



**SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH**  
**1st Sunday of Lent**  
**February 22, 2026**

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



# 2026 Annual Catholic Appeal

TOGETHER  
WE BRING LIGHT



**BELONG • BELIEVE • BE LOVE**

## Week at a Glance

			Intention	Requested By
Monday, February 23	Mass	8:30 am	Emrery Mapes Herbert & Mary Schrack John Kelly	Jesse & Claire Presley  The Kelly Family
Tuesday, February 24	Mass	8:30 am	Helena Ptaszynska Michelle Kram	The Metzger Family John & Lynn Schwaab
Wednesday, February 25	Mass	8:30 am	People of the Parish	
Thursday, February 26	Rosary Mass	8:15 am 8:30 am	People of the Parish	
Friday, February 27	Stations Mass	7:45 am 8:30 am	Keeley Johnson	Jerry Johnson
Saturday, February 28	Mass	8:30 am	Maureen Kallal	The Devitt Family
	Reconciliation	9:00 am		
	Mass	5:00 pm	John Gleason	The St. Francis Xavier Resource Team
Sunday, March 1	Mass	7:30 am	People of the Parish	
2nd Sunday of Lent	Mass	9:00 am	Mike Murphy	The Driscoll Family
	Mass	11:00 am	Ron Nomellini	Frances Fountas
	Mass	5:00 pm	Bill Ketcik	Nancy Cozzi & Lou Freda

### Presider's Schedule for February 28-March 1, 2026

5:00 pm Fr. Milek    7:30 am Fr. Chrzan    9:00 am Fr. Milek (Deacon Phil)    11:00 am Fr. Chrzan    5:00 pm Fr. Milek

### Please pray for . . .

John Baggio Bob Barrett Poppy Booth Robert Borchardt George Braasch Irene Brewick Vivian Brickhouse Dennis Callahan Joe Canepa John Clinch Blake Donegan John Donegan Craig Eaton Nathan Emkow Dale Friedman Lupe Baker Garcia Allen Godlewski Vincenzo Guzzo Junie Haase Angela Hill Jessi Rita Hoffman Richard Holbach John Hronec Michelle Jackson Patricia Jones Nora Lou Kampe Deb Kash Terri Bergen Klein Ella Mae Kuzel	Laura Leide Eleanor Love Richard Mauman Robert McMahon John McMurray Amy Miller Aldo Mitri Brandon Moffett Patrick Morgan Bill Mroz Ann Marie Nidos Connie O'Dette Cathy O'Leary Mark Reilly Richard Reveles Joseph Riden, Jr. Amy Robinson Juan Silva Rita Mae Spearman Gregg Stephenson John Stopka Sophie Stratton Catie Sullivan Olivia Tarsney Joe Vargas Baby Emma Wallace Liz Wilk Frank Zolfo, Jr.
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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:

#### *Allen Milos*

Father of Cathy Jareczek  
Father-in-Law of Jim  
Grandfather of Mark, Luke & Jessica



**Stations  
of the  
Cross  
Every Friday  
at 7:45 am**

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



## Pastor's Letter

Dear friends in Christ,

In the reading from Matthew's Gospel for Ash Wednesday, Jesus gives us a gentle but powerful teaching. He speaks three times about "the hypocrites": those who give alms, pray and fast in order to be seen. And three times he says the same thing: they have already received their reward. The hypocrites' reward is the attention, approval or admiration of others. That is all they receive because that is all they were looking for.

Then Jesus turns our focus toward a different way. When you give to others, when you pray, when you fast, do it in secret. Not because God enjoys secrecy, but because love that is real does not need an audience; it doesn't call undue attention to itself. Jesus says that the Father who sees in secret will repay you. That word "repay" is striking. It tells us that what we offer to God in sincerity - namely our prayer, our sacrifice and our repentance, truly matters to Him. These hidden acts are not small things. They are gifts of the heart. They are of value to God because they come from a heart filled with love.

The hypocrite proudly performs public religious acts but offers nothing of-the-heart to God; the disciple of Christ quietly offers something real, and God treasures what is real. When we pray in secret, when we fast with humility, when we give without display, we are placing something valuable into God's hands. Not to earn his love but to respond to it. And the Father, who is never outdone in generosity, receives these offerings and returns grace upon grace. This is what Jesus means when he says the Father who sees in secret will repay you. Love is repaid with love.

As we receive ashes and embark on our Lenten observance, we begin not as a performance but as a relationship. This is a season to return to the hidden places of the heart where God already waits for us. If we walk this path sincerely, the reward is not applause. It is fellowship with God himself. And that is a reward that lasts far beyond forty days; it endures into eternity.

