



**SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH**  
**2nd Sunday of Lent**  
**March 1, 2026**

# LENT



**BELONG • BELIEVE • BE LOVE**

## Week at a Glance

			Intention	Requested By
Monday, March 2	Mass	8:30 am	Special Intention	
Tuesday, March 3	Mass	8:30 am	Karen McConnell	Bob & Jennifer Driscoll
Wednesday, March 4	Mass	8:30 am	Edward Glynn	Bridget Glynn Manning
Thursday, March 5	Rosary	8:15 am		
	Mass	8:30 am	People of the Parish	
Friday, March 6	Stations	7:45 am		
	Mass	8:30 am	Franklin Rykal	The Dover Book Club
Saturday, March 7	Mass	8:30 am	Louie Marasovic	April Pesut
	Reconciliation	9:00 am		
	Mass	5:00 pm	Henry & Theresa Gazdziak	The Gazdziak Family
Sunday, March 8 3rd Sunday of Lent	Mass	7:30 am	People of the Parish	
	Mass	9:00 am	Michael Farkas	Jill Topf
	Mass	11:00 am	Kathy McDonald	The Giordano & Sedlacek Families
	Mass	5:00 pm	People of the Parish	

### Presider's Schedule for March 7-8, 2026

5:00 pm Fr. Chrzan

7:30 am Fr. Milek

9:00 am Fr. Ilo

11:00 am Fr. Milek

5:00 pm Fr. Chrzan

### Please pray for . . .

John Baggio Bob Barrett Poppy Booth Robert Borchardt Kent Borkovec 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 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 Mark Reilly Joseph Riden, Jr. Amy Robinson Juan Silva Rita Mae Spearman Gregg Stephenson John Stopka Sophie Stratton Catie Sullivan Olivia Tarsney Joe Vargas Liz Wilk
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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:

**Patricia K. Jones**  
Sister of Gloria Stephenson

**Austin Samford**  
Nephew of Jeff & Kathy Grimes

**Santa Snieg**  
Mother of Cindy Johnson  
Sister of Terri Simeoni & Sylvia McLaughlin



**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,

While we enter more deeply into the season of Lent, something beautiful and important has become clear as I reflect on my first year as pastor of St. Francis Xavier: our parish exists for the whole community - everyone! We are here for those who come every Sunday, and for those who come occasionally. We are here for the families who gather for baptisms and weddings, for the children in our School, Religious Education and faith formation programs, for those who join the weekday morning Mass, and for those who simply come to sit quietly in the presence of God. We are here, too, for neighbors who may not claim any religious identity at all, but who sense that this sacred place belongs to them in some way.

This is profoundly Catholic. From the beginning, parish life has meant the care of *all souls*, everyone within our reach. We trust that faith grows when it is given space. Prayer, beauty, silence, thoughtful preaching, and the sacraments are offered freely here, without judgment or pressure. We believe that God is already at work in people long before they walk through our doors, and that He continues His quiet work long after they leave.

Our calling, then, is both simple and demanding: to be unmistakably a place of prayer; to offer worship that is reverent, ordered, and alive; to speak honestly to the spiritual and moral questions of our time; and to extend genuine care to neighbors, seekers, strangers, the faithful and the doubtful, the saint and the sinner alike. This vision shapes everything we do, and it is why our parish is recognized and celebrated as a place of welcome, hospitality, and belonging.

During this Lenten season, I invite you to reawaken your own faith. If you have drifted, come home. If your prayer has grown quiet, begin again. If you have been steady and faithful, go deeper still. And consider inviting someone else, such as a friend, a family member or a neighbor, to rediscover this place with you. Lent is not about pressure or perfection; it is about return. Here, you are welcomed as you are, and your whole life is embraced. This is who we are. This is our purpose, and there is always room for one more.

Peace,  
Fr. John

PS - As you heard last weekend at all the Masses, Cardinal Cupich asked us to consider supporting the Annual Catholic Appeal. This bulletin has more information. In addition, Jennifer Zeisloft, Director of Stewardship and Development, shared that St. Francis Xavier will join other parishes across the Archdiocese in a special capital campaign later this year. Currently, we are in a period of discernment, listening to groups throughout our church, school, and Religious Education program, and to the Holy Spirit, of course! Stay tuned this spring for emerging themes, when we will reach out to get YOUR feedback.

