



SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 5, 2025



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

BELONG • BELIEVE • BE LOVE

Week at a Glance

			Intention	Requested By
Monday, January 6	Mass	8:30 am	Special Intention	
Tuesday, January 7	Mass	8:30 am	Jim Martin	The Martin Family
Wednesday, January 8	Mass	10:00 am	Carol Knudson	Joanna Sestak
Thursday, January 9	Rosary	8:15 am	Lesley Harvey Richard Hofstetter	The Harvey Family The Westerhoff Family
	Mass	8:30 am		
Friday, January 10	Mass	8:30 am	Mary Claire Ruth	The Cummings Family
Saturday, January 11	Mass	8:30 am	Casey Dillon	Kathy & Alex Haney
	Reconciliation	9:00 am		
	Mass	5:00 pm	Ed Patyk Bridget Lyons	Joe Discipio Bob & Jennifer Driscoll
Sunday, January 12 The Baptism of the Lord	Mass	7:30 am	Mary Tio	John R. Washbish
	Mass	9:00 am	Marvin Getty	The Byrnes Family
	Mass	11:00 am	Debra Coleman	Peter & Barbara Tomaino
	Mass	5:00 pm	Jodi McMahan	The McMahan Family

Presider's Schedule for January 4-5, 2025

5:00 pm Fr. Milek 7:30 am Fr. Tkachuk 9:00 am Fr. Milek 11:00 am Fr. Tkachuk 5:00 pm Fr. Milek

Please pray for . . .

Vincent Austrebich
Ed Barrett
Vivian Brickhouse
Kevin Brooks
Blake Donegan
Pat Eaton
Baby Lupe Baker Garcia
Lilli Gregory
Vincenzo Guzzo
Junie Haase
Mateo Herhold
Sr. Marci Hermesdorf
William Hesselgrave
Angela Hill
Jessi Rita Hoffman
Tiffany Kahn

Michelle Kram
Alice Krol
Richard Lavers
Eleanor Love
Patrick Morgan
Rosemary Nash
Ann Marie Nidos
Laureen Rabe
Aldona Ruppert
Sheila Slonskis
Lorine Solimeno
Gregg Stephenson
Sophie Stratton
John Stopka
Amanda Svilva
Olivia Tarsney

To add a name to the prayer list who are sick, please call the rectory at 708-352-0168. 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:

Veronica Bagnuolo
Aunt of Steve Slivka

Margaret Carroll
Sister of Kate Kelly

Rita Magner
Wife of William
Mother of Stephen, Lawrence, Maurita & Donal

Edward Maney
Father of Ed

Clarice Olson
Cousin of Mary Beth Niziol

Weddings



Abigail Wiiken & Kevin Maluso



*Celebrate the
Season of Light*

Make a gift to the
Regular Sunday Offertory
with this QR Code.
Thank you for your support!



Pastor's Letter

They were overjoyed at seeing the star.

Matthew 2:10

On Christmas Day, we proclaimed the story of the birth of the Child Jesus from the Gospel of Luke. On Epiphany, we proclaim Matthew's account. Luke spoke of angels singing in the night sky to shepherds tending their flocks on the hillside. Those of little means and no status in society became the first to learn of the birth of the Savior and, after finding the Child and his parents in a cave outside of town, became the first *missionary disciples* as they brought the news of the Child in the manger to the people of Bethlehem. Matthew tells a story of magi who notice a beautiful star in the heavens and travel far from their homeland to discover the king whose birth has been announced by the star. They find a Child in a humble home in Bethlehem and present to him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They appear to be persons of some means; yet they are foreigners, unfamiliar with the history and the customs of the people of Israel.

Both evangelists tell the story of an unexpected birth announced in marvelous ways to foreigners and outsiders. The birth of the Child Jesus remains hidden from those who have long awaited this birth yet is revealed to those considered less deserving of this revelation. Even the family of this Child is humble and of little status in their society. They are faithful Jews who are not connected to the authorities or people of influence of their time. The fact that the Savior would come to earth as an infant was unthinkable to most scholars. They expected a conquering hero who would come in glory from the clouds and restore an occupied kingdom to its former glory.

Some cultures refer to the Feast of Epiphany as "Little Christmas." They celebrate the feast as the revelation of the Christ Child to the entire world through the journey of foreigners who travel far and search diligently because of a star. For my Orthodox grandparents, it was the day on which gifts were exchanged at the end of twelve days of visiting family and friends. In Puerto Rico, young men or boys portray the three kings and present the bread and wine for Mass. In Mexico, families bake a special cake (*Rosca de Reyes*) into which the figure of a small infant is placed. The person who finds the baby in their slice of cake provides tamales for the family on the 40th day of Christmas, which celebrates the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple. One more Epiphany tradition is the use of chalk to write the numbers of the year and the initials of the traditional names of the magi (20+C+M+B+24) over the door of the house to claim it as a passage through which *all will be welcome in Christ*.