Peace,  
Fr. John

### Reflection for the 1st Sunday of Lent

Liturgy Planning Team #6

Susan Lindsay, Susie Lehuta and Sue Martin

Rather than weakening Jesus, his fasting in the desert gave him strength, enabling him to resist the devil. May our experience of fasting in Lent strengthen our own resolve to resist temptation.

### Prayer for Peace, Healing and Love

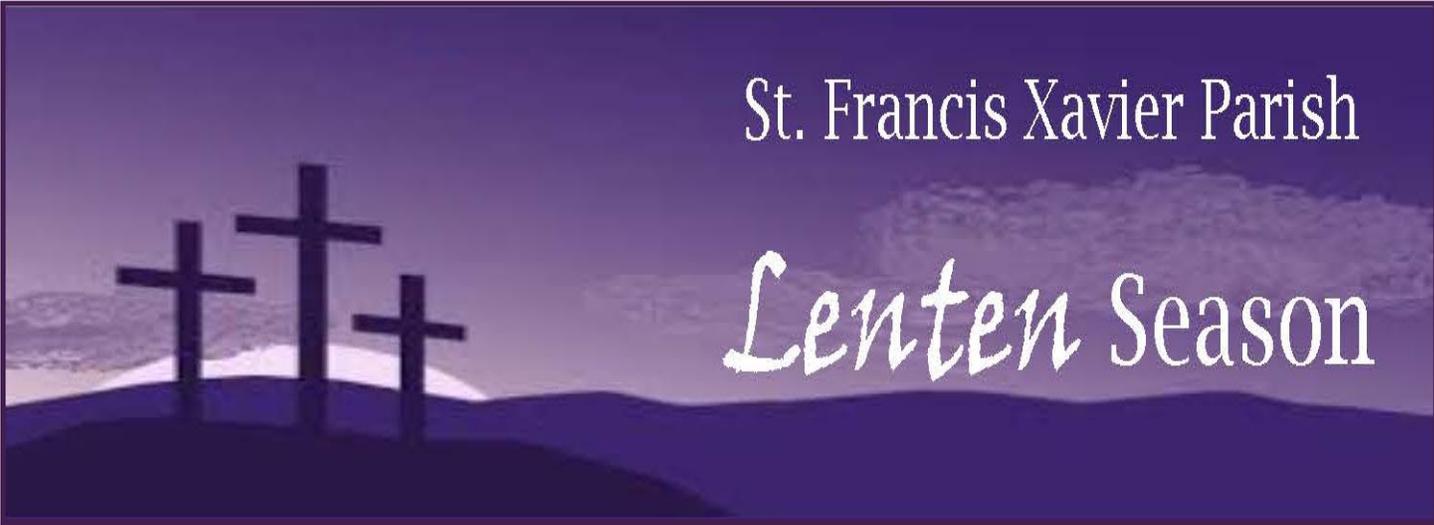
God of justice and mercy,  
You created every person in Your image  
and call us to honor the sacred dignity of all human life.  
We lift before You all communities and groups who are hurting.  
Move our hearts to solidarity with all those burdened by  
violence, injustice, fear, and division.

In Your Church, remind us that we **belong** to one another  
as brothers and sisters in Christ.  
Strengthen our faith so that we may **believe**  
in the power of Your grace to overcome hatred and despair.  
Send us forth to **be love** in a wounded world—  
rejecting violence, seeking understanding,  
and working for peace rooted in justice and truth.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

"Let me be clear:  
the Church stands with  
migrants...Families are being  
torn apart.  
Children are left in fear and  
communities are shaken by  
immigration raids and  
detentions...our parishes and  
schools will not turn away  
those who seek comfort,  
and we will not be silent  
when dignity is denied  
in the enforcement of the law."

Cardinal Cupich



St. Francis Xavier Parish

# Lenten Season

**3/2/26: 7-8:30pm**

## **Protecting & Restoring Natural Habitats For Our Fellow Creatures**

Learn about volunteer opportunities in Bemis Woods

St Francis Xavier Unity Hall 124 N Spring Door #10 (off church parking lot)

See Preservation Flyer For Details

**3/5/26: 6-7:30pm**

## **Fr Gregory Boyle - Cherished Belonging: The Healing Power of Love in Divided Times**

The Well Spirituality Center - 1515 W Ogden Ave La Grange Park 60526

Contact Mary Freeman [mfreeman@sfxlg.org](mailto:mfreeman@sfxlg.org) if you would like one of 10 free tickets available OR to purchase your own \$25 ticket [Click Here](#)

**3/26/26: 6:30-8pm**

## **Lenten Witness: Fr Larry Dowling, Fr Graff and Rev Michael Woolf**

### **The Role of Faith in Turbulent Times**

The Well Spirituality Center - 1515 W Ogden Ave La Grange Park 60526

Contact Mary Freeman [mfreeman@sfxlg.org](mailto:mfreeman@sfxlg.org) if you would like one of 10 free tickets available OR to purchase your own \$35 ticket [Click Here](#)

