

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH
The Epiphany of the Lord
January 8, 2023



Week at a Glance

			Intention	Requested By
Monday, January 9	Morning Mass	8:30 am	Herbert & Mary Schrack Lorraine Ovnik John Joseph Donnellan Richard Hofstetter	Judy Ovnik The Ferguson Family The Westerhoff Family
Tuesday, January 10	Morning Mass	8:30 am	Jackie McDonough	The Donahue Family
Wednesday, January 11	Morning Mass	8:30 am	Eugene Learch	Kathy Vasquez
Thursday, January 12	Rosary	8:15 am		
Friday, January 13	Morning Mass	8:30 am	Noreen Jennings	Mary Donnellan and Family
Saturday, January 14	Mass	8:30 am	People of the Parish	
	Reconciliation	9:00 am		
	Mass	5:00 pm	Susanne Walsh & Peter Capellani David Bock	Pat DeMars The Bock Family
Sunday, January 15 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mass	7:30 am	Sheila Mangan	Margaret Riordan and Family
	Mass	9:00 am	David Mulhern	Marge Branecki
	Mass	11:00 am	Ronald Oczko	Nancy Cozzi and Family
	Mass	5:00 pm	People of the Parish	

President's Schedule for January 7-8, 2023

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

Please pray for . . .

Ashley Augustyniak Harold Bach Linda Bieniek Sally Burson Michael Cannon Jay Carroll Chili Challenger Blake Donegan Victoria Donile Barbara Doyle Matthew Doyle Lily Fielding Lilli Gregory Wilson Gregory Baby Poppy Harwood Angela Hill John Hronec Rose Ilo Mary J. Jane Jacobsen Theresa Kandall Mark Kiley Lisa Massaro Jodi McMahan Mary Jo McMahan	Patrick Morgan Mike Morrison Gert Ogilvie Jane O'Reilly Karen Payne Ed Patyk Ryan Patyk Donna Pekarek Beth Pfluger Geri Pfluger Madison Raupp Anna Rose John Rutkowski Joseph Shortino Santa Snieg Rita Mae Spearman Barbara Stewart Michael Stewart John Stopka John Strougal Olivia Tarsney Theresa Toher Quinn Whalen Liz Wilk
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To add a name to the prayer list for friends and relatives 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:

Gary Berger
Father of Katie

Baby Michael John DiMarco
Son of Andrew & Beth

Robert Gana
Husband of Debbie and Father of Ellen & Julie

Linda McMahon
Sister of Robert & Aunt of Patrick

Atsuyo Nakamura
Husband of Aurea and Father of Niki

Rita Scalcon
Aunt of Santa, Terri & Sylvia

Karen Wojtowicz
Mother of Friend of Brian Lisek

Weddings



Megan White & Liam Downey



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

Pastor's Letter

"We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."

Matthew 2:2

How far would we go to encounter the love of God? Would we be willing to go out of our way and leave behind what is familiar and comfortable, if that is what it takes to discover the place where God dwells? Would we be able to let go of preconceived notions of where and in whom God is to be found so that God may reveal Godself to us? Would we offer the most precious parts of ourselves to God if God appeared on this earth as a vulnerable child in the modest home of a tradesman and his wife?

We do not know much about the "magi from the East" in Matthew's Gospel. They arrive in Jerusalem seeking a newborn king; but we know nothing of where their search began. We number them as three because of the three gifts that they brought. We presume them to all be men, although Matthew never specifies their gender. We refer to them as kings because of their precious gifts and astronomers because of their fascination with the Star of Bethlehem. Some argue that they are not actual persons, but rather Matthew's way of telling the Jewish community to whom he writes that *Christ is Light to all the world* – a Light that was opposed and feared from the beginning by those with power and authority.

One Epiphany tradition is to mark the entrances of our home with the number of the year (2023) and the initials of the traditional names given to the magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar). We use chalk and write above each entrance, "**20 + C + M + B + 23**". In this tradition, we invite the magi, the seekers, into our home just as Mary welcomed them in to meet the Christ Child. We proclaim to all who enter that *Christ dwells in our home*, and that *all who enter are welcome guests*.

How might we carry this tradition into our church home? Our Hospitality ministers welcomes each person as they enter church. They have initiated periodic "Name Tag Sundays," on which we wear a name tag with our first name and come to know one another *by name*, especially those we do not yet know. We strive to do so when we greet one another with a welcoming word or gesture and make room for *all* who come to the Table of the Lord. We do so with warmth and kindness when we extend a welcome to those who seem hesitant to enter in, perhaps because of an accurate or misquoted statement of a Church or civil authority. And like the magi, we find a way to avoid those who fear or oppose the good news that we have been sent to proclaim.

