

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

Issued November 14, 2021



STEWARDSHIP



Devote Time with God

Share Talent

Give Treasure

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Pastor's Letter

VIBRANT IN MISSION

We are blessed with the gifts of an engaged, vibrant community of faith, especially during the parish year that ended June 30, 2021. Last summer, we had reopened our church doors for regular Masses, weddings, baptisms, and funerals. Dozens of volunteers, coordinated by a Leadership Team of parishioners and staff, made it possible for Saint Francis Xavier to provide a safe worship environment for all who came to our doors. These volunteers greeted and signed people in at the doors, prepared the church for each celebration, and restored the church after each service. We celebrated First Communion, Confirmation, and the elementary school graduation all at their usual time of year. We continued to serve families in need through our Food Pantry. We kept the parish office accessible to all who sought information or assistance.



An especially impressive witness to the commitment to our mission was the reopening of St. Francis Xavier Elementary School, **on time and in person**. This required the commitment of school administration, faculty, office staff, and facilities staff. Many spent significant time during their summer vacation preparing for a very different school year: drafting virtual curriculum, expanding on the school's blended learning model, and accommodating for social distancing in classrooms. Throughout the entire school year, not one student contracted COVID while on campus or through a school activity. Faith formation and opportunities for fun continued in new, creative ways. Most importantly, and through the extraordinary efforts of our school family, our students received the same high-quality education that earned SFX its second National Blue Ribbon in 2020.

I know that many of you expect my emphasis in the annual pastor letter to focus on the stewardship of treasure. I do ask each household to consider prayerfully the financial gift you can offer the parish to fund our mission and ministries. However, this year, **I am asking each household to focus on stewardship of time by devoting time to pray and be present to God**. For each of us, this will mean something different. Could I increase the amount of time I devote to prayer or bring prayer into my home more frequently? Could we stop to give thanks before and after meals or at the beginning and end of each day? Could we gather to pray together more regularly? As health risks in public spaces decrease, could I join the community for weekend Mass in person on a more regular basis, or set aside time each week to view the livestream of Mass from SFX?

I thank and bless all of you who continue to donate to the parish. Whether you give electronically or via an envelope, please know that it's your support that allows our parish to **remain vibrant and strong**.

I encourage you to review the enclosed Annual Report. I thank our Business Manager, Jennifer Zeisloft, our Accountant, Jane Bandyk, and the members of our parish Finance Council for their dedication and counsel during the past year. They are wise stewards of our resources.

God bless all of you whose faithful stewardship of time, talent, and treasure makes Saint Francis Xavier a place of healing, hope, and welcome for so many. Serving as pastor continues to be a great blessing. May we continue to live and celebrate the Gospel of Jesus Christ as we recommit to create a more just world through sacraments and worship, learning, and service.

Peace,

J. Bill

Stewardship: Devote Time in Relationship with God

We are living in a time when the need to connect with God is strong and universal. When the world came to a halt, and our lives became more isolated, SFX knew that we needed to find creative ways to minister to our community within the restrictions we were all facing. We were able to do just that through lots of prayer, persistence and creativity. Our annual Women's Welcome Retreat demonstrated how this intention came to life.



The retreat was a tradition we knew we would have to reimagine. Several women volunteers worked with Maggie McMahon, our Pastoral Associate, to make it happen. Linda Hillsman, a parishioner who led the Women's Retreat for many years and passed away in the Spring of 2020, was the inspiration to fellow parishioner Lee Egan to make sure we continued in this important effort. Lee shared "Linda led my first retreat several years ago. Her story and how she walked in her faith was so inspirational for me and witnessing her spirit-filled life continues to bless my own journey."

Over 100 people signed up for the Women's Retreat this past year – a number that we would have not been able to accommodate without Zoom. "When we gather in a sacred space together in prayer," Lee said, "whether that space is in a church or virtually over Zoom, we hear each other's stories, and we come to know that this is what Jesus is all about. The Parables, for instance, are essentially the telling of stories that people can relate to. And because of that, I believe the Women's Retreat is very powerful and can be spiritually transformative. It most certainly has been for me."