# Lenten Season

## LENT + PRAY40



All-Parish Prayer Challenge  
begins Feb 18 in the Hallow App!  
[Scan or click for more info.](#)

Join the prayer challenge above or gather **IN CHURCH** for any of the following events this Lent:

### MONDAYS at 7pm

*hosted by the Alpha Team*

Feb 23 Praise, Worship, Witness Night  
Mar 9 Embracing Forgiveness  
Mar 23 Praise, Worship, Witness Night

*Continuing into Easter:*

Apr 20 Embracing the Holy Spirit

### Area Reconciliation Services this Lent:

Mar 10 St John of the Cross (7PM)  
Mar 16 St Francis Xavier (7PM)  
Mar 30 St Cletus (7PM)

### WEDNESDAYS at 7pm

Mar 4 Preaching Slam on the Beatitudes  
Mar 11 Near Death Experiences: Evidence of the Soul (*Unity Hall*)  
Mar 18 Stations of the Cross with the Immigrant Jesus  
Mar 25 Stations of the Cross through Mary's Eyes

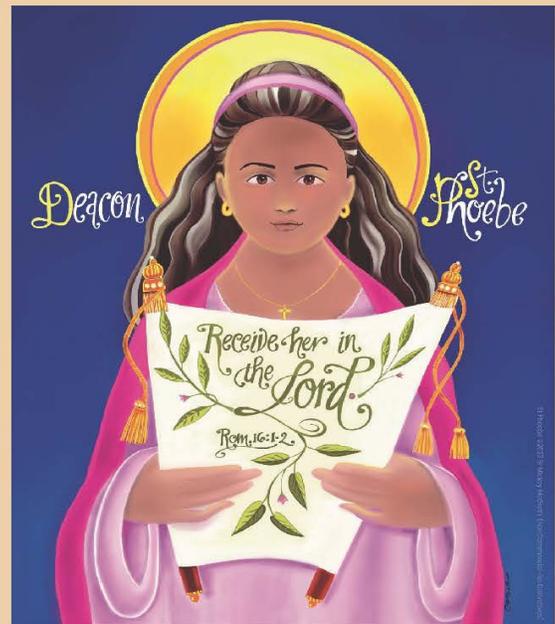
# Lenten Season

## PREACHING SLAM!

Community Prayer: The Beatitudes, broken open by women's voices.

- A challenging and inspiring evening of Scripture, story, and sacred response
- Five women preachers, in the spirit of St. Phoebe, will break open the Beatitudes— sharing where God is already at work in blessing, struggle, and hope
- A different way of preaching— shared, spirited, and prayerful
- Short, powerful reflections
- Multiple voices from the Chicago area
- Come for preaching and prayer; stay for food and conversation

👉 Click  
[here](#) or  
scan to  
Register.



*All are welcome—  
Come curious.  
Come hungry.  
Come as you are.*

March 4, 2026 — 7:00-8:30pm

St. Francis Xavier Church  
124 N Spring Ave  
La Grange

### Little Black Books

Little Black Book devotionals are available by each church door for Lenten prayer. Please feel free to take one with you!

# Lenten Season

## PRESERVATION

Recognize the value in our fellow travelers on Earth, its up to us to give them a better home.

**Protecting and restoring natural habitats for our fellow creatures at home...**

**March 2nd @ 7 pm**  
**St. Francis Xavier**  
**Unity Hall**



Our fellow creatures--birds, butterflies, bees, and other animals--need native plants and open spaces for food, a place to nest, and a place for their offspring to grow. **Dave Lloyd, a habitat restoration steward at Bemis Woods Forest Preserve, will talk about how volunteers have been restoring natural habitat all around the area for years. People like us can help by removing invasive trees, shrubs, and weeds, and collecting seeds of native plants.** And each of us can make a difference in our own yards as well, by planting native plants to attract pollinators. Pope Francis, in his 2015 encyclical on the environment, said that it's not enough "to think of different species merely as potential 'resources' to be exploited, while overlooking the fact that they have value in themselves."

**Dave Lloyd** is a lifelong resident of the Chicago area and has lived in the western suburbs for 40 years. He has been the volunteer steward at Bemis Woods South forest preserve for 30 years, in which time he and hundreds of volunteers have restored acres of open woodland with an increase in native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers. This has meant a wider variety and number of birds, insects, reptiles, and small mammals that use such habitat as their homes. Dave is also a co-founder of a program that encourages homeowners to plant more native plants in their own yards, to encourage bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.

