



SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH
4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve
December 23 & 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of
ADVENT



Week at a Glance

| | | | Intention | Requested By |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Monday, December 25 Christmas Day | Mass | 9:00 am 11:00 am | Church Church | |
| Tuesday, December 26 | Mass | 8:30 am | Ann & Ray Andrew | Pam Oplawski |
| Wednesday, December 27 | Mass | 8:30 am | Linda McMahon Tom & Jackie Morsch 69th Wedding Anniversary | The McMahon Family |
| Thursday, December 28 | Rosary Mass | 8:15 am 8:30 am | People of the Parish | |
| Friday, December 29 | Mass | 8:30 am | Eileen Glad | Jim & Mary Donahue |
| Saturday, December 30 | Mass Reconciliation Mass | 8:30 am 9:00 am 5:00 pm | Mary & Walter Kinnucan Albert Gimesky | The Morsch Family Prox & Bernard Kazyak |
| Sunday, December 31 The Holy Family | Mass Mass Mass | 7:30 am 9:00 am 11:00 am | People of the Parish People of the Parish People of the Parish | |
| Sunday, December 31 New Year's Eve | Mass | 5:00 pm | People of the Parish | |

Presider's Schedule for December 23-24, 2023

4th Sunday of Advent 5:00 pm Fr. Milek 7:30 am Fr. Milek 10:00 am Fr. Tkachuk

Christmas Eve Alexine Chapel 3:00 pm Fr. Milek

Christmas Eve Church 3:00 pm Fr. Hoffman 5:00 pm Fr. Tkachuk 7:00 pm Fr. Milek **Midnight** Fr. Tkachuk

Please pray for . . .

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Baby Finley Adkins | Eleanor Love |
| John Baggio | Rick Mahoney |
| Ed Barrett | Darren Masier |
| Dorothy Burnicks | Lisa Massaro |
| Dick Callahan | Patrick Morgan |
| Jay Carroll | Muriel Nerad |
| Chili Challender | Gert Ogilvie |
| Marion Coogan | Jane O'Reilly |
| Laurie Coughlan | Larry Plansky |
| Blake Donegan | Laureen Rabe |
| Barbara Doyle | Rob Roper |
| Matthew Doyle | Anna Rose |
| Nancy Duffy | Sandra Smith |
| Lily Fielding | Santa Snieg |
| Tom Flynn | Jerry Spearman, Sr. |
| Kathy Gleason | Rita Mae Spearman |
| Lilli Gregory | Gregg Stephenson |
| Angela Hill | John Stopka |
| Dave Hyland | Charlie Swafford |
| Rose Ilo | Richie Szatkowski |
| Jane Jacobsen | Olivia Tarsney |
| Tiffany Kahn | Bill Witowski |
| Richard Lavers | Erik Witz |

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:



Bishop Raymond Goedert

Bob Hill
Brother of John Hill



In observance of the Christmas Holiday, the rectory office will close on Friday, December 22 at 4:30 pm. We will reopen on Wednesday, December 27 at 8:30 am.

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



Pastor's Letter

"Nothing will be impossible for God."

Luke 1:37

Behold!

An angel appears to a young woman who is engaged and in the process of the marriage rituals, but for whom the rituals have not yet been completed. The angel tells her that she, a humble virgin of no status, has been chosen to conceive and bring to birth God's Son through the power of the Holy Spirit. This angel later appears to her betrothed, a carpenter, to tell him that he is to become the earthly father of the child that has been conceived by the Spirit. Two young people are asked to allow their lives to be turned upside down; to surrender their expectations of what their life was to be, and to trust that it is God who is asking this of them.

The young virgin, Mary, quickly submits to the angel's request. The carpenter, Joseph, must then struggle for a time to agree to do what is against everything he has been taught is holy and righteous. Their openness to what they cannot understand and their trust in God is how the conception and birth of the Christ Child came to be. For, as the angel proclaims, "Nothing will be impossible for God."