Epiphany is a feast of the wonder of God's love, revealed in God choosing to be born as one like us. Discovering Jesus does not require wealth, power, or status. The Epiphany journey is one of seekers who travelled far from what was familiar in search of someone they believed would bring joy, hope, and meaning to their lives.

Epiphany marks our journey into a new year in which God will continue to become present to us in unexpected ways. May our minds and our hearts be open to the wonders and surprises that God has in store for us.

Merry "Little Christmas"!

Christmas Peace,

J. Bill

Transition Prayer



God of love, you are with us in every transition and change. As we seek our new pastor, we entrust our community to your Holy Spirit. You know the heart of our congregation and the unique gifts and challenges of our parish. May we remain united in your grace and rejoice in the promise of your will to bring the "fullness of joy." May our future pastor do the same, listening to your Spirit with courage and openness as you lead us to one another. Amen.



SAVE THE DATE 2025 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 23-27

We are pleased to report that our partnership with Grace Lutheran for Vacation Bible School was a great success last summer. Attendance was up significantly due to support and participation from the SFX community.

We are continuing our partnership with Grace for 2025. The dates for the summer VBS program are June 23-27, each day from 9-noon. VBS is open to children aged 4 through 4th grade. 5th and 6th graders can participate as members of a service crew that will spend the week organizing and conducting a variety of service projects.

There are a number of volunteer opportunities for high school students that count toward required service hours. Parents are encouraged to volunteer as well.

Registration information will be available early next year along with more details about volunteering. We are looking forward to another week of fun and faith based activities-this year's theme is "True North Trusting Jesus in a wild world."

Any questions please contact Phil Zadeik at pjzadeik@gmail.com.



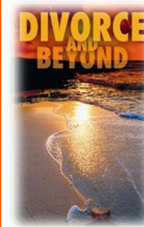
Knights of Columbus LaGrange Council 6483

Charity is at the heart of our faith and the work of the Knights of Columbus. If you're a Catholic man from age 18 to 78 with a calling for service by focusing on others, live a life of faith in action. Jesus calls us to bear fruit. Become a Knight. **YOUNG LEADERS WANTED.** We've got good work to do in our community. Text or call Brian Lisek at 630-939-2626 to learn how you can help us serve those with the most need. To Knight!

Welcome

We welcome the following parishioners who have registered during the month of December:

Anthony & Maureen Albazi
Laszlo & Julie Andrasi
Frank & Nancy Arrendondo
P. Burns
Tyler & Stacy Davis
Jonathan & Bridget Haack
Stephen & Amy Hallenbeck
Daniel Joyce
Christopher & Clare Kirkpatrick
Dylan & Eve LeBlanc
Phillip & Rachel Linduska
David Meyerhoff & Morgan Reimler
Timothy & Jill Ryan
Jacob & Lindsay Schultz
Jan & Simona Selvek
Jeffrey & Katherine Shukis
Luke & Sheryl Wojtasik



Divorce and Beyond is a faith-based program for adults designed to offer support, fellowship, and healing to those recently divorced or going through a divorce. Topics include stress, anger, forgiveness, and healing. There is no cost to attend.

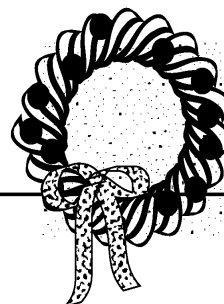
The next six-week session begins January 16, and will be held at St. John of the Cross Parish, 5005 Wolf Road in Western Springs. Register on the St. John of the Cross Parish [website](#).

SFX MEN'S CLUB

Get involved in the parish – we need your help!
Monthly meetings on the 1st Tuesday of the month!

Next meeting is Tuesday, January 7

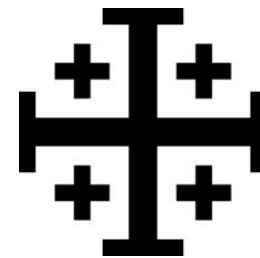
Contact Matt Hubert mthubert@gmail.com
or Jack Horrigan jfhorrigan@gmail.com
for more information.



Rejoice



Kairos 44 Juniors and Seniors



Hosted by St. Francis Xavier Parish
St. Mary's Retreat House
14230 Main Street, Lemont, IL

February 20-23, 2025

Registration for the retreat is now opened on the St. Francis Xavier website at www.sfxlg.org for the application and to register, please [click here](#). The deadline is January 31, 2025.

Please email or call the rectory if you have any questions at 708-352-0168.

