



SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH
Christmas Day, December 25, 2024
The Holy Family, December 29, 2024



BELONG



BELIEVE



BE LOVE

Week at a Glance

		Intention	Requested By	
Monday, December 30	Mass	8:30 am	People of the Parish	
Tuesday, December 31 New Year's Eve	Mass	8:30 am	People of the Parish	
	Mass	5:00 pm	People of the Parish	
Wednesday, January 1 New Year's Day	Mass	10:00 am	People of the Parish	
Thursday, January 2	Rosary	8:15 am	Dick & Cookie Hofstetter The Westerhoff Family	
	Mass	8:30 am		
Friday, January 3	Mass	8:30 am	Leslie Koenig	Judy Gianelli
Saturday, January 4	Mass	8:30 am	Louie Marasovic April Pesut	
	Reconciliation	9:00 am	Kyra Smith Thomas McGivern Jean Hansen Comer Bob & Jennifer Driscoll The Veese Family Joan Callaghan & Bob Comfort	
	Mass	5:00 pm		
Sunday, January 5 The Epiphany of the Lord	Mass	7:30 am	Thomas McGivern The Tim Carroll Family	
	Mass	9:00 am	Jim Egan The Cooley Family	
	Mass	11:00 am	George O. Saleh The Saleh Family	
	Mass	5:00 pm	Mary Beckenbach Katie Filbin & Therese Byrne	

Presider's Schedule for December 28-29, 2024

5:00 pm Fr. Tkachuk

7:30 am Fr. Tkachuk

9:00 am Fr. Milek

11:00 am Fr. Tkachuk

5:00 pm Fr. Milek

Please pray for . . .

Melissa Aravalo
Vincent Austrebich
Ed Barrett
Angela Bowman
Vivian Brickhouse
Kevin Brooks
Blake Donegan
Pat Eaton
Tom Flynn
Bob Fredriksen
Baby Lupe Baker Garcia
Lilli Gregory
Vincenzo Guzzo
Junie Haase
Mateo Herhold
Sr. Marci Hermesdorf
William Hesselgrave
Angela Hill
Jessi Rita Hoffman

Tiffany Kahn
Brenda Kardatzke
Michelle Kram
Alice Krol
Ayanna Kucera
Richard Lavers
Eleanor Love
Jill Miller
Patrick Morgan
Bill Mroz
Rosemary Nash
Ann Marie Nidos
Laureen Rabe
Aldona Ruppert
Sheila Slonskis
Michael Smith
Lorine Solimeno
Gregg Stephenson
John Stopka
Sophie Stratton
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:

Catherine Brown
Mother of Peter Brown

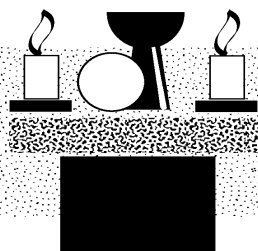
Meg Duranty
Wife of Chuck
Mother of Brad, Kevin, Emily & Brian

Weddings



Abigail Wiiken & Kevin Maluso

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



Gather our families
around your table
O, LORD

Pastor's Letter

*"Why were you looking for me?
Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"*
Luke 2:49

I have come to appreciate today's gospel as insight into the life of the Holy Family. Jesus acts and speaks in today's gospel like most adolescents who are pursuing their vision without much thought for how their pursuit might affect others in the family. Joseph and Mary had been searching for their son for several days. They were worried about what might happen to their young son, alone in a large and unfamiliar city. When they do find him, Jesus seems to have little compassion for their concern. He presumes that they "should have known" where to find him. He wonders what *their* problem is. Like any person under the age of 26, the frontal lobes of his brain were not yet fully developed. The young Jesus is biologically not yet able to always make good decisions.

Luke tells us that Jesus returned to Nazareth with his family and was obedient to them. Whether or not this incident is a factual account, Luke is making the point that the "holy" family was not a "perfect" family. They experienced the same upsets, tensions, and range of emotions as most other families. When finalizing which books were to be included in the New Testament, the early church chose to exclude other "gospels" that presented Jesus as a "miracle child", performing miracles before he became an adult. In fact, there are no miracle stories until after Jesus had been baptized by John in the Jordan River and spent thirty days in the desert, at roughly 30 years of age.

Holiness requires neither perfection nor sinlessness. Yes, Mary was offered a special grace that gave her the inclination to always say yes to God. Yet being without sin did not keep Mary from frustration, anger, worry, or any other emotion that parents may experience. Having an emotion is not a sin; it is what we choose to do with that emotion that can lead to sin. We may easily connect with what Mary is feeling when she says, "Son, why have you done this to us?" We also can imagine that there were other moments of tension in the life of this family.