The angel's quick departure is much like this year's transition from Advent into Christmas. Sunday morning, we light the last of the four Advent candles. Only a few hours later, we gather to place the figure of the Christ Child in the manger. Even Luke's gospel moves quickly from the Annunciation to Mary and the Visitation with Elizabeth to the arrival of this homeless couple in Bethlehem as their child is about to be born. We are left to imagine the conversations and decisions of Joseph and Mary as they hastily complete the marriage rites and prepare to leave Nazareth before Mary's pregnancy is discovered by the religious authorities. And even though the distance from Nazareth to Bethlehem is not long, the couple was travelling by foot and donkey – not the most comfortable means of travel for a young, pregnant woman. They had to travel through unfriendly Samaritan territory; they surely had to stop frequently so that Mary could rest along the way and Joseph could offer his skills to help fund their journey. They arrive in a town that is overflowing with visitors and not particularly welcoming to a poor family from "the north." They must settle for shelter in a stable, surrounded by the smells and noises of the innkeeper's animals. **All of this** is how the birth of Jesus, the Son of God, comes about.

If you find yourselves amid the complications of travel and rushed preparations and a bit of tiredness as Christmas dawns, allow yourself to **become one with Mary and Joseph** as they entered the first Christmas Day. If you are apart from family this Christmas, choose to **be with Anna and Joaquim**, Mary's parents, who were far away and must have been worrying about their daughter, who was about to give birth to their grandchild. If you feel a bit separated from the excitement around you, **sit with the shepherds** on the hillside who were about to be awakened by the heavenly song of angel choirs. If you are searching for meaning and purpose, **journey with the magi** as they follow a star whose significance they hope to learn.

Jesus seeks to be born in your heart so that you may pronounce and carry his love to the world. And nothing will be impossible for God!

Christmas Peace,

J. Bill

Reflection For the 4th Sunday of Advent

Liturgy Planning Team #2

Carol Aronson, Barb Budak, Bernadette McMahon, Diane Redmond, and Joan Stopka

There are so many wonderful and positive statements in our readings for this Fourth Sunday of Advent. We are told that God will never leave us, he is with us forever. He is with us in the challenges and the joys of our daily lives, taking care of us. We are loved and blessed by his constant presence. We have nothing to fear.

Even our fourth candle on the advent wreath today is known as the "Love Candle" or the "Angel's Candle". God's love for us is made manifest through Jesus' birth. He cares for us by bringing about our salvation through his son. To accomplish this task, he comes to us through a young, grace filled woman who has the courage to say, "Yes". She places her life in God's providential care. Let us exemplify Mary by also placing that childlike quality of complete trust in God as we go to him with all our worries, fears, requests and prayers. Never forgetting to express our gratitude for all we are given while recalling the words of the angel, Gabriel, "Nothing will be impossible for God."

Welcome to the Parish of St. Francis Xavier

Whether you are joining us at one of our seven parish Christmas Masses, or from your home for our live-streamed Christmas Mass, **we are blessed that you have chosen our parish** to celebrate the birth of Jesus, God with Us!

May you and yours have a blessed Christmas!

Join us for weekend Mass EVERY weekend!

Our regular weekend Mass schedule:

Saturday at 5:00pm

Sunday at 7:30am, 9:00am, 11:00am, and 5:00pm

Next weekend, the Sunday 5:00pm Mass and a special Monday 10:00am mass will celebrate the Feast of Mary, Mother of God.



St. Francis Xavier 4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve Mass Schedule

4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23rd 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 24th 7:30 am and 10:00 am

(New Sunday morning schedule this year)

Christmas Eve in Church

3:00 pm* and 5:00 pm

Christmas Eve at Alexine Chapel

3:00 pm

Christmas Eve in 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

Monday, December 25th
9:00 am and 11:00 am

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 30th 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 31st 7:30 am,
9:00 am and 11:00 am

New Year's Eve 5:00 pm

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

Please check the
website www.sfxlg.org
for livestream mass times.



