basket</i>	=	<i>November Total</i>
November 2017	\$ 46,567		\$ 72,386		\$ 118,953
November 2016	\$ 39,279		\$ 78,962		\$ 118,241

SUGGESTIONS FOR AN INCREASE IN YOUR PARISH INVESTMENT

Please consider the following for increasing your investment in SFX Parish ministries:

- ◆ Locate your current investment.
- ◆ Prayerfully consider investing an additional **4% or more.**

CURRENT INVESTMENT

WITH INVESTMENT INCREASE...

	<u>2.5%</u>	<u>4.0%</u>	<u>5.0%</u>	<u>7.0%</u>
\$ 10	\$ 10.25	\$ 10.40	\$ 10.50	\$ 10.70
\$ 25	\$ 25.63	\$ 26.00	\$ 26.25	\$ 26.75
\$ 50	\$ 51.25	\$ 52.00	\$ 52.50	\$ 53.50
\$ 100	\$ 102.50	\$ 104.00	\$ 105.00	\$ 107.00
\$ 250	\$ 256.25	\$ 260.00	\$ 262.50	\$ 267.50



little falcon fun

St. Francis Xavier

who

Two & Fall Three year olds!

A parent or an adult caregiver must be present.

Open to SFX school families, parishioners, and community members

what

Lil Falcon Fun:

Play, sing, meet new friends!
A casual, play-based program that would provide an opportunity to meet, socialize, and play together. Each class will include fun with literacy, music and movement. Younger siblings are welcome!

when

Monday mornings from

9:00 am - 9:45 am

Twice A Month

January 8 & 22

February 12 & 26

March 12 & 26

April 9 & 23

May 7 & 21

where

St. Francis Xavier School - East Campus
21 N. Catherine, LaGrange
Room 22 (first floor)

why

Provide families an opportunity to engage and develop a sense of community.

how

Register online at: <https://tinyurl.com/yd5p8qn3>

Session fee is \$50 / due at the first class.

(Space is limited. Checks payable to SFX)

Welcome Wednesdays at St. Francis Xavier School



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

2018 Welcome Wednesday dates: January 17, 2018 & 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, 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.

Our all-school **Open House is January 28, 2018.**

The “Gym Fair” at the Main Campus will showcase all clubs and extracurricular activities, and teachers will be in their class rooms at both campuses to answer any questions you may have.

Open Enrollment begins 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.

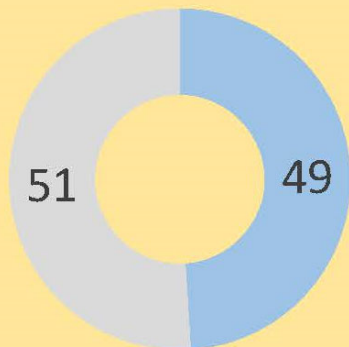
Preschool

We here at St. Francis Xavier School are very excited to announce the expansion of our Preschool Program beginning 2018-2019! Preschool 3 will offer half day classes with three and five day attendance options, and Pre K 4 will run 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.

Enrollment will begin mid-November! Please contact our Advancement Director Jennifer Courier at jcourier@sfxlg.org for more information or to be placed on the distribution list for applications.

Electronic Giving Goal



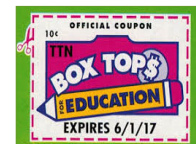
■ New Enrollees

■ Needed to Meet Goal

We are half-way there!
49 parishioners have become new e-Givers.
Go to www.sfxlg.org and click "Donate Online" to enroll.

We can do this!

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!

SFX YOUTH MINISTRY WEBSITE:

www.youthministry.sfxlg.org

God's Garage Open Hours

God's Garage will be open weekly on Mondays and Tuesdays from 7:00-8:00 pm. I (Olivia) will be there during these times with snacks if anyone would like to stop by and say hi, use the space to hang out with friends, do homework, etc. I have set this time up as an opportunity to get to know the teens and parents of St. Francis. Don't be afraid to stop by!

Fretus Identity Retreat: Choices

Calling all freshmen and sophomores! We have a retreat just for YOU! This year, St. Francis Xavier and St. Cletus are also joining with St. John of the Cross to create the Fretus Identity Retreat. Join us for a weekend of reflection on choices, transitions, relationships with others and God, and of course, FUN! The retreat is January 12-14, 2018. More information and registration can be found on the Youth Ministry website under Retreats. THE DEADLINE TO SIGN UP IS DECEMBER 15. For more information please contact Olivia Hollman at ohollman@sfxlg.org or 708-352-0168 x338.