### 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: 7:00-8:30pm**

## **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 flyer for details.

**3/5/26: 6:00-7:30pm**

## **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

To purchase a \$25 ticket and register [Click Here](#),

**3/26/26: 6:30-8:00pm**

## **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](#),

## **Reflection for the 2nd Sunday of Lent**

Liturgy Planning Team #1

Marge Branecki, Jude Dumfeh, Tricia Jacobs, Ed & Michelle Mirecki

In today's gospel we hear the Father say "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him." Our lives can be shaped by those last three words: "listen to him." If we listen to the teachings of Jesus Christ and live our lives according to his teachings, we will have an impact on the people around us. Jesus made his teaching easy for us to remember. It, too, is only three words: "Love one another." Imagine what our world would be if every person obeyed Jesus' law to love one another, to love all people. It would be heaven on earth, a world of peace and joy and love. Let us all do our best to "Listen to him" and obey his teaching to "love one another."

## **Disciple Maker Index Survey—We need your perspective!**

This Lent, St. Francis Xavier will launch our second run of the "**Disciple Maker Index**" survey, which last ran in 2023. The 10-15 minute survey can be accessed via [THIS LINK](#) from February 18 through March 29, and will ask you to reflect on your own spiritual growth and enable you to provide your perspective on our parish's efforts to help you grow in relationship with Christ. All responses will be confidential, and the parish will only receive information about the community as a whole. This survey is an essential part of our understanding and meeting the spiritual needs of the parish. We greatly appreciate your time and attention in responding.

# Lenten Season

Unless otherwise indicated, the following events will occur in the church:

## MONDAYS at 7pm

hosted by the Alpha Team

- 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

# NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCES: EVIDENCE OF THE SOUL

MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup> AT 7:00 PM IN UNITY HALL

Gather for a powerful presentation exploring the intersection of science and faith in Near Death Experiences.

Definition of a Near Death Experience: "A lucid experience associated with perceived consciousness apart from the body occurring at the time of actual or threatened imminent death."

JOSEPH KHASHO



Joseph Khasho is an officer and board member of the Near-Death Experience Research Foundation (NDERF) with over twelve years of experience researching thousands of NDE accounts. He specializes in bridging scientific study with spiritual inquiry, often serving as a liaison to religious institutions. Outside of his research, Joseph is a wealth advisor who enjoys science, technology, and playing guitar.

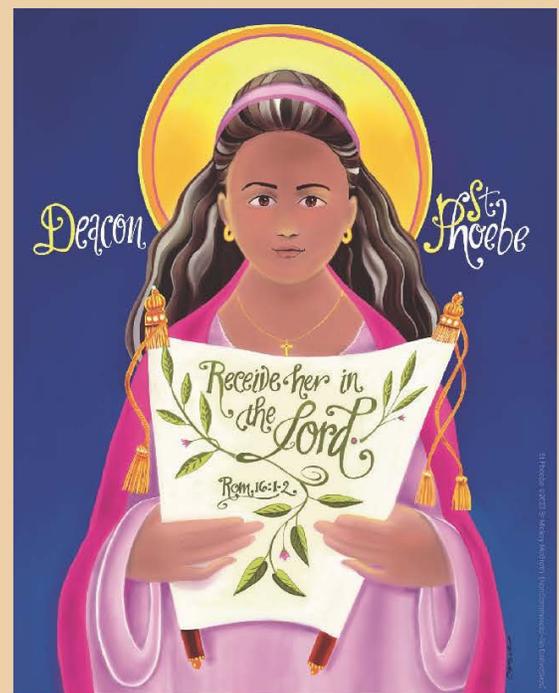
# Lenten Season

## 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

# 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.**



We are pleased to welcome Hope Arenas as the new Communications Manager in the Administration Office at St. Francis Xavier Church.

Hope grew up in Indian Head Park and recently returned to the area with her husband, Jonathan, and their dog, Wilson. She earned her bachelor's degree in Public Relations and Advertising from Bradley University and her master's degree from Northwestern University in the Full-Time Integrated Marketing Communications program, where she concentrated on brand management, communications, and data analytics.