THIS CHRISTMAS



This Christmas...
Seek out a lost friend.
Replace suspicion with trust.
Mend a quarrel. Share some treasure.
Give a soft answer. Encourage youth.
Forgive an enemy. Apologize if you were wrong.
Welcome a stranger and gladden the heart of a child.
Try to understand. Examine your demands on others.
Appreciate. Be Kind. Laugh a little. Keep a promise.
Think first of someone else. Express your gratitude.
Go to church. Take pleasure in the beauty of the earth.
Speak your love. Speak it again. Speak it still once more.
Let us celebrate Christmas and give it
the realization of its true meaning
with the sudden stirring
of the heart extended
toward the care of life.
Then, it is possible to grasp the significance of the first Christmas.

Author Unknown

Christmas Concert & Candlelight Service *Follow the Star!*

Saturday, January 6, 2024 — 7:00 p.m.

The St. Francis Xavier Music Ministry

*Celebration Ensemble, Gallery Choir,
Children's Choir & Instrumentalists*



SAFE AND SOBER HOLIDAYS

Did you know that 10-13% of all people in any community live with the disease of alcoholism or other chemical dependence? This includes 10-13% of our parish community. Each person who lives with a chemically dependent person also has a disease that negatively affects the lives of at least four other persons. 40% of the members of any community know someone, or are concerned about someone, or are angry at someone who lives with this progressive and potentially fatal disease.

If you care about someone who has a drinking or other drug problem, I encourage you to get help for yourself. Go to ALANON if you are affected by someone's chemical dependency. Go to FAMILIES ANONYMOUS if you are the relative or friend of a young person with drug problems. Go to ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS if you are the adult son or daughter of someone with an alcohol or other drug problem. *Get help for yourself before* you attempt to intervene in the life of someone who is addicted. This is the best gift you can give to someone who is dependent on alcohol or another drug.

Here are some healthy guidelines for holiday drinking and entertaining.

Fr. Bill

HOLIDAY DRINKING GUIDELINES

1. Drink only if you can. If you have been told not to drink, or if you take medication that does not mix with alcohol, don't drink.

Just one drink can hurt you.

2. Don't drink more than one drink per hour. If you can drink more than this without feeling any effect, it may be a symptom of the disease of alcoholism.

A high tolerance for alcohol is a sign of disease – not a good thing.

3. Don't drink if you "don't drink." Don't take a beverage to avoid hurting your host or hostess.

Not drinking is okay.

4. Alcohol mixes better with the gasoline in a car than with the driver. If you plan on having a "really good time?" then plan on not driving.

Drunk drivers can kill people.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING GUIDELINES

1. Never tell a guest, "Aw, c'mon. One drink won't hurt you. It's Christmas!"

The calendar has no effect on the effects of alcohol.

2. Don't serve more than one drink per hour to any guest. Minimize the time before serving food.

Don't poison your guests.

3. Don't give a guest who "doesn't drink" a hard time. Don't argue when someone says, "No thanks."

Provide non-alcoholic refreshments and let your guests choose.

4. Hot coffee or cold towels only make a person more awake. If a guest is drunk, do not let them drive. Get them a ride or cab or let them sleep it off.

Drunk drivers can kill people.

Surviving the Holidays

Some family situations can make the holidays difficult. For example,
there's no money
the kids are at the other parent's house
a loved one has died this past year
These top ten tips for "Surviving the Holidays" can help you exchange the dread, anxiety, or loneliness for a time of inner peace and hope.

1. Have realistic expectations.

This year WILL be different; resist trying to make it the same as other years.

2. Know you can stay home this year.

This year you may feel like staying at home, which is a normal part of grief and healing. Many people may insist—maybe even push—to get you out. Be honest with yourself. If you are overwhelmed and need the security of solace, give yourself permission to stay in. If you go to the party and are ambushed by extreme emotions, give yourself permission to thank the host and leave early.

