

**SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH**  
**30th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**October 29, 2023**



**STEWARDSHIP**



Devote Time with God

Share Talent

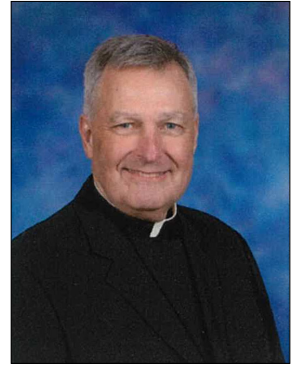
Give Treasure

**2023 ANNUAL REPORT**



## Pastor's Letter

### Called to Tell the Story



St. Francis Xavier is a blessed and gifted faith community that comes to life through our investment of time, talent, and treasure. The parish year that ended on June 30, 2023, was a year of renewed commitment and increased participation. More of you began to feel that it was safe enough to return to weekend Masses. You were joined by a growing number of young families, whose children provide a joyful “toddler chorus” at our Sunday morning Masses. The results of an Archdiocesan survey in the spring affirmed that St. Francis Xavier is a place of welcome, vibrant liturgy, and active outreach to those in need.

Your *stewardship of treasure* made this possible. The following report is one way we remain accountable to all who invest in our parish mission. We highlight some of the ways we practiced the good stewardship of time, talent, and treasure and present some basic statistics and the financial facts and figures at year end. *Your ongoing stewardship of treasure* is crucial to our continued vitality.

This past year, we continued to come into a fuller embodiment of our mission. Name Tag Sundays and “welcome evenings” helped us to better know one another and introduce new families to the parish. The parish gardens began to be restored through the leadership of a descendent of the woman who initiated a garden ministry over thirty years ago. Three open meetings led a discussion of the importance of women holding leadership roles in the Church, including a possible reopening of the ordained diaconate to women. We formed a parish Evangelization Team that has begun to encourage and implement ways in which we can engage in greater outreach to others, sharing our stories and personal experiences of Jesus. We expanded our administrative staff by shifting Jennifer Zeisloft into the position of Director of Stewardship and Development and hiring Peter Brown as our Director of Operations. In short, we established a solid foundation for the Holy Spirit to inspire our further growth and outreach with your support and involvement.

I ask each household to consider prayerfully the financial gift you can offer to fund our mission and ministries *this year*. The “Giving Treasure FAQ” page of this report provides a variety of ways to do so. Consider the value of our parish mission to your household and this community. If you have not yet begun to invest in our mission, please join those of us who do. If you invested in our mission this past year, **thank you!** If you donated electronically or via special gifts, you also helped us to anticipate our income.

Thank you for setting aside time to review the Annual Report. I thank our Director of Stewardship and Development, Jennifer Zeisloft, our Accountant, Jane Bandyk, and the parishioners who serve on our parish Finance Council for their dedication and counsel this past year. A letter from the parish Finance Council offers their perspective on our current financial situation. We are blessed to have such wise stewards of our resources.

**God bless you all.** Your faithful stewardship of Saint Francis Xavier continues to make us a vibrant community of faith in which *all are welcome* to come to know and serve the Lord Jesus. May we continue to **tell the story** and live our mission in Christ.

Peace,

*Fr. Bill*

## Finance Council Letter

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

In our previous annual report, we emphasized the significance of taking a "clear and deliberate look at our financial future as a faith community." We successfully realigned our resources to further develop our stewardship of treasure. The results of this initiative prompted our recommendation and Father Bill's decision to invest in separating the roles of development and financial/operational management, ensuring the long-term stewardship of our parish.

While we have made significant progress, it is crucial to acknowledge the financial challenges we currently face. An operating deficit of \$101,562, combined with the \$700,000 roof/window project, significantly depleted our savings. Government funding helped us achieve an operating surplus during the 2021-2022 fiscal year, providing relief from the impact of COVID-19. Unfortunately, this funding has now ended. Additionally, inflation rates of 5% in recent years have significantly outpaced our rate of offertory increases. **The Finance Council's primary focus is achieving financial balance in our operations, where revenues match expenses.** Without this balance, we may have to curtail ministries to align our future budgets.

There are several encouraging factors contributing to our financial health:

- Weekend mass attendance and school enrollment is on the rise.
- The number of new families registering at our parish is the highest it has been in years.
- We've made strategic investments in our staff, hiring Deacon Peter Brown as the Director of Operations.
- We've created a Development Director role, with Jennifer Zeisloft transitioning into this position.