Following graduate school, Hope joined Kerrygold - Ireland's most successful food export - through its competitive Graduate Program. During her time there, she contributed to the Consumer Insights, Innovation, and Communications teams, gaining valuable experience in strategic messaging and brand development.

Hope is grateful to now serve the St. Francis Xavier community. In her role, she will spearhead parish communications, including social media, the website, and collaborative media projects. She has already greatly enjoyed her time here and looks forward to meeting and serving the parish community.

If you would like to connect with Hope, she can be reached at [harenas@sfxlq.org](mailto:harenas@sfxlq.org).

# COME FOLLOW ME

THE 120 PRESENTS

## 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).



Next weekend, don't forget to  
Spring ahead one hour as Daylight savings time will begin.  
Be sure to replace the batteries in your smoke detectors.

## Welcome

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

Margaret Braschos  
Jess Bullock  
Michael Groberek & Katherine Callahan  
Michal & Amanda Kokoszka  
Michael & Sandra Laszkiewicz  
Victoria Pacheco Miller  
Riley & Katherine O'Neal  
Robert Reitmeier  
Geoff Waldschmidt  
John & Marilyn Webb, Jr.



## That Man Is You

All men are invited to join the  
**Spring Sessions of *That Man is YOU (TMIY)*,**  
on Tuesdays at 8:00pm  
in St. Francis Unity Hall

*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? Contact Patrick McMahon at [patrick.mcmahon65@gmail.com](mailto:patrick.mcmahon65@gmail.com) or 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.



## VBS Registration Opens March 1, 2026!

Registration for VBS 2026 is opened! You can register by using the QR code or the link found below. The code and link will take you to the registration site. Here you will find some important information about VBS registration.

**What is VBS:** VBS is a faith based, week long adventure for children. Songs, crafts, stories, snacks and other activities are included. This years theme is "Rainforest Falls" and promises to be lots of fun for participants and volunteers!

**When:** VBS will run June 22-26 from 9:00am-12:00pm each day.

**Who can register:** Traditional VBS is open to children 4 years old to 4th grade. 5th and 6th graders can register for the "Service Crew." The Service Crew spends the week doing various service projects, some Bible study, other activities and of course snacks!

**Where:** All participants will meet at Grace Lutheran Church each day. The Service Crew will move to the Saint Francis Xavier Day School as base camp for their activities.

**Cost:** Cost of VBS is \$75 for one child. If you register 2 or more children cost is \$60 per child. If one parent volunteers for the entire week cost is 50% off.

**Volunteering:** A successful VBS requires a small army of volunteers. We expect each family to provide one or more volunteers in some capacity. The registration site lists the various volunteer opportunities available and a sign up option. We will be touch with you after registration to follow up. Opportunities range from a couple of hours to one week of time commitment. There are also before and after set up and break down opportunities as well. 7th, 8th graders, teens and college can also volunteer and earn service hours!

**Questions:** Contact Phil Zadeik [pizadeik@gmail.com](mailto:pizadeik@gmail.com) for general questions. Contact Karl Olson regarding volunteer opportunities [Olson.Karl@gmail.com](mailto:Olson.Karl@gmail.com).

To register go to [www.gracelutheran-lq.org/VbS 2026](http://www.gracelutheran-lq.org/VbS%2026) which **opens at Noon on Sunday, March 1.**

Space is limited and last year VBS sold out, so please register early!

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



# TOGETHER WE BRING LIGHT

2026 Annual Catholic Appeal



© Vatican Media

*“By generously uniting our offerings we bring light to struggling our local parish communities, schools, religious education, ministry formation programs, and respect life and peace initiatives. Together we also bring light beyond our borders by supporting Catholic Relief Services and their aid to suffering people around the world. As your financial circumstances permit, please join me and other Catholics to bring light by making a gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal.” – Cardinal Blase Cupich*

Gifts can be made through the following methods:

- Online at [annualcatholicappeal.com](https://annualcatholicappeal.com) or with the QR Code at right.
- Envelopes are available in church (to pledge or pay by check). You can return your envelope to the rectory, place it in the regular offertory basket during Mass, or mail it in to the address on the front of the envelope.



