

**SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH**  
**33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**November 14, 2021**



**STEWARDSHIP**



Devote Time with God

Share Talent

Give Treasure

**2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

## Week at a Glance

			Intention	Requested By
Monday, November 15	Morning Mass	8:30 am	Bob O'Malley Gary Molinari Jack Kinahan John & Agnes McAndrews Lisa Durham Young	Marge & Kevin McKenna The Martin Family The Grimes Family The McAndrews Family Katie Filbin
Tuesday, November 16	Morning Mass	8:30 am	Andrew Newman Ann Lentes Madeline Miller	The Westerhoff Family Lorraine Donegan Liz Wilk
Wednesday, November 17	Morning Mass	8:30 am	Antonio & Teresa Franzese	
Thursday, November 18	Rosary Adoration	8:15 am 6:00 pm		
Friday, November 19	Morning Mass	8:30 am	Chris Morkin Frank & Helen Rizzo	The Metzger Family The Templeton & Costello Families
Saturday, November 20	Reconciliation Mass	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Mary Discipio	Joe Discipio
Sunday, November 21 Our Lord, Jesus Christ, King of the Universe	Mass	7:30 am	Marge McGrath	Phil Hannigan
	Mass	9:00 am	Lawrence Joseph Jaderberg Norm Wasz Poor Souls	Mom & Dad Shirley Wyrembek Liz Wilk
	Mass Mass	11:00 am 5:00 pm	Palma Frustaci Jim Foy	Gina Frustaci The Foy Family

### Presider's Schedule for November 13-14, 2021~Mass Time

5:00 pm Fr. Tkachuk

7:30 am Fr. Milek

9:00 am Fr. Tkachuk

11:00 am Fr. Milek

5:00 pm Fr. Tkachuk

### Please pray for . . .

Jay Carroll	Enrique Martinez
Chili Challender	Teresa Martinez
Blake Donegan	Ron Minella
Barbara Doyle	Patrick Morgan
Matthew Doyle	Mike Morrison
Lily Fielding	Bernice Niemiec
Colleen Fleming	Gert Ogilvie
Terry Gazdziak	Jane O'Reilly
Lilli Gregory	Ryan Patyk
Wilson Gregory	Donna Pekarek
Henry Hanson	Baby Lucia R.
Luke Hanson	Madison Raupp
Jessi Hoffman	Nicholas Rink
Rose Ilo	Anna Rose
Mary J.	Kristin Sandoval
Jane Jacobsen	Rita Scalcon
Mary Ann Jones	Jerry Spearman, Sr.
Theresa Kandall	John Stopka
Mark Kiley	Kate Frugoli Sullivan
Robert Kozak	Albert Tassi
Patricia Lees	Gregory Van Gorp
Lisa Massaro	Liz Wilk
Kathleen McFadden Maher	

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:



**Baby Leo Bustos**  
Grandchild of Bill & Gretchen Hamilton

**Eileen M. Egan**  
Mother of Michael Egan

### Weddings

Michelle Skowron & Nick Manzella



### Readings For The Week of November 14, 2021

Sunday: Dn 12:1-3/Heb 10:11-14, 18/Mk 13:24-32

Monday: 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63/  
Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday: 2 Mc 6:18-31/Lk 19:1-10

Wednesday: 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Lk 19:11-28

Thursday: 1 Mc 2:15-29/Lk 19:41-44

Friday: 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/Lk 19:45-48

Saturday: 1 Mc 6:1-13/Lk 20:27-40

Next Sunday: Dn 7:13-14/Rv 1:5-8/Jn 18:33b-37



## Pastor's Letter

### VIBRANT IN MISSION

We are blessed with the gifts of an engaged, vibrant community of faith, especially during the parish year that ended June 30, 2021. Last summer, we had reopened our church doors for regular Masses, weddings, baptisms, and funerals. Dozens of volunteers, coordinated by a Leadership Team of parishioners and staff, made it possible for Saint Francis Xavier to provide a safe worship environment for all who came to our doors. These volunteers greeted and signed people in at the doors, prepared the church for each celebration, and restored the church after each service. We celebrated First Communion, Confirmation, and the elementary school graduation all at their usual time of year. We continued to serve families in need through our Food Pantry. We kept the parish office accessible to all who sought information or assistance.