3. Do something special for yourself.

Plan a time close to Christmas day to go to a good movie, do a little window shopping, drop into church for a prayer, or enjoy a special treat. It doesn't have to be lavish. If you'd rather stay home, then download a favorite movie, cook a favorite meal, and cozy up in a way that comforts you.

4. Do something for someone else.

One of the best ways to come out of our misery is to help someone else. Volunteering restores many to the reality that God is good and there are many things for which to be thankful. Some focus their attention on Christmas presents for the children.

5. Keep it simple.

Having a Christmas tree may cheer up some; but for others it will be too depressing. Sending Christmas cards can be very therapeutic; but for some it is a time-consuming and unnecessary expense. Re-examine *everything* you used to do during the holidays; keep what works and let go of the rest.

6. Keep in touch with the children.

Children crave routines and rituals, which give them a sense of security—especially holiday customs. Keep as many of the holiday routines that *they* best love. Ask what *their* favorites are and help them focus on the fun.

7. Don't celebrate with your ex.

Unless it's been years, the kids are older, *and* you really do get along well. It sounds good that you should all be able to get along at the holidays—but it's most often a myth. In most cases it confuses everyone, especially the children.

8. Help the children buy a present for their other parent.

Imagine how difficult it can be to get a present for mom or dad without any help. Some things should never change: like encouraging children to love, honor, and respect both parents.

9. Draw close to God.

This holiday is about the answer to every person's prayer: God come to us in the flesh. Let Mary's kind eyes fall upon you and Joseph's strong gaze give you hope.

10. Go to Christmas Mass and rejoice in your heart.

On Christmas day your emotions may be extremely tender; the tears may flow, and the cries of your heart may mix with the strains of "Silent Night." But come. Come as you are. Know that you are loved. Know that there is hope. Know that there *will* be resurrection and salvation. *This* is the hope of these holidays.

O come, let us adore our God made flesh in Jesus.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE OF STEWARDSHIP

Two weeks ago on Gaudete Sunday, we heard this reading from the prophet Isaiah:

*The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

Luke tells us that Jesus read this very scripture in a Nazarene synagogue at the beginning of his ministry.

*Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down.
**The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them,
"Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."***

As I look around me in our beautiful church on Christmas, all eyes are **fastened** on the baby in the manger. Isaiah's prophecy is **fulfilled in our hearing**. Emmanuel has come.

As missionary disciples, we continue the work begun by the apostles who walked with Jesus. Your stewardship of time, talent, and treasure has a profound impact on St. Francis Xavier, enabling the parish to provide essential services and ministries every day of the year. This month alone, the parish has orchestrated programs that brought Christmas gifts to migrant children, St. Agatha parishioners, and Food Pantry clients. Both the elementary school and School of Religious Education hosted service days benefitting hundreds of our brothers and sisters in need. St. Francis Xavier priests, deacons, and lay ministers are leading us in prayer and worship – we anticipate over 3,500 individuals will join us for Christmas Eve and Day Mass.

None of these initiatives would be possible without your steadfast financial support. Our parish Christmas goal is \$154,000. Your Christmas donation remains vital to our ongoing mission to "create a more just world through sacraments and worship, learning and service." Even if a gift is not feasible for your household this year, please be assured that the parish staff holds the entire community in our prayers.

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

Ways to Give:

1. Father Bill's Christmas letter included an envelope for your offering; some are available in the church
2. The QR code on the inside cover of this bulletin or [click here](#)
3. Text-to-give: Text 'JOYFUL' to 708-340-6630



Finding My Faith Story: A Half-Day Retreat

January 27, 2024 from 9:00am - 12:30pm
in Unity Hall (optional lunch to follow)



Using the four-door method of narrative spirituality, this retreat helps people find and tell their faith story by giving participants the spiritual tools to identify each of the following four elements in their own life story:

- a main character
- who encounters a compelling problem to solve
- identifies the power or talent needed to solve it, and
- takes action with this power to address the problem

Seeing our life story in these spiritual terms equips us to live the story in which we take action to use our own unique powers and talents to address the need that most touches our heart.