St. Francis Xavier Parish’s goal for 2026 is \$135,142.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



## Be the Sunshine!

Looking for a way to bring sunshine to others’ lives this summer? Join fellow parishioners for a week in Clarksdale, Mississippi, building homes for families in need. You’ll be part of a St. Francis Xavier tradition that started in 1997 with Habitat for Humanity, and continues today with The Fuller Center for Housing. We are currently sending 2 groups this summer...space is still available in both trips:



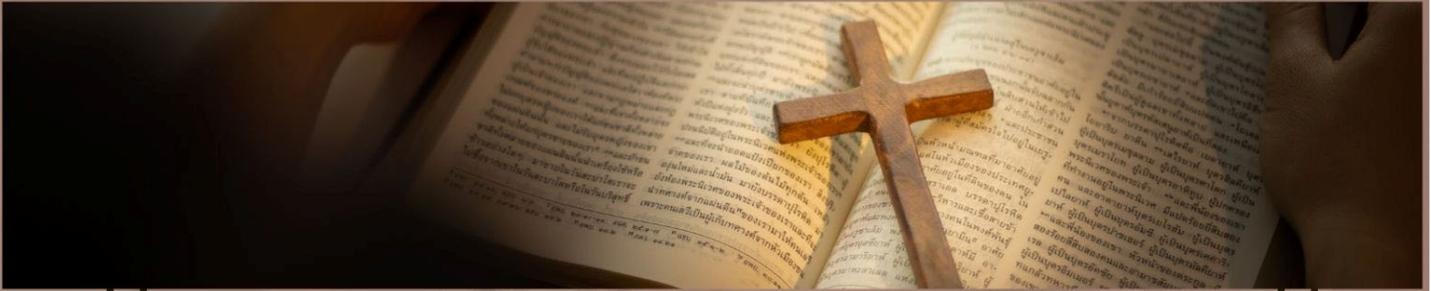
- Group 1: July 18-24
- Group 2: July 25-31

No prior carpentry experience is needed. Volunteers must be at least 14 years old. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. If you are interested, please contact Chris O’Hea at [chris.ohea@yahoo.com](mailto:chris.ohea@yahoo.com).

For more information, scan the QR Code.



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH  
SENIOR WOMEN'S GROUP



**Presents**

*Rev. Bill Killeen*

**Pope Leo XIV and Vatican II**



Wednesday, March 11, 2026

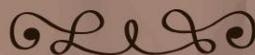
**9:00 AM GATHERING**

**9:30 AM PRESENTATION**

St. Francis Xavier Unity Hall

124 N. Spring Ave.

La Grange, Illinois



*Let's come together in  
prayer, reflection, and hope.*

All are welcome No RSVP needed



## Music Notes...



As we continue our journey through this sacred season of Lent, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge and express our heartfelt gratitude to one of our own parishioners, **Junichi Sato**, whose gifts have so beautifully enriched our worship.

Junichi is an accomplished pianist and a gifted composer. This Lent, we have had the privilege of singing a Mass setting that he composed specifically for the liturgy... "**Vincentian Mass**". To share in music written by a member of our own parish community is something truly special.

The Mass is the Church's most sacred prayer, and the music that accompanies it must serve the liturgy with reverence, humility, and theological depth. Junichi's "Vincentian Mass" setting does precisely that. Its reflective character, thoughtful melodic lines, and prayerful spirit draw us more deeply into the penitential beauty of Lent. Rather than calling attention to itself, this music gently invites us into contemplation, helping us to lift our hearts to the Lord.

What makes this even more meaningful is that this composition was not written from a distance, but from within our community—by someone who worships beside us, prays with us, and shares in the life of this parish. Junichi and his family, including his very talented wife Regina (SFX Cantor) most often attend either the 5:00 pm Saturday OR 9:00 am Sunday Masses. That is stewardship in its truest sense: offering one's time, talent, and faith for the glory of God and the good of the Church.

On behalf of myself, the SFX Music Ministry, Fr. John Chrzan (Pastor), staff and parish community – we thank you Junichi, for sharing your extraordinary musical gifts with us. May the Lord continue to bless your creativity and dedication, and may this music accompany us not only through Lent, but in many seasons to come.

Allen J. Sterwalt  
Director of Church Music



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

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!