Hosted by C.A.R.E.S members from St. John of the Cross, St. Cletus, and St. Francis Xavier parishes

**Parking lot South  
of Ogden Avenue,  
Entrance off  
Spring Avenue**

**...and all around us.**

THE 120 PRESENTS

# COME FOLLOW ME

## Lent Bible Study for High School Teens



March 1<sup>st</sup> after 5 PM mass  
 March 8<sup>th</sup> after 5 PM mass  
 March 15<sup>th</sup> after 5 PM mass  
 March 22<sup>nd</sup> after 5 PM mass  
 March 29<sup>th</sup> after 5 PM mass (two hour session with adoration and confession).



**Kate DeVries & Eileen Durkin** extend a special invitation to a **Lenten Retreat Day** at Brookfield Zoo Chicago. Come and explore our call to care for creation through the wisdom of St. Brigid of Kildare and Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si*.



### **St. Brigid Lenten Day of Reflection**

*"To Heal Our Wounds and Green the Earth Again"*  
 hosted by Still Point community with speakers from Solas Bhride Christian Spirituality Centre, Ireland

**Saturday, March 7, 8 am - 4 pm**

**Brookfield Zoo Chicago**

**Treetop Grand Vista in the Gorilla Conservation Center**



**Questions?**



**Register**



Join us for input, prayer, animal encounters & woodland walks, as we:

- Explore how St. Brigid models Pope Francis' call for an ecological conversion of heart and mind (*Laudato Si*).
- Embrace the sacredness and interconnectedness of all living beings.
- Converse via Zoom with Brigidine Sisters in Kildare on spiritual and ecological healing.
- Discuss justice and discern steps to care for our common home.

**Sponsored by the Friends of St. Brigid**

**Old St. Patrick's Church [www.oldstpats.org/friendsofstbrigid.html](http://www.oldstpats.org/friendsofstbrigid.html)**

**Cost:  
\$85 pp**

# FENWICK

# CHOIR CONCERT

FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2026  
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH  
124 N. SPRING AVE. LA GRANGE  
7 PM

Director, Claire Jakubisin  
*SFX Parishioner*



## SAVE THE DATE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 22-26, 2026

We are pleased to report that our partnership with Grace Lutheran for Vacation Bible School was again a great success in 2025.

We are excited that our partnership with Grace will continue in 2026. This year's theme is "Rainforest Falls." The dates for the summer 2026 VBS are June 22-26. The program runs each day from 9:00am-Noon. VBS is open to children aged 4 to 4th graders. 5th and 6th graders can participate as members of a service crew that spends the week organizing a variety of service projects including a morning at the SFX Food Pantry.

The success of VBS relies on teen and parent volunteers. Hours spent volunteering can be used for required service hours. We will provide more details about these opportunities when registration opens.

VBS is an amazing, faith based program that provides many benefits for children and volunteers. We hope you can participate! Registration details will be provided early next year.

Any questions please contact: Phil Zadeik  
at [pjzadeik@gmail.com](mailto:pjzadeik@gmail.com) or Karl Olson  
at [Olson.karl@gmail.com](mailto:Olson.karl@gmail.com).



## That Man Is You

All men are invited to join the Spring Sessions of *That Man is YOU (TMIY)*, which started on Tuesday, February 3 at 8:00pm in St. Francis Unity Hall/ SFX School Music Room

*THAT MAN IS YOU!* is an interactive men's program focused on the development of male leadership in the modern world. Christ didn't say, "Behold, I make new things." He said, "Behold, I make all things new."

*A new day is dawning for Catholic men. Now is our hour! The future of the world and the Church is happening on our watch. His mercy is new every morning. A new hope is rising!*

Interested?  
Scan the QR code  
or [click here](#) to register.



## 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, March 3

Contact: Peter Brown [pbrown@sfxlq.org](mailto:pbrown@sfxlq.org)  
for more information.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