The holiness of the Holy Family of Nazareth is that they never allowed their emotions to become a reason to be unkind to one another. Mary and Joseph taught Jesus by word and example what he needed their guidance to learn. They guided him on right paths and corrected him when he began to stray from those paths. He came to know and understand love from within his home and through living in this family.

The Feast of the Holy Family comes at just the right time in the Christmas Season. The anticipation and preparations for Christmas Day have passed. People may be exhausted, and emotions may still run high. We may be spending more uninterrupted time than usual with family members. For those "returning home" for Christmas or gathering with siblings and other relatives, we may feel the tensions of being treated as someone whom we have not been since childhood. Unresolved disagreements and unforgiven hurts may lurk beneath the surface. Even in a Hallmark movie that always ends well, there are moments of tension that threaten the picture of a "perfect" family.

So, enjoy whatever time you can spend with those whom you call family. Learn from the holy family that while *no family is perfect*, all families can treat one another with love, kindness, and, when necessary, forgiveness.

Christmas Peace,

J. Bill



Christmas Eve Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve
Tuesday, December 24th
St. Francis Xavier Church
3:00 pm* and 5:00 pm

Alexine Chapel
3:00 pm

St. Francis Xavier Church
7:00 pm

**Midnight Mass in Church
preceded by Christmas Carols
at 11:00 pm**

*Livestreamed
Joyce Hall will be open to
accommodate overflow.

Christmas Day Feast of the Holy Family New Year's Mass Schedule

Christmas Day
Wednesday, December 25th
9:00 am
11:00 am

Feast of the Holy Family
Saturday, December 28th
5:00 pm
Sunday, December 29th
7:30 am
9:00 am
11:00 am
5:00 pm

New Year's Eve
Tuesday, December 31st
5:00 pm

New Year's Day
Wednesday, January 1st
10:00 am

St. Francis Xavier Parish
BELONG · BELIEVE · BE LOVE

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.

Catholic Advocacy to Address Issues of Climate Change

In *Laudate Deum*, Pope Francis urges all people of good will to take action on the climate crisis and "move beyond the mentality of appearing to be concerned but not having the courage needed to produce substantial changes." He particularly calls on us in the United States to change our consumerist lifestyles, reduce our fossil fuel use, and advocate for systemic actions.

When you take the "[My Laudate Deum Action Pledge](#)" you'll commit to take concrete actions in three areas, such as:

- Your personal and family life (such as eating less meat)
- Within our Church community (such as reaching out to your staff and leaders)
- Advocating for systemic change at the national and global levels (such as asking for U.S. climate action policies)

Join with other Catholics in the United States who have joined the Catholic Climate Covenant.

Go to (<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/my-laudate-deum-action-pledge/>). Together, our U.S. Catholic community can help transform our world.

LORD
Bless us all
in the coming year



Office of the Archbishop
835 North Rush Street
Chicago, IL 60611-2030
312-534-8230
archchicago.org

Christmas 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In this holy season of Christmas, words from the Book of Wisdom echo in our hearts: *For while all things were in quiet silence, and the night was in the midst of her course, Thy almighty Word leapt down from Heaven from Thy royal throne, as a fierce conqueror into the midst of the land of destruction.* (Wisdom 18:15).

We have many reasons to think of our world as “the land of destruction.” Today, so many people across the globe suffer the ravages of war and violence, the burden of illness, crushing poverty and displacement, and natural disasters that are often weather related.

Our faith affirms that the Eternal Word of the Father took our flesh, shared our human condition in all its troubled dimensions, and then as “a fierce conqueror” lifted us up into new life. This mystery at the center of our faith gives us renewed hope and encouragement as we make our pilgrim way in this wounded world. Indeed, across the coming Holy Year, we celebrate the hope that only the Lord in his goodness can give us. It is hope, Saint Paul tells us, that *will not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts, through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.* (Romans 5:5)

As you gather with family and friends in this holy season, I will pray for you and for a renewal of your hope. May the upcoming Holy Year with its theme *Pilgrims of hope* be an opportunity for all of us to learn how to be signs and instruments of hope for our struggling and burdened world.

As I celebrate the Eucharist in this holy season, I will ask the Lord to help you and your loved ones to cling to his word of promise that is the true source of our hope.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Chicago

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.



Toddling 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
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 [Toddling Together - SFX Parents of Littles](#).