During the Women's Retreat, parishioner Lisa Durham joined regularly for the rosary and prayer sessions. Soon after, Lisa was diagnosed with a neurodegenerative disease that went from diagnosis to death in 41 days. She lost the ability to converse and speak, yet could recite the Hail Mary and Our Father without any problem. The SFX community, led by women from the retreat, rallied the troops and started saying the rosary on Lisa's front yard. They were in full view of the neighborhood, showering Lisa with love and blessings and the strength of the Blessed Mother that carried her in the weeks to follow.

This beautiful act of faith is another example of people **Devoting Time in relationship with God** and its profound effect on individuals and our community as a whole. We are forever grateful.

Stewardship: Share Talent

Around June 2020, after several months of church closure, the Archdiocese of Chicago announced protocols we could implement in order to reopen our churches to worship services. After months of being apart, we would finally be together again in worship and in person! Our excitement was balanced with a healthy degree of determination. In order to proceed with in-person mass, there were very specific and detailed protocols we would need to put in place in order to celebrate liturgies safely. And with people still somewhat hesitant to re-join in-person events, we weren't sure how we'd be able to find the volunteer support we'd need. As usual, God answered our prayers - and then some – through the sharing of talent by so many of our incredible parishioners.



We formed a re-opening task force – a partnership between parish staff and parish volunteers – in order to ensure we followed capacity and sanitization requirements within the structure of our liturgy, and to help determine how these protocols would be integrated into the way WE do church. Parishioners Elizabeth Cooley, Steve Eaton, Mike Hattie, Katie Kanzer and Greg Schuler served as leaders on this task force, providing their perspectives and recommendations to Fr. Bill and other parish staff.

In July 2020, we began our in-person services with a 20% capacity. As our parishioners returned to church for Mass, they also came back to celebrate baptisms and weddings and to mourn loved ones at funerals. In addition to daily services and weekend Masses, we needed support from volunteers to serve as greeters and to be in-person support during these celebrations. Our re-opening task force, led by our incredible volunteer leadership, took on the huge task of coordinating a group of over 100 volunteers who served to help reopen our doors safely, effectively, and with the care and support parishioners have come to expect from SFX. Elizabeth Cooley, who along with Katie Kanzer worked to coordinate the greeter volunteers, shared “Our volunteers showed a depth of faith and commitment to St. Francis that was truly inspiring –



we simply couldn't have made it through this past year without every single one of them.”

Through the diligence and steadfastness of these incredible parishioners and their commitment to share their talents, our parishioners and many outside the SFX family were able to participate in person, feeling safe and cared for.

Stewardship: Give Treasure

A significant percentage of offertory giving at SFX directly supports our school; a mission that brings to life the very values and spiritual formation we hope to imbue in our young people. During the 2020/2021 school year, our school family was called to do what, at the time, seemed like an impossible task – host all of our students in person, in our classrooms, during a global pandemic. It would take a razor-sharp focus in execution and a steadfastness in purpose to accomplish this feat – an endeavor Catholic schools embarked on with no roadmap to follow.



However, we knew we would be walking hand-in-hand with God as we moved forward, with the knowledge that having students return to the classroom was the best path to their growth both academically and spiritually. Under the direction of our school administration and with guidance from our facilities staff, our dedicated teachers led the way for our students to return safely. They implemented social distancing practices and rigorous cleaning protocols; they reimagined engagement opportunities to prioritize safety while still pushing to find ways for our school community to connect. It took a village, including our School Advisory Board and parents who jumped in to help in any way they could.



We knew that having our students at home during the onset of the pandemic was necessary to keep them and their families safe; but we also learned that the “shelter-in-place” mandate came at a cost. As educators, we know our children’s social-emotional development is built on the foundation of in-person

learning. Gathered on the SFX Campus, the parish was indeed blessed to witness our students’ further development of their gifts, knowledge, and spiritual curiosity.