# TOGETHER WE BRING LIGHT

2026 Annual Catholic Appeal



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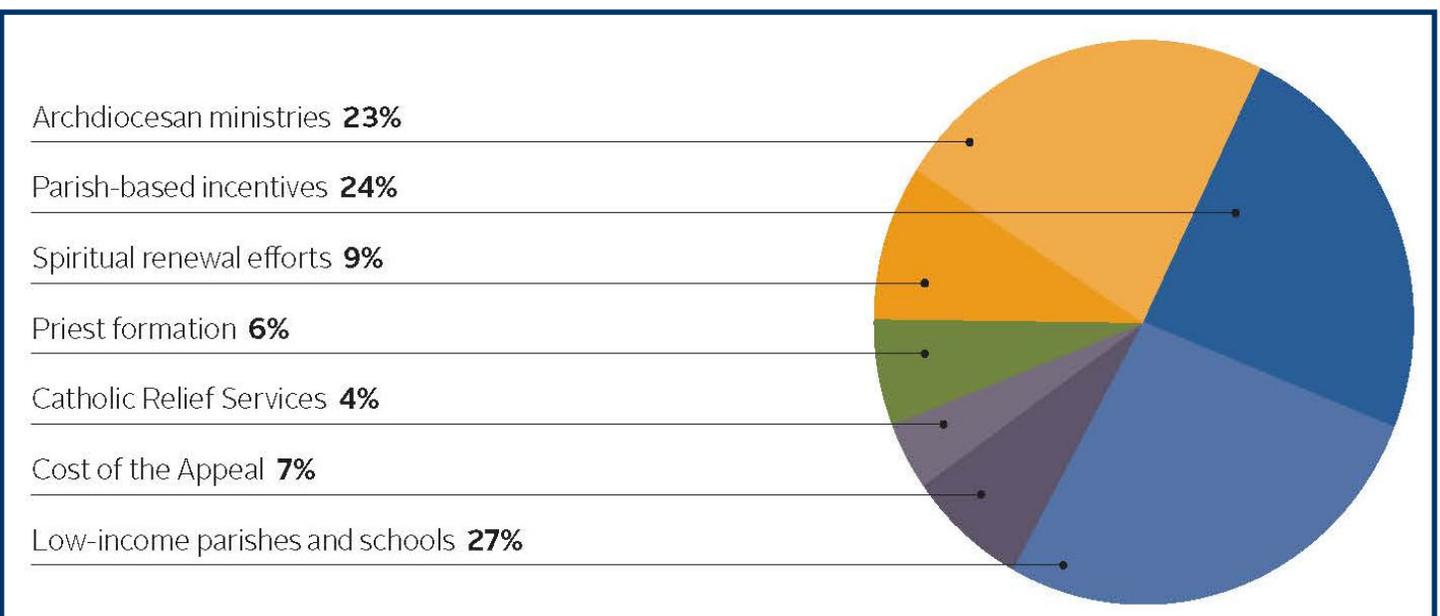
## Please Make Your Gift to the 2026 Annual Catholic Appeal Commitment Weekend is **THIS WEEKEND**

Each year at this time, parishioners throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago commit to join as one body and affirm that “together we bring light.” As we consider God’s many gifts to us, we should also reflect our gratitude by using and sharing those gifts. Your financial support for the work of our parish, our archdiocese, and the Church throughout the world is one way to express that gratitude. **The goal for SFX is \$135,142. Last year, about 250 parishioners generously gave \$127,138 to the Annual Catholic Appeal. God bless you!**

One-time gifts, pledges, sustaining recurring gifts can be made through the following methods:

1. **Online** at [annualcatholicappeal.com](http://annualcatholicappeal.com) or **QR code on bulletin cover** (credit card)
2. **Envelopes available in church** (check or to pledge to make a gift in 2026)

### Your Investment's Impact





## Your Gift, God's Hands Offertory Report July 1, 2025 through January 31, 2026

Total Sunday and Christmas Collection

This Year: \$1,176,112

Last Year: \$1,167,414

Total Annual Offertory Budget:

\$2,013,000 (includes \$177,000 Christmas budget)

\*\*\*\*\*

With respect to the stewardship of treasure, everything we do at the parish level is made possible through your generosity to the offertory. At St. Francis Xavier, more than 1,300 of our 3,300 registered households support our Sunday, Christmas, and Easter offertories. These gifts form the financial foundation of our parish and sustain its daily life and mission. Offertory contributions directly support the lifeblood of our parish in many ways, including:

- **The celebration of Mass and liturgy.** Your offertory sustains our pastor and associate pastor, supports our music ministry, and helps maintain our beautiful church, ensuring it is a welcoming and sacred space for worship, weddings, baptisms, and funerals.
- **Outreach and service ministries.** Offertory gifts enable our Peace and Justice initiatives during these challenging times and provide essential support for our Food Pantry.
- **Formation of our children and youth.** Through our elementary school, Religious Education program, and youth ministry, we invest in our most precious responsibility—helping young people grow as disciples of Christ.
- **Formation of our adult parishioners.** Your generosity supports OCIA for those entering the Church, as well as a wide range of pastoral and faith-formation programs offered throughout the year, including Advent and Lent.
- **Daily parish operations.** Our dedicated maintenance, finance, and accounting teams ensure the parish operates with integrity, efficiency, and excellence—an exceptional blessing within the Archdiocese.

As you prayerfully consider your philanthropic giving, we invite you to make the offertory at St. Francis Xavier Parish a priority. Offertory remains the single most important way you support the mission, ministries, and future of SFX through your treasure.