**We humbly request our fellow parishioners who currently contribute to consider a 5% increase in your offertory gift for the fiscal year 2024.** Our budget was approved with an operating deficit of approximately \$90,000, after accounting for a 5% offertory increase. For those who are not regular contributors, we invite you to prayerfully consider supporting the parish financially on an annual basis. Out of our 3,300 registered parishioners, only about 40% donated monetarily at some point during the past fiscal year. **Various methods of giving can be found on the final page of this report.**

We are immensely grateful for your trust in our stewardship of the financial resources of St. Francis Xavier Parish. Our parish is blessed with an exceptional staff and volunteer base whose deepest desire is to act as missionary disciples of Christ. Let us collectively support them in their mission.

With gratitude and blessings,

Mike Bruni, Cathy Bier, Jennifer Driscoll, Tom Kostal, Rob Metzger, Jim Owen (Chair), Meredith Ritchie, John Schaff

# Stewardship

## Devoting Time in Prayer

“Hail, Mary, full of grace...” A tradition stretching back at least 500 years. St. John Paul II called it his favorite prayer. The rosary is prayed by many SFX parishioners as they devote time to God. For example, every Thursday, parishioners come together on Thursday mornings at 8:15am in the church or by the Mary Garden (weather permitting). Some bring special intentions. Others give an update on a special intention they may have shared previously. And then they pray the rosary. Newcomers are welcomed, settling in to learn anew what they may have observed their parents or grandparents pray often. Says Keli Dudek, “This group is my favorite at St. Francis. With all the stresses – from our kids at home to the wide-world – praying the rosary brings me faith, peace, and the confidence that Mary’s hand is in the world.”



The elementary school and SFX parishioners gather each October in the parking lot, praying the Living Rosary. As Katie Filbin shares, "I'm always amazed at how moving it is to hear our entire student body, along with fellow parishioners, pray the rosary together. It was a gorgeous fall morning and I have no doubt that everyone felt the presence of our Blessed Mother."

These are just two of many groups within our parish that pray the rosary.

If you would like a rosary, please contact the rectory office. And come join us on Thursday morning!

## Sharing Talent

Our parish is blessed with many strong volunteer leaders. In Fall 2022, Katie Mulcahy approached Mary Freeman, our Outreach Coordinator, and Maggie McMahon, our Pastoral Associate, to promote dialogue on the restoration of the female diaconate. "Re-thinking the Participation of Women in the Church" was one of the major topics about which Pope Francis invited dialogue in light of the Synod on Synodality (taking place as of this publication date!). With women in the lead roles, SFX Parish hosted three listening sessions to gather input from parishioners ranging from ages 15 to 88. The Spirit electrified the room!



**St. Francis Xavier Parish was a key leader in this Discerning Deacon archdiocesan-wide initiative.** We experienced some of the fruits of these listening sessions in September at Mass when five women shared their reflections of the Sunday Scriptures. **Very few parishes offer an opportunity for men and women to reflect on Scripture during the homily. We are indeed blessed to have such faith-filled volunteers who share their talents with us all!** Stay tuned for updates on this topic throughout the year in our bulletin.

# Stewardship

## Giving Treasure



Historically the practiced model of "church" for American Catholics was one of first believing the same things and **then** belonging to one another. Presently inspired by Renew My Church, St. Francis is responding to the needs of our contemporary society by flipping the historical model upside down...first: you belong. You belong to God, you belong to Love, and we belong to *each other*. This belonging, this deep sense of community and welcome, then brings us to believe and behave as a community.

Those who already feel this sense of belonging are called to act as instruments of Jesus' love by witnessing their faith and inviting others to do the same.

To facilitate both the experience of belonging and the ministry of witness and invitation, the parish staff and Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) placed an emphasis on hospitality last year. Hospitality moments which took place last year (Nametag Sundays, the Yule Flip, after-Mass socials) were building blocks which strengthened, and continue to strengthen, our community. Those who might have been tentative entering into these moments met others who welcomed them. **Your donations provide opportunities for our community to get to know each other and support each other as disciples, so taking the next step as witnesses in faith is that much easier.**



In gratitude for your stewardship,  
Jennifer Zeisloft  
Director of Stewardship & Development