It’s impossible to overstate that supporting SFX means you are also supporting the incredible men and women at SFX School. Our school leadership, our teachers, and our facilities staff did more than merely show up to work this past year - an act that alone deserves applause, given they were putting themselves on the frontline of this health crisis with nothing but uncertainty ahead. Their conviction to our mission confirmed that working for a Catholic school is more than a job, but is truly a vocation - a divine call to be the hands and feet of Jesus for our precious children. We are so grateful to them all.



Finance Council Letter

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

The past year has been full of both great joy and great sadness throughout our shared communities. Here at St. Francis Xavier, we experienced similar ups and downs. We were grateful that we could finally re-open our doors to worship together as a church family; but with that came restrictions and rules that we had to implement and adapt to quickly. We continued to engage in our beloved ministries but missed the human connection that isn't afforded over Zoom. We were blessed by the incredible stewardship of so many of our parishioners, and yet we also saw a significant decrease in offertory support.

Through all of these ups and downs, we found our strength through the ever-loving presence of Jesus in our community. We see God's love manifest throughout our parish and school in so many ways, and most certainly in the financial investment of so many in our important mission.

During Fiscal Year 21, your offertory investment made it possible for us to remain a constant source of comfort, and a safe place to reflect during the uncertain times we all lived through together as a community. In addition, your investment allowed us to:

- Return to in-person mass with the proper precautions and protocols in place to keep everyone safe;
- Re-open the parish elementary school for our over 400 students, providing a re-imagined but academically rigorous and spiritually nourishing environment;
- Reach our goal of \$1 million in our Education Endowment fund – which will help us manage the cost of tuition;
- Celebrate the completion of our \$5 million Capital Campaign that allowed us to renovate our gym, Joyce Hall and the construction of Unity Hall and
- Reinstate our Associate Pastor (Fr. Rich Milek) and Pastoral Associate (Maggie McMahon) positions.

While we are blessed to report on these important outcomes, this doesn't paint a complete picture of our current giving practices here at St. Francis. During Fiscal Year 21, we saw offertory support drop by \$76,000. We were able to offset this loss through a coinciding expense reduction put forth by the Archdiocese that suspended employee retirement matching contributions. That expense has returned in full for Fiscal Year 22.

We know as a council that we cannot sustain our mission in full if support continues to decline in this way. With that in mind, this year's budget will necessitate an increase over last year of \$68,000, which represents a 4% increase in offertory revenue and a return to 2019-2020 giving. Please know that we propose this increase alongside a strategic effort to bolster our fundraising outcomes through both offertory and other areas of investment.

As you consider your giving to St. Francis Xavier, we ask that you prayerfully consider an offertory gift that is meaningful to your family. We know that for some families, a meaningful gift this year might be \$5,000. We also know that for some families, a meaningful gift this year might be \$50. No matter where you fall on this spectrum, we simply ask that you take time in prayer and spiritual contemplation when determining how you are able to support.

We enter this year hopeful and very blessed that St. Francis will continue to be here in support of our parish and school community, ministering to the spiritual fortitude we are all seeking now more than ever.

The SFX Finance Council

Mike Bruni, Jennifer Driscoll, Tom Kostal, Rob Metzger, Meredith Ritchie, Jim Owen

Finance Report

During budget preparation, the Finance Council, Business Manager, and Principal strive to present the Pastor with a budget for approval whereby income equals expenses. The fiscal year 2022 Operating Church Revenue budget projects an increase of \$68,035 (4%) in Sunday collections over the previous fiscal year (a return to 2019-2020 giving) in order to achieve a balanced budget.

	Actual 6/30/2020	Actual 6/30/2021	Budget 6/30/2022
OPERATING CHURCH REVENUE			
Sundays, Holy Days, Christmas & Easter Offertory	\$ 1,755,675	\$ 1,679,364	\$ 1,747,399
Other Operating Income	65,304	104,932	71,560
Parish Fundraising	5,268	-	-
Religious Education Tuition, Fees, and Fundraising	121,547	99,725	94,275
Total Church Revenue	\$ 1,947,794	\$ 1,884,021	\$ 1,913,234
OPERATING CHURCH/RECTORY EXPENSES			
Salaries, FICA, Health, Retirement Share, Prof Growth	\$ 737,644	\$ 766,177	\$ 841,302
Archdiocesan Admin, Priest Retirement	252,672	256,736	256,736
Occupancy Expense	209,623	195,726	214,706
Liturgical and Administrative Expense	115,666	124,963	133,935
School Subsidy (see below)	442,875	388,124	313,064
School of Religious Education Expenses	153,172	131,824	153,491
Total Church/Rectory Expenses	\$ 1,911,652	\$ 1,863,550	\$ 1,913,234
NET CHURCH OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT)	\$ 36,142	\$ 20,471	Balanced