Retreat cost is \$10/person. [Click here to register!](#)

Any questions, please contact Maggie McMahon at mmcmahon@sfxlg.org.

Christmas 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we also celebrate the birth of our hope. When he came among us as one like us in all things but sin, he lifted us up to new and transformed life. In fact, he opened for us the way to share in the very life of God. One of the prayers of the Mass gives us these words: "...may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity."

The struggles that we face in our personal lives and in our wounded world do not have the last word. We are meant for more. We are meant for full and eternal life. I pray that our celebration of the Lord's birth will remind us of the glory that will carry us beyond the challenges, sometimes truly significant challenges that mark our lives and our world.

We must also remember that the Lord did not just come among us once and long ago. He continues to walk with us as we walk with each other. Our celebrations of the Eucharist remind of that. And he will never abandon his people. He is now and always Emmanuel, our God with us. Our journey is his journey. And this year, having celebrated the first of two synods of the Church, we are especially aware that he accompanies us as we accompany one another.

In this holy season, I invite you to pray. Take time, create a quiet space, look on the creche, read the gospels, and allow yourself to know that he is near and that he walks with you. If you do so, I can assure you that you will know his peace. Then, take what you learn from him to your family, to your workplace, to your community, and to entire world. The gift of Jesus, the Incarnate Word of God, is not something we can hold for ourselves. We are called and destined to share it with others.

As I celebrate the Eucharist, I will remember you and pray that you will have a living sense of the Lord among us, the one who walks with us and draws us forward into the fullness to the fullness of his life.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Chicago

Glory to God in the Highest

Parishioners of all ages enjoyed the Yule Flip Pancake Breakfast on December 10, thanks to our cooks from the Knights of Columbus! Upstairs in the gym, children joined the CWC elves in Santa's Workshop to meet Santa and create holiday crafts. Wonderful Christmas memories all around!

SFX Yule Flip and Santa's Workshop 2023





**A HUGE thank you to our sponsors
for supporting this fabulous event!**



Kara Kennedy O'Connell
708-207-5311
karaoconnell@atproperties.com

@properties

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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 2

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



Knights of Columbus LaGrange Council 6483

Catholic men 18 years and older are invited to our monthly meetings held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm in Unity Hall at St. Francis Xavier Parish. Our social is held on the third Wednesday of the month.

For more information, please contact Mark Azzi at 708-732-5287.

Catholic Women's Club

The St. Francis Xavier CWC (Catholic Women's Club) is seeking volunteers to support 2022/2023 efforts including service projects, event planning (including Ladies Day Out) and more.

Join the fun and reach out to either Lauren Desmond lauren.e.desmond@gmail.com or Erin Thunander erin.thunander@gmail.com if you'd like to get involved.

Family Outreach Ministry

The St. Francis Xavier Family Outreach Ministry would like to invite you to join us this year to help prepare and serve a hot meal to our neighbors in need at the First Congregational Church's Saturday Meals Program. The dates for the 2024 school year are: January 20, March 16 and May 18. There are two time slots to choose, or come for the whole time: 9:00-11:30am: Food prep and cooking or 11:30am-1:00pm: Food serving and clean up.

Volunteers must be at least 16 years old or 13 years if accompanied by an adult.

To register [click here](#) or contact Rachel Peterson at petersonrtw@sbcglobal.net.