Giving Tree

Giving Tree tags must be returned by 12:00 Noon today, Sunday, December 10.

~ *Olivia Hollman*

Religious Education Important Dates & Class Dates

Sunday, December 10	Class
Wednesday, December 13	Class
Sunday, December 17	Class
	Pajama Day
Wednesday, December 20	Class
	Pajama Day
Sunday, December 24	No Class
Wednesday, December 27	No Class
Sunday, December 31	No Class
Wednesday, January 3	No Class
Sunday, January 7	At Home Lesson
Wednesday, January 10	At Home Lesson
Sunday, January 14	Class
Wednesday, January 17	Class

Children's Liturgy of the Word

The Word of the Lord has a message for children as well as adults. Children's Liturgy of the Word offers the children an experience to hear the scripture in words that they can understand. Here at St. Francis we are fortunate and proud to have adult volunteers and Presiders of Liturgy who journey with our children so that they can experience the Word of the Lord with a message that is relevant and fitting for them.

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 "kicked off" the school year on Saturday, October 14. Allen Sterwalt, our Director of Music, along with our Cherub Choir and SF Choristers (Children in Grades 1-8) led us in prayer with music. **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:

January 6—Cherub;
February 3—Combined Choirs;
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):

December 16;
January 13, 20 & 27;
February 10 & 17;
March 10 & 17;
and April 7, 14, 21 & 28

You can call 708-352-0168 and direct your questions to:
Terri Simeoni, RE Coordinator
Allen Sterwalt, Director of Music

Calling All Bakers!



Sarah Zavala and Barb Szulc are continuing a tradition of bringing a taste of Christmas to the residents and staff at the North Lawndale Adult Transition Center, a work-release program that is part of the Illinois Department of Corrections. The holidays can be very difficult for those who are incarcerated, and following the Gospel, we want to reach out in kindness at this time of the year.

This is the seventh year of our outreach, and it is a great service opportunity for parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren, Quest groups or anyone who just loves to bake! As you plan your Christmas baking, we ask you to consider setting aside some of your favorite cookies (muffins, brownies, or chocolate-covered pretzels) to share with the residents and staff at North Lawndale.

Sarah, Barb and their crew of helpers will collect, package, and deliver the cookies. We are planning to deliver 250 dozen cookies! **In order to plan our own baking, please let us know by today December 10th, if you would like to participate. Send an email to OutreachCookie@gmail.com with your name and an estimate of the number of cookies you'll donate. Cookies may be dropped off at Barb's home, 205 46th Street in Western Springs on Friday, December 15th from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm.** Please call Sarah at 708-261-3473 with any questions.

Thanks for your participation,
Sarah Zavala and Barb Szulc

The Christmas Wafer



The Christmas Wafer (also known as "Oplatki") is available in the Rectory during office hours Monday through Friday 9:00 am until 8:30 pm, Saturday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and on Sunday between 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

The word "Bethlehem" means "the house of bread." The breaking of the bread is a sign of charity, unity and friendship. Religious family customs bring the truths of faith into the home. One of these beautiful Christmas Eve customs is the Christmas Wafer. The thin wafer bearing the Christmas characters is broken by the head of the family and distributed to each member. With a simple prayer for God's grace and the welfare of all members of the family, those present as well as those who are absent, the head of the house breaks the wafer and distributes it, one piece to each person at the table. While doing so, each member of the family is kissed and wished a joyful feast. Members then greet one another in the same way.

The spiritual lesson in this age-old custom is that the unity of the family is grounded in God's love for us. May you experience unity and love through this simple celebration.

OUR JOURNEY. OUR VOICE. SFX Music Ministry CD



In honor of our parish's 125th Anniversary, the SFX music ministry released the CD recording entitled, "**Our Journey. Our Voice.**" This two-disc set highlights music created and performed at St. Francis Xavier through Sunday worship and special concert events over the past 25 years! Featured are diverse and inspiring performances by our past and present **Celebration Ensemble, Gallery Choir, Spirit Choir and Children's Choirs.** Also featured is **Kairos** with vocalists Jenny Palmer, Carolyn Kline, Jennifer Kerr Budziak and Meriel Owens.