Your Parish Counselor

As the parish counselor, I am pleased to share that I will be starting a free therapy group aimed at supporting our community's emotional and mental well-being! To ensure the group is as effective and beneficial as possible, I have created a survey to better understand the needs and preferences of the St. Francis Xavier community. Your feedback will help shape the focus and structure of the group, ensuring it meets the unique needs of those who join. I invite you to take a few moments to complete the survey, and I sincerely appreciate your input as we work together to build a supportive space! Please click here for the link: forms.gle/Mcddb4ZkBuZsLkLHk7.

Bennett Ferguson, M.A.
Psychotherapy Extern
Claret Center
312-880-7606



Engage Community – January Events

All are welcome. Engage is for adults; single, married, divorced, widowed, parishioners and visitors to foster Christian community through social and service events.

Dinner Gathering

Where: McCook Restaurant, 8300 Joliet Road in McCook

When: 5:30pm on January 9

Details: Separate checks. RSVPs, at the email below, are required so that we can provide accurate reservation information. Website: <https://mccookbohemian.com/>

Game Night

Mark your calendars for Thursday, January 30th for a board game/card night.

Where: Unity Hall at St. Francis Xavier, 124 North Spring Avenue in LaGrange

When: 7:00-8:30pm on January 30

What: Bring your favorite board game or a deck of cards. We'll choose what to play based on the group's size and interests. You may also bring carpet-friendly snacks or a beverage to share (no red wine). RSVPs are encouraged.

For questions or to RSVP, please email Jane at janeLGPark@gmail.com.



Toddlers Together *Connecting parents with kids 5 and under*

Upcoming Events:

Sunday Morning Playtime & Social (Prek3 Classroom) Gather between the 9:00 and 11:00am masses for a playdate and social with other families with littles! Meet in Unity Hall after 9:00am mass (~10:00am) to walk to preschool classroom together.

January 19th, 10:00-11:00am and February 9th, 10:00-11:00am
****Keep an eye out for some gym playdates this winter as well!**

Join our listserv by emailing mmcmahon@sfxlg.org or find us on Facebook at [Toddlers Together - SFX Parents of Littles](#).



Free dinner. All people and all questions welcome. Bring your friends!
Alpha at St Francis Xavier | Mon, Jan 27 at 630pm in Unity Hall

**Unwrap the
Christian faith
together**



Scan or visit sfxlg.org for more & to RSVP

*Bible
Basics*

**Bible Basics with
Sr. Maribeth Howell, OP
January 22 & 29
(Wednesday)
7:00-8:30PM in Unity Hall**

We say that the Bible is “the Word of God,” but what does that really mean? How did God’s Word come to our ancestors in faith? How are we to understand God’s Word today?

January 22, Session 1 - Explore how the Word of God was shaped by the events that God’s people were experiencing. What’s the difference between Exodus and Exile, and how can I relate to those experiences?

January 29, Session 2 - Other features of the Bible: Why are “Catholic” Bibles different from Bibles used by other Christian denominations? Why are there so many translations? Which Bible is best for me to read or pray with?

Join us for one or both sessions! There will be time for Q & A and table discussion. These two evenings are intended to help you feel *comfortable* with reading the Bible, and hopefully, they will encourage you to explore the Word of God more deeply.

RSVP requested (not required): scan the QR code, [click here](#), or email mmcmahon@sfxlg.org.



Ministry of Care is Planning to Expand

A Minister of Care is a person who brings the gift of the eucharist and friendship to fellow parishioners and others who are homebound, living in nursing homes, or recovering in the hospital. Our visits help those in need stay connected to the parish and our faith community.

It’s a very rewarding ministry and I promise you will receive more than you’ll give. The time required varies depending on the activity you choose. Perhaps a few minutes or more on a homebound visit to an hour or so conducting a Prayer and Communion Service or bringing the eucharist to those in the hospital. Those visiting the homebound schedule visits convenient for the minister and the person being visited. Nursing homes and the hospital have fixed schedules.

The Archdiocese requires new ministers to receive 12 hours of instruction prior to being commissioned. After training, you will “shadow” other ministers to learn about your chosen activity. When you are comfortable, you’ll receive a quarterly schedule.

One day training is available at LaGrange Hospital.

Saturday, January 18th from 8:30am-4:00pm. Lunch will be provided.

So, are you ready to share your time and talent with those who are so grateful?

For information regarding the training, please contact: Scott or Mary Sue McDonald, Coordinators for the Ministry of Care at 847-528-1434 or sjmcdonal@yahoo.com or marysuemcdonal@yahoo.com.

SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

10:00AM-12:30PM



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WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO:

- ✔ STUDENT GUIDED TOURS
- ✔ ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS FAIR
- ✔ ROBOT PLAYGROUND: CODING DEMOS
- ✔ MEET THE FACULTY & ADMINISTRATION
- ✔ MEET MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
- ✔ VISIT CURRENT AND FUTURE CLASSROOMS
- ✔ CURRICULUM TABLE IN THE GYM

TUITION RAFFLE

MAKE SURE YOU SIGN IN AT THE RAFFLE
TABLE IN THE GYM!