**IN THE BEGINNING
WAS THE WORD
AND THE WORD
WAS WITH GOD
AND THE WORD WAS GOD**

SCRIPTURE STUDY 2024
Sr. Marianne Race, CSJ

Unity Hall
9:30-11:00 am
Thursdays
January 11-March 7, 2024

The Gospel of John
Biblical Notions of Heaven

Register with Sr. Marianne Race
mrace@csjoseph.org
708-363-6728

Your Parish Counselor



As we enter the winter months, the nights are getting longer. Generally, people find the shorter days to be more depressing. However, how long would we be able to enjoy Christmas lights without the night? Much like life, there can be glimpses of joy in times of struggle. Still, it may be difficult to focus on the light if surrounded by darkness. If you are looking for some assistance navigating these experiences, consider reaching out at 704-750-0686 or bc.shelly.claret@gmail.com.

BC Shelly, M.A., M.Div.
Parish Counselor Intern
St. Francis Xavier Parish
Phone: 704-750-0868
Email: bc.shelly.claret@gmail.com

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS *for* 2024-2025

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.

National Catholic Education Association Maxine Donahue Award recipient for service.

COME TO OUR OPEN HOUSE ON
JANUARY 28TH 10:00AM-12:30PM

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR:

- STRONG CORE CURRICULUM
- DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION
- INTEGRATED ARTS (ART, MUSIC, SPANISH, P.E. AND LRC)
- ATHLETICS AND EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES
- ESTABLISHED & MEANINGFUL USE OF TECHNOLOGY

CONTACT US TODAY! ENROLLMENT@SFXLG.ORG



Toddler Moms' Monthly Prayer Night

Where: Check Facebook event for location of the month (SFX Toddling Together group) (subject to change each month)

When: 8:00pm (every 2nd Thursday)

What: Get those littles (mostly) in bed and gather with other toddler moms for prayer and restoration! We meet on 2nd Thursdays of the month (location may vary, be sure to check Facebook or bulletin each month.)

Toddling Together Playtime & Social

Where: St. Francis Preschool Classroom

When: Sunday, January 14th at 10:00am

(between 9:00 & 11:00am masses, meet in Unity Hall to walk over together)

What: Gather with other families of littles to run off some energy and socialize pre/post mass.

Questions? Contact mmcmahon@sfxlg.org for more information.

Join our Facebook group: SFX Toddling Together!

**Attention
St. Francis Xavier
Classes of 2016 and 2019!**

The St. Francis Xavier School Advisory Board invites SFX graduates from the classes of 2016 and 2019 for pizza at Lucca's Pizzeria & Ristorante on Wednesday, December 27 from 6:00-9:00 pm.

Start your night with us—have a slice and say hello to classmates and Falcon Friends!

Lucca's is located at 108 West Burlington Avenue, LaGrange.

Questions, please email
SchoolBoard@sfxlg.org.



**Engage Community
December**

Our next get together:
**Thursday, December 28 from
7:00 to 8:30 pm in Unity Hall at SFX**

Have you received a gift that just isn't at home in your home? Now is your chance to give it to someone who might appreciate it. We're having a **White Elephant Party!**

Bring a wrapped gift and a sense of humor!
Refreshments will be potluck.

Please RSVP at the email below by December 26.

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

Engage Community~January

Our next outing:
Tuesday January 9 at 1:00 pm to the
Elmhurst Historical Museum
(120 East Park Avenue, Elmhurst) for their exhibit:
Lost Chicagoland Department Stores.

Take a nostalgic trip back to the heyday of Chicago area department stores like Marshall Field's, Sears, Carson Pirie Scott, and more. Learn about the eclectic history of these iconic retailers through an array of artifacts, images, video, and memorabilia. Exhibit collaborator, historian, and author Leslie Goddard will share many fascinating stories and items from popular city and suburban department stores of the past.

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

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



Save The Date

**Kairos 42
February 22-25, 2024**

We will open Kairos 42 registration on January 9 at 9:00AM. We have limited spots.