## Enrollment Statistics

### Elementary School Enrollment

October 2022: 418  
October 2023: 449

### Religious Education Enrollment

October 2022: 611  
October 2023: 609

## Parish Statistics

### Baptisms

2021-2022 70  
2022-2023 175

### Confirmations

2021-2022 115  
2022-2023 126

### Funerals/Burials

2021-2022 73  
2022-2023 64

### First Communions

2021-2022 134  
2022-2023 117

### Marriages

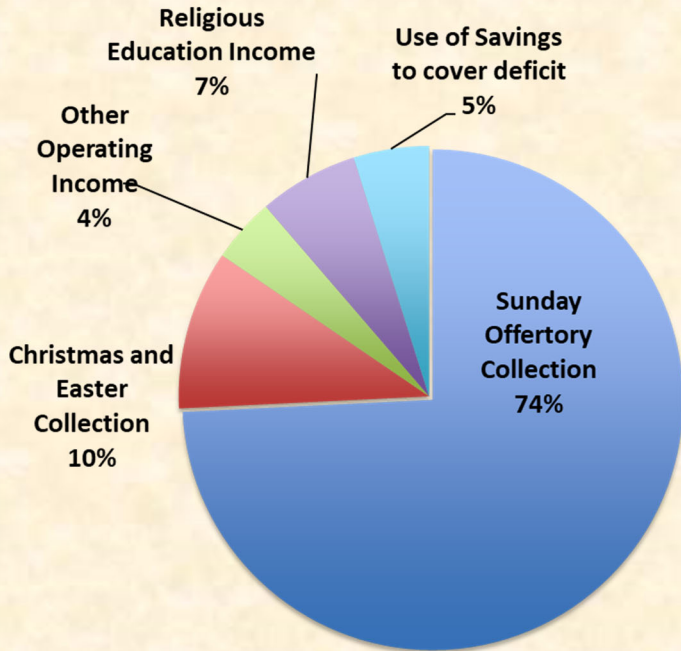
2021-2022 63  
2022-2023 25

### Newly Registered Families

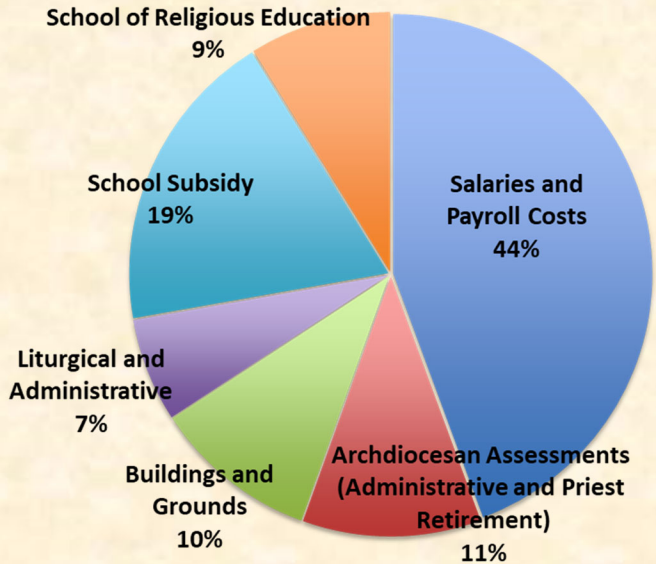
2021-2022 105  
2022-2023 104

# Revenue and Support

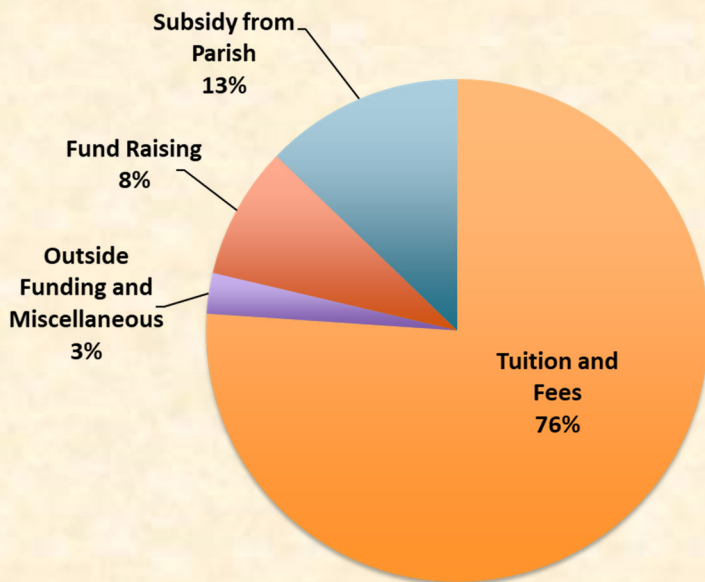
### 2022-2023 Revenue and Support Church and School of Religious Education