My father was raised in the Orthodox tradition and my grandparents continued to practice the Orthodox religious traditions. During my childhood, the Orthodox faith followed an ancient tradition that celebrated Christmas Day as the moment the Christ Child was revealed to the people of Israel. However, they claimed the arrival of the magi as the day that the Christ Child was revealed *to the whole world*. The twelve days of Christmas were a time for visiting relatives and friends, culminating in the exchange of presents on Epiphany, the arrival of the magi on the twelfth day. Thus, my siblings and I had two "Christmases" until the Orthodox Church decided to celebrate with the West on Christmas Day. I learned to value this day as a celebration that *we all are welcomed* into Christ's home and that we welcome Christ into our homes when we welcome the "stranger" at our door. May we all come to experience this blessing.

Christmas Peace,

J. Bill



CHRISTMAS OFFERTORY REPORT

Christmas donations continue to come in. As of January 1, 2023, we have collected \$126,304 toward our Christmas goal of \$160,000. Christmas donations are a vital component of our overall annual financial goal of \$1,833,000.

You can continue to drop off your offering in envelopes marked Christmas, or make a gift via our website at www.sfxlg.org or the QR code at right. We are so grateful for your support of our parish ministries!



FOLLOWING THE WORD OF GOD IN PRINT

There are two options for those who prefer to follow the readings in printed form or who have hearing issues that affect their ability to understand what is being proclaimed.

- Seasonal missalettes containing the Mass readings are available at the back of the church (please return them after Mass!)

OR

- Download the "iBreviary" app in your phone's app store. Select "pray" in the top left corner and then "readings." You can zoom in to increase text size with this option. *Note: if the app is showing the wrong date, go back to home and tap "today" in the top left corner to be sure the app has refreshed the date. Then select "pray" and "readings" again.*

**Save
the
Date**

**Sunday, January 22, 2023 2pm
&
Monday, January 23, 2023 7pm**



Author and renowned speaker,
Deacon Keith Strohm is coming to St. Cletus Parish Center!

He will share how much you are loved by our Heavenly Father in his two talks,
"Called to be Sons & Daughters" (Sunday) and "Walking the Path of Discipleship" (Monday)



Free will offering graciously accepted



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SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY JANUARY 29TH

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NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH



Sunday, January 22 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, LA GRANGE LOCAL COUNCIL 6483 BLOOD DRIVE

St. Francis Catholic Church-Gym, 145 N. Waiola
(Ogden & Waiola) La Grange, IL 60525.

Give blood & help us reach our 27-donation target to
help supply 87 local hospitals. To make an
appointment @ <https://tinyurl.com>, call
1-800-7TO-GIVE or scan the QR Code with your
smart phone's camera:



Giving warms the heart! Donate and keep warm this
winter with a limited-edition Versiti beanie, while
supplies last.



Interfaith Career Network

Leverage LinkedIn: Automate Your Job Search

Join us on Thursday, January 19 from 7-9 pm and start off your New Year with a new job search strategy! Ever heard about how great LinkedIn is for a job search but uncertain about how it adds value? Feel like there's a hidden job market, but aren't sure how to find it? Our presenter, Nicole Magats, is a Recruitment Consultant at Hirewell.

She will walk you through:

- how to set up your LinkedIn profile
- what sections you need to fill out
- how to stand out in a crowd of other candidates on LinkedIn

Learn secrets from an executive recruiter on how to power your career to new heights via LinkedIn. We look forward to seeing you at St. John of the Cross Parish Center, 5005 Wolf Road, in Western Springs. Everyone is welcome and there is no cost to attend.

Visit <http://www.interfaithcareernetwork.org> for additional resources.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD LEADERS NEEDED!

Do you want to share the Good News with some of our youngest parishioners?

We are looking for a minimum of 4 adults over the age of 18 to serve as catechists during our 5PM Saturday Masses to share the Sunday Readings and a small activity (which will all be provided) with our parishioners of the ages of 3 - 6.

If we are able to get 4 interested adults, you would only be responsible to lead once a month, and the time commitment is 15-20 minutes during Mass.

Please call Elis Guidice at 708-352-4555 or email at sfxreligious@sfxlg.org if you are interested in joining this beautiful ministry or want to find out more information.

Looking For Your Community? Join ours.

The **Engage Community** is for middle-age people, 50 and up (single, divorced, widowed or married) to foster Christian community through social and service events.