An especially impressive witness to the commitment to our mission was the reopening of St. Francis Xavier Elementary School, **on time and in person**. This required the commitment of school administration, faculty, office staff, and facilities staff. Many spent significant time during their summer vacation preparing for a very different school year: drafting virtual curriculum, expanding on the school's blended learning model, and accommodating for social distancing in classrooms. Throughout the entire school year, not one student contracted COVID while on campus or through a school activity. Faith formation and opportunities for fun continued in new, creative ways. Most importantly, and through the extraordinary efforts of our school family, our students received the same high-quality education that earned SFX its second National Blue Ribbon in 2020.

I know that many of you expect my emphasis in the annual pastor letter to focus on the stewardship of treasure. I do ask each household to consider prayerfully the financial gift you can offer the parish to fund our mission and ministries. However, this year, **I am asking each household to focus on stewardship of time by devoting time to pray and be present to God**. For each of us, this will mean something different. Could I increase the amount of time I devote to prayer or bring prayer into my home more frequently? Could we stop to give thanks before and after meals or at the beginning and end of each day? Could we gather to pray together more regularly? As health risks in public spaces decrease, could I join the community for weekend Mass in person on a more regular basis, or set aside time each week to view the livestream of Mass from SFX?

I thank and bless all of you who continue to donate to the parish. Whether you give electronically or via an envelope, please know that it's your support that allows our parish to **remain vibrant and strong**.

I encourage you to review the enclosed Annual Report. I thank our Business Manager, Jennifer Zeisloft, our Accountant, Jane Bandyk, and the members of our parish Finance Council for their dedication and counsel during the past year. They are wise stewards of our resources.

**God bless all of you** whose faithful stewardship of time, talent, and treasure makes Saint Francis Xavier a place of healing, hope, and welcome for so many. Serving as pastor continues to be a great blessing. May we continue to live and celebrate the Gospel of Jesus Christ as we recommit to create a more just world through sacraments and worship, learning, and service.

Peace,

*J. Bill*

## Stewardship: Devote Time in Relationship with God

We are living in a time when the need to connect with God is strong and universal. When the world came to a halt, and our lives became more isolated, SFX knew that we needed to find creative ways to minister to our community within the restrictions we were all facing. We were able to do just that through lots of prayer, persistence and creativity. Our annual Women's Welcome Retreat demonstrated how this intention came to life.



The retreat was a tradition we knew we would have to reimagine. Several women volunteers worked with Maggie McMahon, our Pastoral Associate, to make it happen. Linda Hillsman, a parishioner who led the Women's Retreat for many years and passed away in the Spring of 2020, was the inspiration to fellow parishioner Lee Egan to make sure we continued in this important effort. Lee shared "Linda led my first retreat several years ago. Her story and how she walked in her faith was so inspirational for me and witnessing her spirit-filled life continues to bless my own journey."

Over 100 people signed up for the Women's Retreat this past year – a number that we would have not been able to accommodate without Zoom. "When we gather in a sacred space together in prayer," Lee said, "whether that space is in a church or virtually over Zoom, we hear each other's stories, and we come to know that this is what Jesus is all about. The Parables, for instance, are essentially the telling of stories that people can relate to. And because of that, I believe the Women's Retreat is very powerful and can be spiritually transformative. It most certainly has been for me."

During the Women's Retreat, parishioner Lisa Durham joined regularly for the rosary and prayer sessions. Soon after, Lisa was diagnosed with a neurodegenerative disease that went from diagnosis to death in 41 days. She lost the ability to converse and speak, yet could recite the Hail Mary and Our Father without any problem. The SFX community, led by women from the retreat, rallied the troops and started saying the rosary on Lisa's front yard. They were in full view of the neighborhood, showering Lisa with love and blessings and the strength of the Blessed Mother that carried her in the weeks to follow.

This beautiful act of faith is another example of people **Devoting Time in relationship with God** and its profound effect on individuals and our community as a whole. We are forever grateful.