Maybe there's more

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

A Christmas Message of Stewardship



In October, I joined the Hallow challenge about *Mere Christianity*, highlighting a series of radio talks given by C.S. Lewis during World War II. These fascinating talks, which gave a former atheist's arguments for God and how to live out Christian values in the world today, gave hope to a weary world in the 1940s. The reflections in this Hallow challenge honed the cerebral perspective of my faith. Little did I know that Hallow was just setting me up for the Advent Challenge: 25 days of reflection and prayer which led from thinking with my brain to accepting in my heart. And did these reflections bring me face to face with where I am in personal relationship with Jesus!

As I have shared with my adult children, a grade school understanding of God likely cannot stand up to our questions as we pass through the challenges of each decade of life. In these past few months, I have felt a continual battle in accepting God's design. Devoting time in daily prayer and reflection (using the Hallow app!), and then talking it over with my husband and others in the SFX community, have been instrumental in strengthening my relationship with Jesus to come to some measure of openness and acceptance of God's plan. Our Lord is born into this human experience, into communion with us. Our battles will continue. The way through is Emmanuel, in communion with each other.

Are you in need of the "more" Jesus offers as you continue to grow into yourself, even as an adult? There is no depth to which Christ will not go with you! If YOU are thinking about exploring your personal relationship with Jesus, I invite you to:

Join Hallow, the #1 prayer app in the world. Our parish invested in setting up a subscription for YOU. Details are on our website (www.sfxlg.org).

Join Maggie McMahon, our Pastoral Associate, and the team at St Francis Xavier as they share their talents for a *fourth Alpha session*, starting on January 27. More information is available *on the opposite page of this bulletin*. I'm going to be there!

"The weary world rejoices!" We are so happy that you are worshiping our newborn King and Savior here at St. Francis Xavier Parish. Our mission is possible with your financial support toward a Christmas goal of \$170,000. Thank you for your stewardship! And wherever you may journey this month, my hope is that you will experience the presence of the Prince of Peace.

Jennifer Zeisloft, *Director of Stewardship and Development*

*"Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run
only... loneliness, despair... and decay.
But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him
everything else thrown in."*

- C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*



Make a gift to our Christmas offertory with this QR Code or [click here](#).
Thank you for your stewardship!

SFX Yule Flip and Santa's Workshop 2024

Parishioners of all ages enjoyed the Yule Flip Pancake Breakfast on December 8. And upstairs in the gym, children and adults created crafts to take home or give to our Food Pantry families. Rounding it all out was a visit with Santa Claus. What wonderful memories with our SFX Community!



A HUGE thank you to our Volunteers



Catholic Women's Club
— St. Francis Xavier - CWC —

8th Grade School of Religious Education Students



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**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.

**Edythe Ministry
Thank You**

Special thanks to Jennifer and her daughters for decorating the planters in front of the rectory bringing the spirit of Christmas joy. To Judy and her daughter Mary for filling the planters by Unity Hall and the parking lot planters with Christmas cheer.

Thank you for your time and initiative to help bring beauty to the St. Francis grounds.

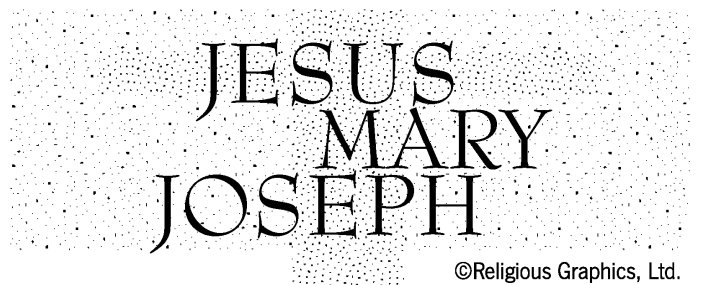
The Edythe Ministry
Cathy Skokna
708-253-3164

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.



**Knights of Columbus
LaGrange
Council 6483**

The Knights of Columbus are pleased to have selected the winning entries in its "Keep Christ in Christmas" poster contest.

These local winners will next compete in regionals.

Congratulations to our community's student artists and a joyful THANK YOU to all St. Francis Xavier students who entered a poster. Merry Christmas from the Knights of Columbus.

The St. Francis Xavier Parish
Music Ministry presents...

A Star of Love

featuring the SFX...

**PRAISE! Ensemble*

**Gallery Choir*

**Seraphim Children's Choir*

**Chamber Collective*

Free Admission!

Baskets will be placed at the doors for a free-will donation to benefit the SFX Music Ministry. Thank you!



Saturday, January 4, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.
St. Francis Xavier Church

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

WE PRAY • WE LEARN • WE SERVE

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

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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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jbandyk@sfxlg.org
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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

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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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