**January 25, 2023
7:00-8:30 pm**

Potential upcoming events are movies and discussion, game/social nights and group service opportunities.

Volunteers needed with some event planning experience to help launch Engage. If interested, email Amy at sspagetts@aol.com.

Bringing Communion To You

We are aware that there are many parishioners who are not homebound due to a physical limitation, but who are not yet comfortable returning to weekend Mass for a variety of reasons. We hope you have been able to view our weekly livestreamed Mass via the parish Facebook page or the parish website. In addition, several ministers of care are now available to bring the Eucharist to you at your home. Frequency and day of the week may depend on the number of requests we receive. Please call the parish office 708-352-0168. Monday through Friday, 8:30-4:30, or Saturday morning, 9:00-Noon and we will forward the information to Scott McDonald, who coordinates our minister of care team.



Kairos K 40

Registration for our next Kairos, K40, is open. Kairos is a 4 day retreat for juniors and seniors in high school. K40 will be February 23rd to February 26th in Lemont, IL. The fee is \$300. Register here: <https://forms.gle/Mfk5J3ZeQP7fYgRH6>. The link can also be found on the parish website under the Youth Ministry tab.



Grief Support Group Beginning January 9, 2023 Mondays at 9:10 am

following 8:30 mass, in Unity Hall at St. Francis Xavier

Seasons of Hope at St. Francis Xavier Parish will meet over a 6-week period to help participants walk through the grief process. Anyone mourning the loss of a loved one is welcome to attend. It is suggested that participants allow 3-6 months from the time of loss before attending. Attending Mass is *not a requirement for the group!*

Past Participants Say:

"The focus on prayer and scripture reminds me that God is within me."

"This group was just what I needed at this time."

"Meeting wonderful people because of difficult times is a blessing."

"Helpful and comforting for my healing."

[Click here](#) or call Maggie McMahon at 708-352-0168, ext. 338 for more information to register.



WE *thrive*

Supporting our school's mission,
students and staff.

We believe that offering a blend of an exemplary academic and spiritually fortifying education for our children is a central parish mission.

We are blessed that in our community, this mission is unified in the educational experience children and families have at St. Francis Xavier School.

If you currently support SFX Parish, you know that a significant portion of your gift contributes to the parish's investment in our elementary school. Even with this incredibly generous support, alongside families tuition investment, the school still needs to raise an additional \$274,000 annually in order to maintain a nationally recognized, academic environment that embodies our Catholic values of faith, prayer and service.

The **We Thrive** campaign (formerly Building our Future) raises funds to help us meet our annual fund goals - allowing us to support our students, faculty and staff in all that they need to succeed.

As you consider your end of year giving, we'd be grateful for your consideration.

IF YOU ARE ABLE, PLEASE VISIT WETHRIVESFX.COM TO MAKE A DONATION.

If you have any questions about the **We Thrive** campaign, please feel free to reach out to Jennifer Zeisloft, parish Director of Stewardship and Operations, at (708)352-0168 or jzeisloft@sfxlg.org.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Please know that your gift is felt in our hallways, in our classrooms and in the hearts of our precious students. We are forever grateful.



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SFX CWC INVITES YOU TO THE ANNUAL *LADIES DAY OUT*

Saturday, February 4, 2023

sfxladiesdayout.com

Register today and consider
becoming an Angel Donor!



**Twelve First Saturdays, January 7 through December • 8 - 9am (CT)
Facilitator: Pat Bergen, CSJ**

The ability to imagine is one of the main characteristics of being human. If we can imagine something, it can come to be. This series will engage participants in exercising their imaginations and senses. We are going to strengthen the field for love in the world by imagining the world through one of the goals of Laudato Si' each month. You will need the Ministry of the Arts 2023 Calendar from the Congregation of St. Joseph. Please email Christy Salazar at csalazar@csjoseph.org to obtain a free calendar (either in print or PDF form). Cost: \$65/series. On Zoom only.

**Brian Thomas Swimme: Cosmogenesis
Wednesday, January 18 • 6:30 - 8pm (CT)
Facilitator: Brian Thomas Swimme**

Are you familiar with the Universe Story? Has it changed you? The discovery that the universe has been expanding from its fiery beginning fourteen billion years ago and has developed into stars, galaxies, life, and human consciousness is one of the most significant of human history. Don't miss scientist Brian Swimme for a first-hand account of how the new cosmology blew his mind. Cost: \$30. Watch on Zoom at The Well, or from home.