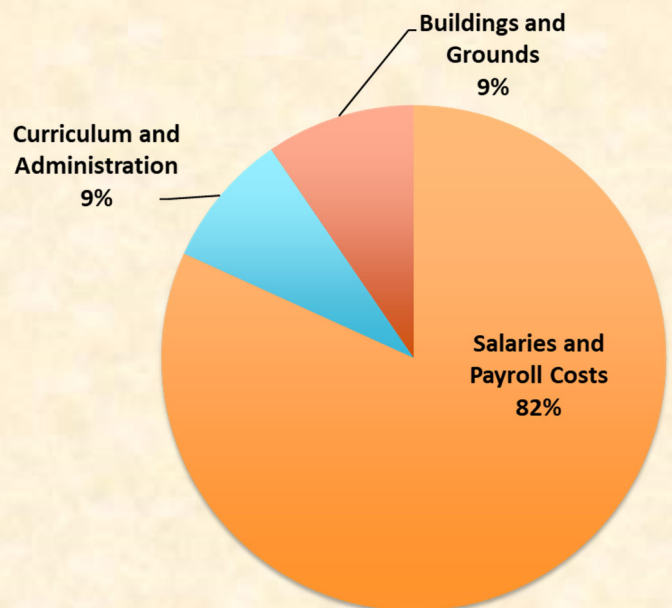
### 2022-2023 Expenses Church and School of Religious Education



### 2022-2023 Revenue and Support Elementary School



### 2022-2023 Expenses Elementary School



# Finance Report

During budget preparation, the Finance Council, Director of Operations, and Principal strive to present the Pastor with a budget for approval whereby income equals expenses. For the 2023-2024 budget, the Finance Council recommended a 5% offertory increase and the use of \$89,833 in parish savings to cover the budget deficit.

	Actual 6/30/2022	Actual 6/30/2023	Budget 6/30/2024
<b>OPERATING CHURCH REVENUE</b>			
Sundays, Holy Days, Christmas & Easter	\$ 1,743,632	\$ 1,761,074	\$ 1,846,000
Other Operating Income and Interest Income	59,015	87,014	62,050
Religious Education Tuition, Fees, and Fundraising	93,785	134,059	129,490
<b>Total Church Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,896,432</b>	<b>\$ 1,982,147</b>	<b>\$ 2,037,540</b>
<b>OPERATING CHURCH/RECTORY EXPENSES</b>			
Salaries, FICA, Health, Retirement Share, Prof Growth	\$ 824,898	\$ 924,385	\$ 960,673
Archdiocesan Admin, Priest Retirement	256,736	232,164	243,038
Buildings and Grounds	236,242	214,193	219,459
Liturgical and Administrative	126,696	134,272	145,742
School Subsidy (see below)	152,507	394,540	373,201
Religious Education Expenses	147,291	184,155	185,260
<b>Total Church/Rectory Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,744,369</b>	<b>\$ 2,083,709</b>	<b>\$ 2,127,373</b>
<b>NET CHURCH OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ 152,062</b>	<b>\$ (101,562)</b>	<b>\$ (89,833)</b>

<b>ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REVENUE</b>			
Tuition, Fees and Misc. Operating Income	\$ 2,509,566	\$ 2,427,682	\$ 2,718,465
Fundraising	266,148	262,900	300,000
<b>Total School Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 2,775,714</b>	<b>\$ 2,690,582</b>	<b>\$ 3,018,465</b>
<b>ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EXPENSES</b>			
Salaries, FICA, Health, Retirement Share, Prof Growth	\$ 2,422,000	\$ 2,522,984	\$ 2,702,103
Buildings and Grounds	279,956	295,099	313,813
Instructional, Technology, and Other Operating Expense	226,265	267,039	375,750
<b>Total School Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,928,221</b>	<b>\$ 3,085,122</b>	<b>\$ 3,391,666</b>
<b>(DEFICIT/SUBSIDY FROM PARISH)</b>	<b>\$ (152,507)</b>	<b>\$ (394,540)</b>	<b>\$ (373,201)</b>