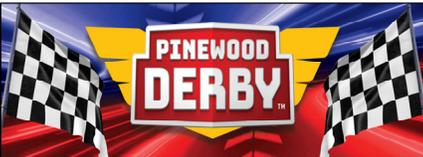




**2026 Divorce and Beyond at Saint Francis Xavier  
Sunday Evenings 6:00-7:15pm  
Started February 15 goes through March 22**



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.



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.



**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

A Special Thanks to our Prayer Shawl Ministry members for sharing their gifts with those in need of comfort and healing.

Our next meeting is scheduled for  
**Wednesday, March 11, 2026—4:00-5:00pm**  
Anyone with crochet or knitting skills is welcome!

**SFX OPEN GYM**

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

SATURDAY: MARCH 7 & 14  
9:30—10:45 AM

**RSVP 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



**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.

Tuesday, March 3 | 7 - 8:30 p.m. | [bit.ly/AWCVOw030326](https://bit.ly/AWCVOw030326)



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.

# 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](https://TheLegacyGuild.com)

## SFX PINK RIBBON COMMUNITY

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



## Volunteers Needed

My name is Jim Tvrdik, and I would like to introduce you to a benevolent organization by the name of Project C.U.R.E. PC (as I like to call it) was founded in 1987 to address the staggering shortage of medical resources around the world. Each week, PC delivers approximately four-to-five semi-truck sized cargo containers packed with medical equipment and supplies that are desperately needed to save lives in hospitals and clinics in resource-limited countries outside the United States. In this way, PC continues to address critical issues such as maternal and infant mortality, natural disasters, victims of violence and strengthening of healthcare systems. In addition, many healthcare professionals travel with PC to provide medical treatment and training to communities in need. Currently, PC is supported by over 30,000 volunteers annually and operates a local distribution warehouse in Woodridge, IL.



Personally, I have been volunteering for PC for over 7 years and find the time spent very fulfilling. Our warehouse team in Woodridge is continually looking for volunteers with flexible schedules to keep the mission moving forward; volunteer groups are also most welcome.

Please feel free to checkout [www.projectcure.org](http://www.projectcure.org) for additional information, or feel free to send an inquiry email to [chicagovolunteer@projectcure.org](mailto:chicagovolunteer@projectcure.org).

## 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 **Saturday, 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 alumni 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 no later than **March 15, 2026**.

## Catholics Are Responsible Environmental Stewards (CARES)

PEACE 

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An environmental ministry in collaboration with St. John of the Cross and St. Cletus.

**CARES** is called to protect all of Creation and our Common Home. With a Christ-Centered focus, **CARES** models, promotes, and integrates environmentally sustainable and socially protective actions and practices throughout the parish and surrounding communities.

**Advocacy: Raise awareness and inspire transformative actions**

**Education: Provide educational resources and opportunities**

**Programs: Organize events and plan initiatives**

**CARES** follows the directives and guidance from the 2015 Laudato Si Papal Encyclical, Catholic Doctrine, and Social Justice teachings, and the Chicago Archdiocese Office of Parish Vitality and Missions.

[https://www.stjohnofthecross.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=543577&type=d](https://www.stjohnofthecross.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=543577&type=d)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MARCH 2, 2026—7:00pm St. Francis Xavier Unity Hall

Presenter: Dave Lloyd, Bemis Woods South Steward, on environmental and ecological outreach efforts for all people of goodwill to care for our common home. More details to follow.

Stay tuned for volunteer opportunities in Bemis Woods during All Parish Service Week in June.

Any questions, contact SFX CARES Rep. Kevin McGann at [kevin.mcgann.us@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.mcgann.us@gmail.com).



**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 Bhríde Christian Spirituality Centre, Ireland

Saturday, March 7, 8 am - 4 pm

Brookfield Zoo Chicago

Treetop Grand Vista in the Gorilla Conservation Center



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.



Questions?



Register



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

Cost:  
\$85 pp

## SAVE THE DATE!

ALL PARISH SERVICE DAY  
SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2026\*

Shelter Homeless Feed Hungry Bury Dead  
Clothe Naked Care for Sick Visit Imprisoned

\*Events will be available June 1-6, 2026

If you have questions, ideas, or would like to lead an outreach team, please contact:  
Mary Freeman, Director of Community Outreach [mfreeman@sfxlg.org](mailto:mfreeman@sfxlg.org) or 708-352-0168.

## 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:

- **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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