**2024 Summer Mission Trip
June 9-14, 2024 in Louisville, KY**

Rising Sophomores through Graduating Seniors join us for a life-changing week of service, faith and fun. St. Francis, St. Cletus and St. John of the Cross Parishes are partnering for another Summer Mission trip to Love, Serve and Connect with Catholic Heart Workcamp in Louisville, Kentucky. We will join other teens from across the country as we serve community members painting, gardening, building, and volunteering with social service agencies. Teens will earn 30 hours of service for our Summer Mission Trip. Registration opened on December 20 at 9:00AM Click Here. Please check out our website for more information and to access the registration link on December 20. We anticipate these spots will go quickly; we require a \$150 non-refundable deposit to secure your spot.

Youth Ministry...in the meantime

After a series of interviews over the past seven months, we have not been able to offer someone the staff position of Coordinator of Youth Ministry. This leaves us without current leadership for several important ministries to our high school teens, especially:

- ◆ Planning and directing our bi-monthly program for teens on the evening of the first Sunday of the month (we alternate with St. John of the Cross).
- ◆ the ongoing coordination of the SFX Church League teams.
- ◆ our Kairos Retreat team (in collaboration with St. John of the Cross).
- ◆ our team for the summer mission trip.

Your stewardship of talent in any of the above programs would be a great gift to our teens. We can provide staff guidance and resources. If you are interested in ministering to our teens in any of these ministries, please contact Fr. Bill (wtkachuk@sfxlg.org).



SUMMER 2024 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IMPORTANT NEWS AND SAVE THE DATE!

The Parish Pastoral Council is excited to announce that SFX will be partnering with Grace Lutheran for a Vacation Bible School Program. The Summer 2024 VBS will run the week of June 24th (Monday-Friday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm) so mark your calendars now as you plan your summer activities.

Registration for VBS will open at the end of January. More details about how and where to register as well as volunteer opportunities will be provided early next year. In addition to parent volunteers we will be looking for teen volunteers, a great way to get service hours.

For those of you not familiar with Vacation Bible School, the program is a faith based, one week long (mornings only) filled with fun indoor and outdoor activities. It is open for pre-K through 5th grade children. 6th through 8th graders can participate in a "service crew" which spends the week doing service projects in the community.

The PPC is very excited about providing the opportunity to the SFX community. Watch the bulletin and the SFX Facebook page for more details. You can reach out to Phil Zadeik at pjzadeik@gmail.com for further information about VBS and volunteer opportunities at this time. Thanks and have a Merry Christmas!



Save the Date!

**Knights of Columbus
LaGrange Local Council 6483
Blood Drive**

You are invited to donate at the blood drive below:

St. Francis Xavier Church-Gym

Sunday, January 21, 2024—9:00 am-1:00 pm

145 North Waiola Avenue

(Ogden Avenue and Waiola Avenue in LaGrange)

To make an appointment visit <http://tinyurl.com/3bh9k8m3>

or call 1-800-7TO-GIVE or scan the QR Code

with your smart phone's camera.



Versiti is the blood provider for 83 local hospitals Giving warms the heart! Donate and keep warm this winter with a limited-edition Versiti beanie, while supplies last.

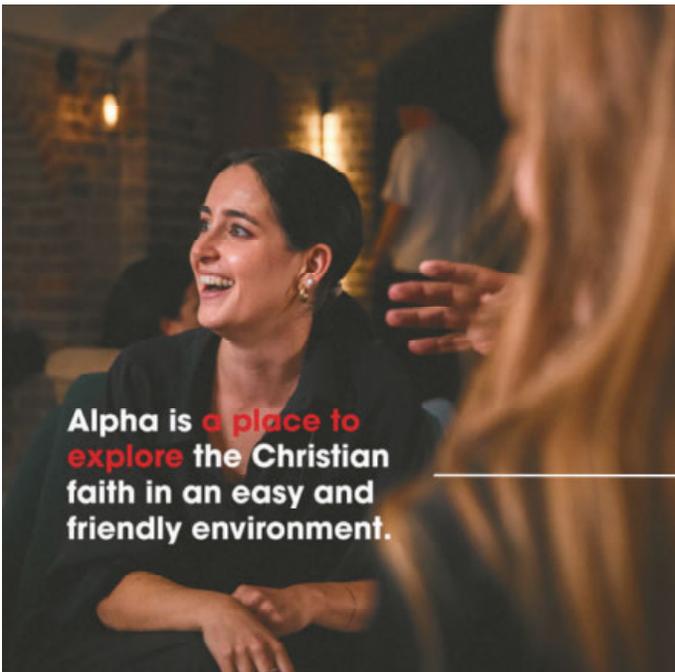


Helpful tip: Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.