## NON-OPERATING REVENUE

### SFX received other (non-operating) income during the fiscal year:

#### Building/Capital Project Fund

Parishioner Donations	\$ 103,656
Women's Club Contributions (fundraising events)	25,164
Men's Club Contributions (fundraising events)	10,000
Bequests	20,000
Memorials	8,553
TOTAL	<u>\$ 167,373</u>

## Other Financial Information

### STATEMENT OF CASH POSITION

	6/30/2020	6/30/2021	6/30/2022	6/30/2023
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>				
Cash and Savings on Deposit	944,564	1,758,742	1,462,994	1,430,263
Current Cash Liabilities	471,293	540,551	545,359	535,406
<b>Net Cash Position</b>	<b>\$ 473,272</b>	<b>\$ 1,218,191</b>	<b>\$ 917,635</b>	<b>\$ 894,858</b>
 <b>Restricted Funds for Long Term Initiatives</b>				
Building Fund	69,362	197,301	178,559	117,335 Note 1
Education Building			627,220	491,262 Note 2
Payroll Protection Program (PPP)	690,202	-	-	-
Capital Campaign Fund	98,742	-	-	-
Parish Endowment Fund	211,928	277,486	267,155	384,164 Note 3
Educational Endowment Fund	783,427	1,032,065	976,425	932,227 Note 3
Restricted Funds on Deposit	<b>\$ 1,853,660</b>	<b>\$ 1,506,852</b>	<b>\$ 2,049,359</b>	<b>\$ 1,924,988</b> Note 4

Note 1: A masonry tuckpointing project was completed in July 2023, costing approximately \$50,000.

Note 2: The Education Building Roof and Window project was completed in September 2023.

Note 3: The Educational Endowment Fund charter has been amended to benefit the operating and capital expenses of the elementary school only. An estimation of \$100,000 originally intended for all parish educational purposes was reallocated from the Educational Endowment Fund to the Parish Endowment Fund for use in covering operating and capital expenses of all parish education endeavors.

Note 4: In October 2023, restricted funds on deposit fell to about \$1.4 million when liabilities for the window/roof and masonry projects were paid out.

### OTHER GIVING

#### SFX received directed donations for the following Outreach ministries:

Annual Catholic Appeal 2023 (Payments through June 2023)	\$ 91,335
SFX Food Pantry Donations*	64,422
St. Agatha Parish	19,052
St. Vincent de Paul	13,811
Fuller Center for Housing (previously Habitat for Humanity)	9,246
Other Charitable Organizations (for complete list, <a href="#">click here</a> )	62,322
TOTAL	<b>\$ 260,188</b>

\*As of June 30, 2023, the Food Pantry maintained reserves of \$166,264, which are not included in our **net** cash position because they will be used for food pantry purposes only.



## Giving Treasure - Frequently Asked Questions

Considering which method of giving is right for you? Curious about ways in which St. Francis parishioners give? Check out the FAQ below.

### **What method of giving is most cost-effective for the parish?**

Online donations from your bank checking or savings account. The processing fees for these are about 0.5%, as compared to credit card fees of 3.5%. For example, an annual donation of \$1,000 via bank account provides support of \$995, compared to \$965 from credit card. We are happy to report that the largest percentage of last year's Sunday offertory funds (32%) came from this method of giving. To give in this method, scan the QR code below or [Click Here](#).

### **If I want to give using my credit card, can I cover the higher transaction fee?**

Yes – now you can! This is new to Give Central, our online giving processor. Log into your Give Central account and select "I would like to cover the processing fee" when you make or change your contribution. Currently, about 22% of our annual Sunday offertory is received from this method. To give in this method, scan the QR code below or [Click Here](#).

### **Can I continue using my offertory envelopes?**

Absolutely. We continue to receive 30% of our Sunday offertory in this way. We are looking at ways to reduce the cost of printing and mailing, and there may be future changes to the number of envelopes and frequency of mailing.

### **How important is my Christmas or Easter donation?**

Very important! As the pie charts on the Revenue and Support page demonstrate, these two special donations totaled 10% (\$215,000) of our funding last year. While all parishioners receive the envelopes with Fr. Bill's Christmas and Easter reflections, you can alternatively set up online giving right now using the QR code below or [Clicking Here](#).