This journey will take you through the timeline of music directors and music leaders within the last 25 years including Kathy Sherman, Ed Nowak, Jennifer Kerr Budziak, and most currently Allen Sterwalt. A warm thank you and gratitude goes out to Sr. Therese Fassnacht for her musical service and leadership as music director as well.

Highlighted are pieces from the SFX-sponsored *Frontiers of the Heart* (1996), the premiere of *At Bethlehem's Door* – a musical journey to the heart of Christmas (1995), *Amazing Grace*—A gospel concert collaboration with Rev. Calvin Bridges and Chicago Praise Ensemble (1998), *Roses in the Snow* Advent performance (2004), *Ecumenical Concert* (2004), and the *Epiphany Christmas Concert* (2015).

The CD is available for purchase at St. Francis Xavier for the holidays! The cost is \$15 per two-CD set; or buy multiple copies for holiday gifts and receive a discount. Proceeds will help support a community outreach organization, and the SFX Music Ministry.



CD Sales to Benefit SFX Food Pantry

During Advent and Christmas, SFX cantor Barb Kalnes once again offers her CDs for sale to benefit the St. Francis Xavier Food Pantry. This year, two recordings are featured: *Dream Traveler*, a 2017 release featuring Multiplicity Jazz Ensemble; and the Advent-themed recording entitled, *Roses in the Snow*. These recordings are available for purchase at Anderson's Bookshop and Veni Vidi Val in downtown LaGrange, as well as the LaGrange Park Antique Mall located at the corner of Barnsdale and 31st Street. The price is \$12 per disc.

Your purchase of *Dream Traveler* and/or *Roses in the Snow* will directly benefit SFX Community Outreach. Half of all proceeds from the CD sales will go directly to the SFX Food Pantry to help stock the shelves and provide meat, fresh produce, and dairy products to those in need. Thank you for supporting these local music projects and the parish Food Pantry.

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.



The Shock of Advent, Pat Bergen, CSJ

As we are drawn more deeply into Advent and Christmas something wonderful is beginning to dawn on us. When it comes to light, everything changes. If you can't figure out what is happening in the world and you are tired of walking around in the dark, join us! Offered twice: Monday, December 18, 7:00-8:30 pm and Tuesday, December 19 from 9:30-11:00 am. Co-sponsored by SFX and SJC; free to parishioners.

ZOOM Into 21st Century Spirituality with John Surette, SJ

John Surette, The Well's beloved friend, remains in Massachusetts. But thanks to 21st century technology, we will "meet" with him to entertain a discussion around a question of John's choice. Participate from your home in this video conference call with your computer, or better yet, join us at The Well and gather with a group around a large screen. Monday, December 18 from 1:00-2:00 pm, also same time Monday January 15, February 19, and March 19. Cost: \$10/session.

SAVE THE DATE For The Well Coffeehouse-Fundraiser Friday, February 2, 7:00-10:00 pm

Be prepared to be entertained with live performances ranging from comedy to poetry to piano and song, jazz to pop, amateur to professional. Bring your own food and drinks. Sweets available for purchase. Doors open at 7:00 pm. Cost: \$20.

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

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.

2017 Nationwide Vigils & Events to #EndGunViolence

Come together to remember half a million Americans killed or injured by guns since the Sandy Hook shooting tragedy.



Service on Monday, December 11
7:00 pm
CSJ Chapel

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.

Workbooks for Lector and Commentators

The workbooks for Lectors and Gospel readers have arrived. If you would like a workbook, please stop by the Rectory Office at your convenience. Please let the receptionist know your name so that we can check your name off our list.

We ask that you take only one book per family. Thank you.

AARP Tax-Aide Needs Volunteers for the 2018 Filing Season

Looking for a rewarding opportunity to make a difference in your community?

The AARP Tax-Aide Program is now seeking volunteers for the upcoming 2018 filing season. It's not necessary for you to be an AARP member nor have a tax or an accounting background to volunteer. However, some knowledge of your own personal tax matters is very helpful. All returns are prepared on computers, thus volunteers should be somewhat computer literate. Training classes will be held in January, 2018. Minimum time commitment during the filing season is 4 to 5 hours one day per week from early February to mid April. This income tax preparation and assistance is offered to low and middle income individuals with special attention to those 60 years and older.

To volunteer: www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_tax_aide/ or call St. Cletus parishioner, John Wagner, at 708-352-0170 for further details.



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What's Your *Favorite Memory* of St. Francis Xavier?