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REVENUE			
Tuition, Fees and Misc. Operating Income	\$ 2,375,048	\$ 2,318,463	\$ 2,458,208
Fundraising	169,144	203,457	295,000
Total School Revenue	\$ 2,544,192	\$ 2,521,920	\$ 2,753,208
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EXPENSES			
Salaries, FICA, Health, Retirement Share, Prof Growth	\$ 2,509,295	\$ 2,431,847	\$ 2,531,780
Occupancy Expense	235,971	244,368	271,569
Instructional, Technology, and Other Operating Expense	241,801	233,829	262,923
Total School Expenses	\$ 2,987,067	\$ 2,910,044	\$ 3,066,272
(DEFICIT/SUBSIDY FROM PARISH)	\$ (442,875)	\$ (388,124)	\$ (313,064)

OTHER GIVING

In addition to the Operating Revenue noted above, SFX received directed donations for the following Outreach ministries:

Annual Catholic Appeal 2021 (payments through June 2021)	\$ 97,046
SFX Food Pantry - Donations from Individuals	112,265
SFX Food Pantry - Donations from Organizations	19,660
St. Agatha Parish	18,942
Other Charitable Organizations (visit our website for details)	61,717
TOTAL	\$ 309,630

Other Financial Information and Statistics

STATEMENT OF CASH POSITION

	<u>6/30/2018</u>	<u>6/30/2019</u>	<u>6/30/2020</u>	<u>6/30/2021</u>	
Unrestricted Funds					
Cash and Savings on Deposit	879,031	799,186	944,564	1,758,742	Note 1
Current Cash Liabilities	<u>384,364</u>	<u>439,461</u>	<u>471,293</u>	<u>540,551</u>	
Net Cash Position	<u>\$ 494,667</u>	<u>\$ 359,725</u>	<u>\$ 473,272</u>	<u>\$ 1,218,191</u>	
Restricted Funds					
Payroll Protection Program (PPP)	-	-	690,202	-	Note 1
Capital Campaign Fund	564,935	165,822	98,742	-	Note 2
Building Fund	107,640	68,938	69,362	197,301	
Parish Endowment Fund	207,433	213,172	211,928	277,486	
Educational Endowment Fund	<u>765,401</u>	<u>777,733</u>	<u>783,427</u>	<u>1,032,065</u>	Note 3
Restricted Funds on Deposit	<u>\$ 1,645,409</u>	<u>\$ 1,225,665</u>	<u>\$ 1,853,660</u>	<u>\$ 1,506,852</u>	

Note 1: The parish applied for and received the SBA Payroll Protection Program loan in April 2020; the loan was forgiven in October 2020. This loan enabled us to avoid dipping into cash reserves, and once forgiven, increased our savings.

Note 2: SFX recorded its last contribution from our 125th Anniversary capital campaign pledges in December 2020. The project's scope was completed, and at year end all funds had been allocated.

Note 3: The Educational Endowment Fund reached a targeted benchmark of \$1 million.

Enrollment Statistics Current Fiscal Year (as of October 2021)

Day School Enrollment

449

Religious Education Enrollment

538

Quest Participation

109

Parish Statistics

Note: Church closure in April and May 2020 impacted our statistics

Baptisms

2019-2020 95
2020-2021 122

Confirmations

2019-2020 0
2020-2021 253

Funerals/Burials

2019-2020 59
2020-2021 79

First Communion

2019-2020 0
2020-2021 265

Marriages

2019-2020 25
2020-2021 17

Newly Registered Families

2019-2020 74
2020-2021 86