- EACH CURRENT SCHOOL FAMILY IN ATTENDANCE WILL RECEIVE ONE RAFFLE TICKET FOR THE CHANCE TO WIN A \$250 TUITION CREDIT FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR
- RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL RAFFLE TICKET FOR EACH PROSPECTIVE FAMILY THAT YOU BRING!!



Music Notes...

Upcoming Music Ministry Event!

Sunday, February 16 – 3:00-3:45 pm
Winter (Pre-Lenten)
ORGAN Recital

*featuring...Allen Sterwalt & friends!

Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord!



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NEW FAMILY ENROLLMENT BEGINS DECEMBER 4

WE PRAY

Our goal is to help our students live a life of generous service, motivated by a love of Jesus and others. We strive to instill and nurture the belief that God is found everywhere, especially in one another.



WE LEARN

TWO time U.S. Dept. of Education NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL and recipient of Chicago Archdiocese St. Thomas Aquinas Award.



WE SERVE

Our All-School Service Program exemplifies who we are as a school. This year, we are holding our 15th annual Service Day!



CONTACT US TODAY! ENROLLMENT@SFXLG.ORG



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

- **LCPL Gregory Allen, USMC**—nephew of Barbara Triggs & Anthony Anscombe
- **Kevin Peterson, U.S. Army Infantry**—son of Jon Peterson
- **Major Marcos Melendez, USMC**—nephew of Jon Peterson
- **Major Michelle Melendez, USMC**—niece of Jon Peterson
- **Capt. Nolan Kemna, USMC**—nephew of John & Linda Hill
- **Staff Sgt. Scott Blunk**—husband of Brianne and son-in-law of Maureen Becker
- **Lt. Col. Jeremy Hutchins, USAF**—brother-in-law of Valerie & Michael Schierl
- **Capt. Colt Marcyan, USMC**—nephew of Noel Cusack
- **Private Jerry Delgado, U.S. Army**—friend of Liz Wilk
- **Chris Johnson, USCG**—nephew of Judi Kudlacz and grandson of Jerry & Nancy Johnson
- **Dominic James Greco, U.S. Navy**—nephew of Rita Pantoni
- **Airman Jeffrey Niemiec, USAF**—nephew of Nancy & Harry Devereux
- **Sgt. Rob Parisi, U.S. Army 7ATC**—son of Chuck and Kathi Parisi, Brother of Caitlin & Jack and Grandson of Robert J. Lynch
- **Lt. Brendan Short, U.S. Army Airborne**—nephew of Don & Rita Baumgart
- **Capt. Jack Albertini, USMC**—son of Bob & Susan Albertini
- **Micah Peralta, DC3 U.S. Navy**—daughter of Mila Esleta
- **Private Julian Vela, U.S. Army**—friend of Joe, Cari, Maddie & Mike Ramaglia
- **Specialist Esteban Vela, U.S. Army**—friend of Joe, Cari, Maddie & Mike Ramaglia
- **Sean Kramer, U.S. Army**—friend of the Cooley Family
- **Lt. Matthew Edinger, DO, U.S. Navy**—son of John Edinger & Maria Nidos

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

St. Francis Xavier Personnel

Pastoral Ministry

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

Rev. William Tkachuk
Rev. Richard Milek
Andrew Allison
Phil Gianatasio
Margaret McMahon
Mary Freeman
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
Administrative Assistant
Front Office Coordinator
Director of Marketing & Enrollment
Office Operations/Events Manager
Tuition Accounts
Director of Religious Education
Religious Education Administrative Assistant

Jimmy Bajner
Janice Carr
Jeanne Grimes
Joni O'Halloran
Erin Smith
Brooke Cermak
Jane Bandyk
Elis Guidice
Cindy Johnson

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jgrimes@sfxlg.org
johalloran@sfxlg.org
esmith@sfxlg.org
bcermak@sfxlg.org
jbandyk@sfxlg.org
eguidice@sfxlg.org
cjohnson@sfxlg.org

Music Ministry

Director

Allen Sterwalt

asterwalt@sfxlg.org

Parish Office Staff

Director of Operations
Director of Stewardship and Development
Finance Manager
Administrative Assistant
Parish Secretary/Receptionist
Staff Secretary/Bulletin Editor
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 School708-352-2175
School of Religious Education708-352-4555
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.....sfxreligiused@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, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 8:30 am

Weekday Masses at Neighboring Churches

St. Cletus (Monday-Friday) 8:00 am
St. John of the Cross (Monday-Saturday) 9:00 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.

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 10:00 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, Bennett Ferguson, from the Claret Center. He can be reached by phone at 312-880-7606.



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Tess Quinn BSN, RN
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