### **Are there any other methods to give to offertory?**

Donations of appreciated stock, IRA distributions, and donor advised funds are just a few ways in which donors give so generously. Contact Jennifer Zeisloft, Director of Stewardship and Development ([jzeisloft@sfxlg.org](mailto:jzeisloft@sfxlg.org) or 708/352-0168), if you have questions about these giving methods.

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms...If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."  
– 1 Peter 4:10-11*

Make a donation with this QR code.

Thank you for your support to SFX Parish!



# St. Francis Xavier Personnel

## Pastoral Ministry

Pastor  
Associate Pastor  
Deacon  
Deacon  
Pastoral Associate  
Director of Community Outreach  
Retired Weekend Sacramental Minister  
Weekend Sacramental Minister

**Rev. William Tkachuk**  
**Rev. Richard Milek**  
**Andrew Allison**  
**Phil Gianatasio**  
**Margaret McMahon**  
**Mary Freeman**  
**Rev. William Killeen**  
**Rev. Stan Ilo**

wtkachuk@sfxlg.org  
rmilek@sfxlg.org  
aallison@sfxlg.org  
pgianatasio@sfxlg.org  
mmcmahon@sfxlg.org  
mfreeman@sfxlg.org

## Education Ministry

Parish School Principal  
Assistant Principal  
School Office Coordinator  
Parish School Secretary  
Director of Marketing & Enrollment  
Tuition Accounts  
Director of Religious Education  
Religious Education Administrative Assistant

**Sharon Garcia**  
**Janice Carr**  
**Ashley Augustyniak**  
**Peggy Evans**  
**Erin Smith**  
**Jane Bandyk**  
**Elis Guidice**  
**Cindy Johnson**

sgarcia@sfxlg.org  
jcarr@sfxlg.org  
aagustyniak@sfxlg.org  
pevans@sfxlg.org  
esmith@sfxlg.org  
jbandyk@sfxlg.org  
eguidice@sfxlg.org  
cjohnson@sfxlg.org

## Youth Ministry

Coordinator

TBA

youthminister@sfxlg.org

## Music Ministry

Director

**Allen Sterwalt**

asterwalt@sfxlg.org

## Parish Office Staff

Director of Operations  
Director of Stewardship and Development  
Parish Accountant  
Pastor's Secretary  
Parish Secretary  
Staff Secretary  
Facilities Manager

**Peter Brown**  
**Jennifer Zeisloft**  
**Jane Bandyk**  
**Maureen Pipal**  
**Melissa Westerhoff**  
**Debra Soulje**  
**Antonio Franceschi**

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

## Contact Information

Parish Office 124 N. Spring.....708-352-0168  
St. Francis Xavier Day School .....708-352-2175  
School of Religious Education .....708-352-4555  
S.P.R.E.D. (Special Religious Education).....708-352-0168  
Fax Number.....708-352-4904  
e-Mail.....sfxinlg@sfxlg.org  
Main Day School e-Mail.....sfxmain@sfxlg.org  
Main Religious Education e-Mail.....sfxreligioused@sfxlg.org  
Parish Web Site.....www.sfxlg.org

## Rectory Hours

Monday-Thursday.....8:30 am-7:00 pm  
Friday.....8:30 am-4:30 pm  
Saturday.....9:00 am-12:00 pm

## Weekday Masses at St. Francis Xavier Church

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 8:30 am

## Rosary at St. Francis Xavier Church

Thursday 8:15 am

**Adoration** of the Blessed Sacrament every 3rd Thursday 6:00-7:00 pm

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday morning.....9:00-10:00 am  
The Reconciliation room is located off the walkway behind the tabernacle prayer area.

## Private Prayer at Neighboring Churches

**St. Cletus** (Monday - Friday).....9:00 am-12:00 pm

**Adoration** of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesdays at St. Cletus 7:00-8:00 pm

**St. John of the Cross** (Monday - Saturday).....8:00 -10:00 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. Please email all articles 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 11:30 am. The pantry serves clients who live in the 60525 and 60526 zip codes. Donation drop off Mondays 9:00 am-Noon at South door of rectory.

## 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 to schedule your child's baptism or email Missy Westerhoff at sfxinlg@sfxlg.org to schedule a date.

## 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 and respectful. If you are curious about self-exploration, need help managing your mood and anxiety, long for a quiet and safe space, or feel the need to recalibrate, consider making an appointment, with our parish counselor, BC Shelly, from the Claret Center. He can be reached by phone 704-750-0686 or email bc.shelly.claret@gmail.com.