If you have questions about gifts from stock, donor advised funds, IRAs, or other tax-advantaged methods, please contact Jennifer Zeisloft, Director of Stewardship and Development, at 708-352-0168 or [jzeisloft@sfxlg.org](mailto:jzeisloft@sfxlg.org).

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





**APRIL 18, 2026  
MARRIOTT BURR RIDGE  
6:30-11:30PM**

Ignite brings together nearly 400 parents, alumni, parishioners and friends for an evening that includes entertainment, a live and silent auction, a premium bar with heavy hors d'oeuvres and more!



**TO PURCHASE TICKETS, BECOME A SPONSOR, OR DONATE AN ITEM, SCAN HERE!**

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



**SATURDAY, FEB. 28 3-6PM**

**LA GRANGE  
COUNTRY CLUB**

You're warmly invited to Ladies Day Out—a fun and refreshing chance to step away from the everyday and enjoy great company. Join us for friendship, delicious food and drinks, music, raffles, and BINGO, with proceeds benefitting our youth ministry program.

We hope you'll come—and bring a friend!

**FOR TICKETS, SCAN  
OR VISIT SFXLG.ORG**





**2026 Divorce and Beyond at Saint Francis Xavier  
Sunday Evenings 6:00-7:15pm  
Started February 15 goes through March 22**



The Divorce and Beyond ministry provides faith-based pastoral support to those who are divorced or experiencing divorce. Sessions are led by divorced lay persons committed to fostering the personal and spiritual growth of all participants. SFX will offer six weekly no-cost evening sessions in the parish rectory, 124 North Spring Avenue in LaGrange starting on February 15. A discussion guide will be provided at the first meeting. To register, please contact Maggie McMahon at 708-352-0168 or use the attached QR Code.

**Engage Community Events Building Community with Neighbors and Friends**



**February 26:** Monthly Meeting Special Guest Speaker Fr. Rich

**Where:** 7:00-8:30pm, Unity Hall.

**Details:** Tour of SFX church and rectory/rooms. Come learn about the history of our beautiful building and how it came to be followed by refreshments and a Q& A session with Father Rich. You can ask anything you have always wondered about the parish, Catholic faith, traditions, or whatever is on your mind. We will also use this opportunity to discuss Catholic Social Teachings, with some Hallow sessions as background (more to come about that).

For questions or to RSVP, please email Jane at [janeLGPark@gmail.com](mailto:janeLGPark@gmail.com).

Engage focuses on building Christian community through a variety of social and service activities. All are welcome, parishioners and non-parishioners, adults of all ages and life stages.

**SFX OPEN GYM**

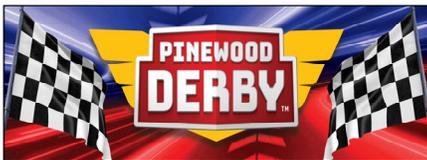
**FUN ACTIVITIES, SPORTS, AND MUCH MORE FOR  
AGES 4 - 10 YEARS OLD  
COST IS FREE!**

**SATURDAY : FEB 22 AND MARCH 7 & 14  
9:30 AM - 10:45 AM**

**RSUP HERE!**



**PLEASE NOTE PARENTS MUST STAY DURING THE OPEN GYM  
YOUNGER SIBLINGS WELCOME BUT WILL HAVE TO STAY ON BLEACHERS  
WAIVER MUST BE FILLED OUT PRIOR PARTICIPATION**



Saint Francis Xavier Cub Scout Pack 33 will be holding their annual Pinewood Derby race on Saturday, March 7 starting at 9:00AM in Joyce Hall. All are welcome to attend to watch the race.

**Join our  
Young Adult Ministry  
(YAM)**



**Groupme!** Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to get updates on upcoming events and connect with other young adults.

**Join our  
Toddler Moms'**



**Groupme!** Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to get updates on upcoming events and connect with other toddler moms'.



Archdiocese Women's Committee (AWC)

# VOICES OF WOMEN

Join the Archdiocese Women's Committee (AWC) for one of three Zoom sessions as we explore.

### Women in the Church: Elevating our Gifts, Finding Community.

Our goal is to hear the voices of 200 or more women. Discussion will address the following:

- Following Christ's example of elevating women in scripture, how can the Church better recognize women's dignity and gifts?
- As women, how do we use our gifts and extend grace to those we encounter in times of uncertainty and division?
- How can women find community and belonging in the Church where isolation or invisibility may still exist?

Advance registration is necessary in order to receive the Zoom link for participation. To register, please scan the QR code or click on your desired session below.