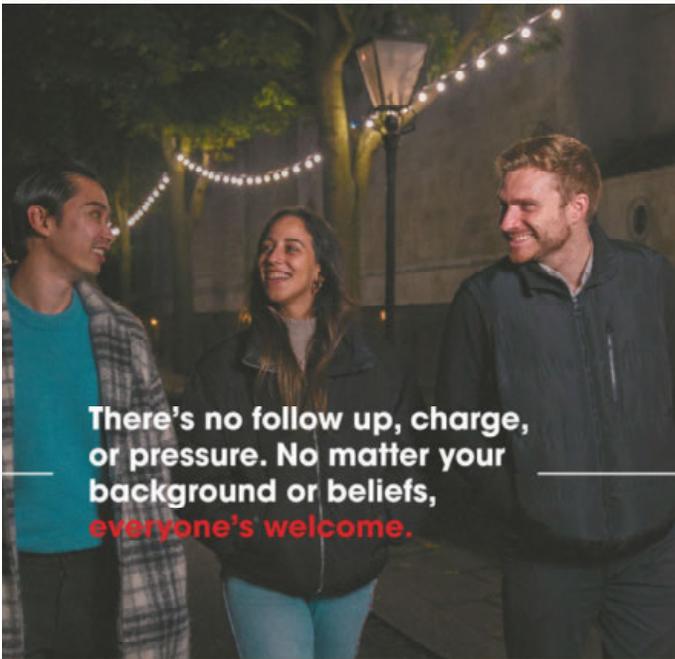
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Please Pray For...all those Serving Overseas in the Military including:

- **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. Commander Jonathan Devitt Brown, U.S. Navy**—nephew of the Devitt Family
- **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
- **Warrant Office 3 Nolan Kemna, USMC**—nephew of John & Linda Hill
- **Phil Lukanich, U.S. Navy**—husband and brother-in-law of Joanna and son of Mark & Martie Lukanich
- **Lt. M. Ryan Lukanich, U.S. Army**—son of Mark & Martie Lukanich
- **Staff Sgt. Scott Blunk**—husband of Brianne and son-in-law of Maureen Becker
- **Lt. Daniel McGue**—grandson of Sue Ryan
- **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
- **Major Meghan Cumpston, U.S. Army**—cousin of Lauren Schultz
- **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
- **Colonel Jessica Nichol, USAF**—daughter-in-law of Tom & Lucile Nichol
- **Capt. Jack Albertini, USMC**—son of Bob & Susan Albertini
- **Lt. Ryan Lavine, U.S. Army**—nephew of Kim & Vince Henehan
- **Chief Petty Officer Marko Mandac, U.S. Navy**—husband of Anna, son-in-law of David & Lynn Rogers

**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
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 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.....sfxing@sfxlg.org
Main Day School e-Mail.....sfxmain@sfxlg.org
Main Religious Education e-Mail.....sfxreligoused@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 sfxing@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.

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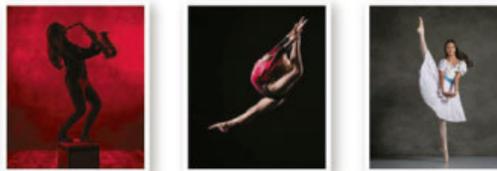


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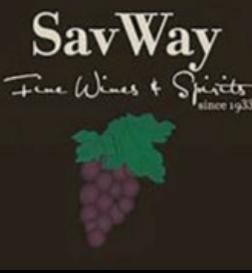


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