## Stewardship: Share Talent

Around June 2020, after several months of church closure, the Archdiocese of Chicago announced protocols we could implement in order to reopen our churches to worship services. After months of being apart, we would finally be together again in worship and in person! Our excitement was balanced with a healthy degree of determination. In order to proceed with in-person mass, there were very specific and detailed protocols we would need to put in place in order to celebrate liturgies safely. And with people still somewhat hesitant to re-join in-person events, we weren't sure how we'd be able to find the volunteer support we'd need. As usual, God answered our prayers - and then some – through the sharing of talent by so many of our incredible parishioners.



We formed a re-opening task force – a partnership between parish staff and parish volunteers – in order to ensure we followed capacity and sanitization requirements within the structure of our liturgy, and to help determine how these protocols would be integrated into the way WE do church. Parishioners Elizabeth Cooley, Steve Eaton, Mike Hattie, Katie Kanzer and Greg Schuler served as leaders on this task force, providing their perspectives and recommendations to Fr. Bill and other parish staff.

In July 2020, we began our in-person services with a 20% capacity. As our parishioners returned to church for Mass, they also came back to celebrate baptisms and weddings and to mourn loved ones at funerals. In addition to daily services and weekend Masses, we needed support from volunteers to serve as greeters and to be in-person support during these celebrations. Our re-opening task force, led by our incredible volunteer leadership, took on the huge task of coordinating a group of over 100 volunteers who served to help reopen our doors safely, effectively, and with the care and support parishioners have come to expect from SFX. Elizabeth Cooley, who along with Katie Kanzer worked to coordinate the greeter volunteers, shared “Our volunteers showed a depth of faith and commitment to St. Francis that was truly inspiring –



we simply couldn't have made it through this past year without every single one of them.”

Through the diligence and steadfastness of these incredible parishioners and their commitment to share their talents, our parishioners and many outside the SFX family were able to participate in person, feeling safe and cared for.

## Stewardship: Give Treasure

A significant percentage of offertory giving at SFX directly supports our school; a mission that brings to life the very values and spiritual formation we hope to imbue in our young people. During the 2020/2021 school year, our school family was called to do what, at the time, seemed like an impossible task – host all of our students in person, in our classrooms, during a global pandemic. It would take a razor-sharp focus in execution and a steadfastness in purpose to accomplish this feat – an endeavor Catholic schools embarked on with no roadmap to follow.



However, we knew we would be walking hand-in-hand with God as we moved forward, with the knowledge that having students return to the classroom was the best path to their growth both academically and spiritually. Under the direction of our school administration and with guidance from our facilities staff, our dedicated teachers led the way for our students to return safely. They implemented social distancing practices and rigorous cleaning protocols; they reimagined engagement opportunities to prioritize safety while still pushing to find ways for our school community to connect. It took a village, including our School Advisory Board and parents who jumped in to help in any way they could.



We knew that having our students at home during the onset of the pandemic was necessary to keep them and their families safe; but we also learned that the “shelter-in-place” mandate came at a cost. As educators, we know our children’s social-emotional development is built on the foundation of in-person

learning. Gathered on the SFX Campus, the parish was indeed blessed to witness our students’ further development of their gifts, knowledge, and spiritual curiosity.

It’s impossible to overstate that supporting SFX means you are also supporting the incredible men and women at SFX School. Our school leadership, our teachers, and our facilities staff did more than merely show up to work this past year - an act that alone deserves applause, given they were putting themselves on the frontline of this health crisis with nothing but uncertainty ahead. Their conviction to our mission confirmed that working for a Catholic school is more than a job, but is truly a vocation - a divine call to be the hands and feet of Jesus for our precious children. We are so grateful to them all.



# Finance Council Letter

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

The past year has been full of both great joy and great sadness throughout our shared communities. Here at St. Francis Xavier, we experienced similar ups and downs. We were grateful that we could finally re-open our doors to worship together as a church family; but with that came restrictions and rules that we had to implement and adapt to quickly. We continued to engage in our beloved ministries but missed the human connection that isn't afforded over Zoom. We were blessed by the incredible stewardship of so many of our parishioners, and yet we also saw a significant decrease in offertory support.