Wednesday, February 25 | 7 – 8:30 p.m. | [bit.ly/AWCVOWo22526](https://bit.ly/AWCVOWo22526)  
Tuesday, March 3 | 7 – 8:30 p.m. | [bit.ly/AWCVOWo30326](https://bit.ly/AWCVOWo30326)



The Archdiocese Women's Committee is an adjunct committee of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council. It serves as an advisory committee that works directly with Cardinal Cupich.



## We're Looking For A Few Good Men

Alpha men! TMIY men! Men's Club men! OCIA men! Former college-fraternity men!

Do you have any interest in assisting the elderly, the disabled, the poor, and supporting the cause of life?

Then, man oh man, this is your invitation to join the Knights of Columbus ([www.KofCLaGrange.org](http://www.KofCLaGrange.org)). The energies of our parish's younger men (18 years old and up) are especially needed. It only takes all of us.

We're a fraternal Order that is the granddaddy of all Catholic men's ministries. Our Order is first in support of those, above, with the most in need. "Vivat Jesus!" has been our Latin motto since our 1882 founding because Jesus is central to our mission. Your home council has been leading good works in the greater LaGrange community since 1973. We could do much, much more with you involved, and we're inviting you to join us. It's easy. Simply send a text message to (our rush-chairman of sorts) Brian Lisek at 630-939-2626 to get started. Today. Tomorrow. To Knight!

# 13TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER



SATURDAY, MARCH 7  
7PM AT THE ELM

LIVE MUSIC  
DINNER AND DRINKS  
AUCTION



Join us to raise money for college & trade school scholarships and mentoring to local students who have lost a parent

[TheLegacyGuild.com](http://TheLegacyGuild.com)

## SFX PINK RIBBON COMMUNITY

Connect with Breast Cancer Survivors at SFX for fellowship & support.



## Family Outreach Ministry



Ring in the new year with SERVICE! Join St. Francis Xavier Family Outreach Ministry as we prepare and serve a hot meal to our neighbors in need at the First Congregational Church's Saturday Meals Program. Our next service date is March 7, 2026 and there are two time slots from which to choose:

9:00-11:00 AM: Food prep and cooking~11:00 AM-1:00 PM: Food serving & clean up.

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

Questions? More information can be found on our Sign-Up Genius Link: [Click Here.](#)



The St. Francis Xavier School is one of the many wonderful ministries within the St. Francis Xavier Parish. We are fortunate to have an active School Advisory Board (SAB) that works throughout the year on behalf of our school and parish community. The purpose of the SAB is to:

- Review and recommend policies that govern the operation of the school;
- Advise the Pastor in hiring the principal;
- Review and comment on the annual budget and assist with the development of sources for school funding, including tuition rates;
- Participate in the school's development, student recruitment efforts, and long-range plans;
- Help accomplish the goals and objectives of the St. Francis Xavier Parish School Mission Statement;
- Participate in the implementation of the school Strategic Plan;
- Listen to and communicate with parishioners and school parents; and
- Promote and publicize the school.

The SAB currently consists of eleven (11) members who each serve a three-year term. Each member is assigned to one of the five standing committees of the SAB. The standing committees are listed below:

1. Catholic Identity Committee
2. Strategic Planning Committee
3. Finance Committee
4. Development Committee
5. Marketing/Communications Committee

The SAB is looking for talented and energetic individuals to fill **four (4)** SAB openings for the 2026-2027 school year.

## Interested in Becoming a School Advisory Board Member?

The School Advisory Board is currently accepting applications. Are you a:

- parent (guardian) of a school student? It's never too early or too late.
- parent (guardian) of a religious education student? We welcome your unique insights.
- parishioner? Possibly even an alumna/us of SFX? Candidates need not be parents.
- marketing, legal or educational (teaching and/or administrative) talent? We have a particular need in these fields.

The School Advisory Board requires a diversity of backgrounds and skill sets, *so any absence of the above characteristics **should not** discourage those whose talents lie elsewhere from applying.* All submissions for candidacy are valued!

For more information regarding the School Advisory Board and the application process, **any interested parishioner or school parent (guardian)** can refer to the St. Francis Xavier School website ([sfxlg.org](http://sfxlg.org)) or contact School Advisory Board member Matt Thunander at [matt.thunander@gmail.com](mailto:matt.thunander@gmail.com) or 708-837-5752. If you intend to apply, please notify Matt Thunander later than **March 15, 2026**.

## Welcome to Our Parish Family!

We recently had the joy of gathering with our newest parishioners at a special Welcome Prayer Service, followed by an evening of fellowship in Unity Hall.

The evening was made even more special by the warm hospitality and support of our Welcome Committee. Together, parishioners new and longtime enjoyed connecting over a light dinner and delicious desserts. We are so grateful to everyone who made this beautiful evening possible!

Our next event will be April 27. Mark your calendars if you would like to join us. More information will be in the bulletin closer to the day.