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

- **Commander Robert O'Donnell**—son of Agnes O'Donnell
- **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, Major Marcos Melendez, USMC and Major Michelle Melendez, USMC**—
son, nephew and niece of Jon Peterson
- **Staff Sgt. Nolan Kemna, USMC**—nephew of John & Linda Hill
- **Phil Lukanich, U.S. Navy & Lt. M. Ryan Lukanich, U.S. Army**—husband and brother-in-law of Joanna and
sons 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
- **Commander Brian Riegler, U.S. Navy**—husband of Elizabeth and father of Kaylee, Mackenzie, Grace & Liam
- **Capt. Colt Marcyan, USMC**—nephew of Noel Cusack
- **Capt. Trent McMullen, USAF**—son-in-law of Tom & Maureen Hunt
- **Private Jerry Delgado, U.S. Army**—friend of Liz Wilk
- **Spec Timothy Lucas U.S. Army**—nephew of Rosemary and Sr. Kathleen Lucas, and Kate & Beau Medlock
- **Chris Johnson, USCG**—nephew of Judi Kudlacz and grandson of Jerry & Nancy Johnson
- **Dominic James Greco, U.S. Navy**—nephew of Rita Pantoni
- **Robert Weiler, U.S. Navy**—brother of Rebecca Dionisio
- **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
- **1st Lieutenant Mitchell Ciszewski, USMC**—son of Bob & Pat Ciszewski
- **Colonel Jessica Nichol, USAF**—daughter-in-law of Tom & Lucile Nichol
- **Capt. Jack Albertini, USMC**—son of Bob & Susan Albertini

**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
Retired Weekend Sacramental Minister
Weekend Sacramental Minister

Rev. William Tkachuk
Rev. Richard Milek
Andrew Allison
Phil Gianatasio
Margaret McMahon
Mary Freeman
Rev. William Killeen
Rev. Stan Ilo

wtkachuk@sfxlg.org
rmilek@sfxlg.org
aallison@sfxlg.org
pgianatasio@sfxlg.org
mcmahon@sfxlg.org
mfreeman@sfxlg.org

Education Ministry

Parish School Principal
Assistant Principal
School Office Coordinator
Parish School Secretary
Advancement Director
Tuition Accounts
Director of Religious Education
Religious Education Administrative Assistant

Sharon Garcia
Janice Carr
Ashley Augustyniak
Peggy Evans
Mary Tassi
Jennifer Zeisloft
Elis Guidice
Cindy Johnson

sgarcia@sfxlg.org
jcarr@sfxlg.org
aagustyniak@sfxlg.org
pevans@sfxlg.org
mtassi@sfxlg.org
jzeisloft@sfxlg.org
eguidice@sfxlg.org
cjohnson@sfxlg.org

Youth Ministry

Coordinator

Jenette Teran

jteran@sfxlg.org

Music Ministry

Director

Allen Sterwalt

asterwalt@sfxlg.org

Parish Office Staff

Director of Stewardship and Operations
Parish Accountant
Pastor's Secretary
Parish Secretary
Staff Secretary
Facilities Manager

Jennifer Zeisloft
Jane Bandyk
Maureen Pipal
Melissa Westerhoff
Debra Soulje
Antonio Franceschi

jzeisloft@sfxlg.org
jbandyk@sfxlg.org
mpipal@sfxlg.org
mwesterhoff@sfxlg.org
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afranceschi@sfxlg.org

Contact Information

Parish Office 124 N. Spring708-352-0168
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 Number708-352-4904
e-Mailsfxinlg@sfxlg.org
Main Day School e-Mail.....sfxmain@sfxlg.org
Main Religious Education e-Mail.....sfxreligiused@sfxlg.org
Parish Web Sitewww.sfxlg.org

Rectory Hours

Monday-Friday.....8:30 am-7:30 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

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 10:00 to 11:30 am. The pantry serves clients who live in the 60525 and 60526 zip codes. Donation drop off Mondays 9:00 am-Noon at South door of rectory.

Home or Hospital Visitation & Communion Calls

If you would like a priest or Minister of Care to visit, please contact the Parish Office directly. In the case of hospitalization, specifically request that the hospital contact the parish. Hospitals do not routinely inform churches of admissions due to Privacy Laws.

Infant Baptisms

Please call the Parish Office to schedule your child's baptism or email Missy Westerhoff at sfxinlg@sfxlg.org to schedule a date.

Marriage

Please call the rectory office at the time of your engagement to schedule your wedding. We ask that you are a registered parishioner for 6 months before requesting your wedding date. Saturday wedding times are 1:00 and 3:00 pm. Rehearsals are usually scheduled on Friday evening. We do not schedule weddings during Lent.

Parish Counselor

At this time, our counseling sessions will be virtual/online.

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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