Another question to consider: **People often say that St. Francis Xavier is a special place. Why do you think people feel this way?**

The SFX Staff, EnlightIN Team, our 125th Anniversary Planners and interested Volunteers are working on our *125th Anniversary Book*, and we invite your input. People of all ages are invited to write a favorite memory or answer the question above, and return it to sfxinlg@sfxlg.org or the rectory. Please include:

- Your memory or thoughts — a sentence, a paragraph, or a page (200 word max)
- Info about You: name, phone number, email address, age (if child), and how long you have been a parishioner
- A photo of yourself or an image related to your memory (optional)

Please return your memory or thoughts to sfxinlg@sfxlg.org or the rectory by **Jan. 15, 2018**.

Memories and thoughts selected by our editors will be highlighted in the 125th Anniversary Book, as well as in the parish bulletin and on the website. Contact Missy Westerhoff for further information: 708-352-0168 or sfxinlg@sfxlg.org.

Are you Thriving or Just Surviving?

Welcome. CRHP 2.0

There is More to Life

SAVE THE DATE

January 20-21

The Welcome (Christ Renews His Parish/CRHP 2.0) women's retreat offers a wonderful opportunity to connect with others and share experiences on a journey to renew your relationship with the Lord and build a bond with other women of the parish. All women are welcome on this spiritual journey. Questions, please contact Tammy Walczyk at 708-354-7312.

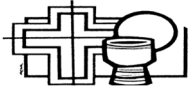
Experience the weekend



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
- **SPC Matthew Alvis, U.S. Army**—cousin of the Tschaikovsky Family
- **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

**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.**

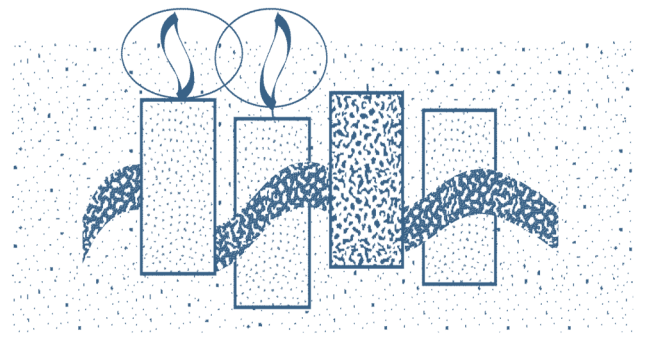


Liturgical Ministers' Schedule—December 16-17, 2017

Mass Time	Presider	Lectors/ Commentators	Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers	Cantors	Greeters
5:00 PM	Fr. Tkachuk	L. Lach W. Foster L. Mackenzie	L. Bannach M. Becker C. Cooke K. Corrigan S. Devitt D. Mulvenna C. Witt L. Young Not Filled	P. Adams B. McGovern C. Gonzalez	C. Jakubisin	R. MacEntee
7:30 AM	Fr. Tkachuk	S. Lindsay M. Hermesdorf P. Olson	D. Challenger N. Kalkowski K. Stetz D. Walsh M. Westerhoff	P. Shanley H. Labrador B. Culin	G. Adams	C. Urbain
9:00 AM	Fr. Killeen	K. Hull P. Zadeik A. Stowe	J. Cogelja C. Froemel E. Froemel A. Gargano M. Hull L. Krepps M. Lukanich B. McMahan D. Nighswander	T. Duffy C. Narbutis A. McCarty	B. Kalnes Gallery Choir	G. Nalumansi
10:30 AM	Fr. Tkachuk	A. Dougherty T. Serafin K. McCarthy	B. Boyd A. Krol S. Martin P. McGinnis J. Nowak L. Ovník K. Parisi G. Rutkowski K. Witowski	C. Schodrof A. Justak T. Dudek	B. Mayo Celebration Ensemble	M. Joscelyn
12:00 PM	Fr. Ilo	J. Clark I. Havenaar M. Dillon	C. Gatsos K. Johnson N. L. Kampe M. O'Malley M. K. Pasin	Q. Siegel F. LaMantia K. Smith	L. Hoigard	J. Svehla
6:00 PM	Fr. Killeen	B. Dunne S. Carr	M. Kelly C. Ganzel J. Sedlacek C. Sedlacek R. Shanley		Spirit Choir	

Readings For The Week of December 10, 2017

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38
or Lk 1:39-47
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



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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