If you are new to the parish and you have any questions, please reach out to Laura Duelm at 708-309-9079 or [lauraduelm@gmail.com](mailto:lauraduelm@gmail.com). Also, if you would like to join the Welcome Committee, please let Laura know.

All are Welcome!



## SFX DONATION DRIVE

Let's help local organization -

### CatNap from the Heart

by collecting donations throughout the month of February

Please drop at the main Religious Ed office.

Questions: [telizabethgump@gmail.com](mailto:telizabethgump@gmail.com)

#### Acceptable donations:

Wet cat food (any kind)

Dry cat food - Iams Kitten chow (purple bag)

Dry cat food - Iams cat chow (orange bag)

Paper Towels

Cleaning Bleach

PineSol

Laundry Detergent (any kind)



Cash accepted!  
Donations should note  
SFX Religious Ed

## Church Audio Update—Adaptive Audio System

SFX has installed a Bluetooth accessible Listening System. To access this new system you must have a smartphone along with earphones or Bluetooth capable hearing aids. Follow the steps to connect your device:

Step 1) (At home or at SFX) Download the Listen Wi-Fi App from your app store or scan the provided QR Code below.

### Apple Users



### Android Users



Step 2) (In SFX Church) Download the Assistive Listening Wi-Fi Connection by scanning the provided QR Code below Please make sure to turn on Wi-Fi for auto detection in your settings.

### Assistive Listening Wi-Fi Connection



We plan to have non-Bluetooth options available in the upcoming months. For assistance please call the rectory at 708-352-0168 or email [sfxinlg@sfxlg.org](mailto:sfxinlg@sfxlg.org) to set-up an appointment.



## 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
- **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 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 Parisi, Brother of Caitlin & Jack and Grandson of Robert J. Lynch
- **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
- **Lt. Matthew Edinger, DO, U.S. Navy**—son of John Edinger & Maria Niedos
- **ETNC Andrew Cihak, U.S. Navy**—grandson of John & Marilyn Lux
- **Capt. Michael Sullivan, U.S. Army**—son of Gene and Mary Pat Sullivan

**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](mailto:bulletineditor@sfxlg.org).**

# St. Francis Xavier Personnel

## Pastoral Ministry

Pastor  
Associate Pastor  
Deacon  
Deacon  
Pastoral Associate  
Weekend Sacramental Clergy

Rev. John Chrzan  
Rev. Richard Milek  
Andrew Allison  
Phil Gianatasio  
Margaret McMahon  
Rev. Stan Ilo  
Rev. Phil Cyscon  
Rev. Tom McCarthy, OSA  
Rev. Bill Tkachuk

jchrzan@sfxlg.org  
rmilek@sfxlg.org  
aallison@sfxlg.org  
pgianatasio@sfxlg.org  
mmcmahon@sfxlg.org

## Liturgical Music Ministry

Director  
Associate Musician  
Associate Musician

Allen Sterwalt  
Ann Maney  
Bob Voves

asterwalt@sfxlg.org

## Community Outreach Ministry

Director

Mary Freeman

mfreeman@sfxlg.org

## Parish Office Administration

Director of Operations  
Director of Stewardship and Development  
Finance Manager  
Parish Secretary/Receptionist  
Staff Secretary/Bulletin Editor  
Facilities Manager  
Communications Manager

Peter Brown  
Jennifer Zeisloft  
Jane Bandyk  
Melissa Westerhoff  
Debra Soulje  
Antonio Franceschi  
Hope Arenas

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

## School Education Administration

Parish School Principal  
Assistant Principal  
Administrative Assistant  
Front Office Coordinator (Morning)  
Front Office Coordinator (Afternoon)  
Director of Marketing & Enrollment  
Special Events and Development Manager  
Business Operations/Virtus Coordinator  
Tuition Accounts  
Director of Religious Education  
Religious Education Administrative Assistant  
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Jimmy Bajner  
Janice Carr  
Jeanne Grimes  
Joni O'Halloran  
Betsy Sullivan  
Erin Smith  
Katie Adams  
Brooke Cermak  
Jane Bandyk  
Elis Guidice  
Cindy Johnson  
Christina Alagna

jbajner@sfxlg.org  
jcarr@sfxlg.org  
jgrimes@sfxlg.org  
johalloran@sfxlg.org  
bsullivan@sfxlg.org  
esmith@sfxlg.org  
kadams@sfxlg.org  
bcermak@sfxlg.org  
jbandyk@sfxlg.org  
eguidice@sfxlg.org  
cjohnson@sfxlg.org  
calagna@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, 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 (Door #5).

## 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 counselor, Benjamin Horen, from the Claret Center. Please call for an appointment at 630-923-8380.

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