Through all of these ups and downs, we found our strength through the ever-loving presence of Jesus in our community. We see God's love manifest throughout our parish and school in so many ways, and most certainly in the financial investment of so many in our important mission.

During Fiscal Year 21, your offertory investment made it possible for us to remain a constant source of comfort, and a safe place to reflect during the uncertain times we all lived through together as a community. In addition, your investment allowed us to:

- Return to in-person mass with the proper precautions and protocols in place to keep everyone safe;
- Re-open the parish elementary school for our over 400 students, providing a re-imagined but academically rigorous and spiritually nourishing environment;
- Reach our goal of \$1 million in our Education Endowment fund – which will help us manage the cost of tuition;
- Celebrate the completion of our \$5 million Capital Campaign that allowed us to renovate our gym, Joyce Hall and the construction of Unity Hall and
- Reinstate our Associate Pastor (Fr. Rich Milek) and Pastoral Associate (Maggie McMahon) positions.

While we are blessed to report on these important outcomes, this doesn't paint a complete picture of our current giving practices here at St. Francis. During Fiscal Year 21, we saw offertory support drop by \$76,000. We were able to offset this loss through a coinciding expense reduction put forth by the Archdiocese that suspended employee retirement matching contributions. That expense has returned in full for Fiscal Year 22.

We know as a council that we cannot sustain our mission in full if support continues to decline in this way. With that in mind, this year's budget will necessitate an increase over last year of \$68,000, which represents a 4% increase in offertory revenue and a return to 2019-2020 giving. Please know that we propose this increase alongside a strategic effort to bolster our fundraising outcomes through both offertory and other areas of investment.

**As you consider your giving to St. Francis Xavier, we ask that you prayerfully consider an offertory gift that is meaningful to your family.** We know that for some families, a meaningful gift this year might be \$5,000. We also know that for some families, a meaningful gift this year might be \$50. No matter where you fall on this spectrum, we simply ask that you take time in prayer and spiritual contemplation when determining how you are able to support.

We enter this year hopeful and very blessed that St. Francis will continue to be here in support of our parish and school community, ministering to the spiritual fortitude we are all seeking now more than ever.

**The SFX Finance Council**

Mike Bruni, Jennifer Driscoll, Tom Kostal, Rob Metzger, Meredith Ritchie, Jim Owen



# Finance Report

During budget preparation, the Finance Council, Business Manager, and Principal strive to present the Pastor with a budget for approval whereby income equals expenses. The fiscal year 2022 Operating Church Revenue budget projects an increase of \$68,035 (4%) in Sunday collections over the previous fiscal year (a return to 2019-2020 giving) in order to achieve a balanced budget.

	Actual 6/30/2020	Actual 6/30/2021	Budget 6/30/2022
<b>OPERATING CHURCH REVENUE</b>			
Sundays, Holy Days, Christmas & Easter Offertory	\$ 1,755,675	\$ 1,679,364	\$ 1,747,399
Other Operating Income	65,304	104,932	71,560
Parish Fundraising	5,268	-	-
Religious Education Tuition, Fees, and Fundraising	121,547	99,725	94,275
<b>Total Church Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,947,794</b>	<b>\$ 1,884,021</b>	<b>\$ 1,913,234</b>
<b>OPERATING CHURCH/RECTORY EXPENSES</b>			
Salaries, FICA, Health, Retirement Share, Prof Growth	\$ 737,644	\$ 766,177	\$ 841,302
Archdiocesan Admin, Priest Retirement	252,672	256,736	256,736
Occupancy Expense	209,623	195,726	214,706
Liturgical and Administrative Expense	115,666	124,963	133,935
School Subsidy (see below)	442,875	388,124	313,064
School of Religious Education Expenses	153,172	131,824	153,491
<b>Total Church/Rectory Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,911,652</b>	<b>\$ 1,863,550</b>	<b>\$ 1,913,234</b>
<b>NET CHURCH OPERATING EXCESS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ 36,142</b>	<b>\$ 20,471</b>	<b>Balanced</b>

<b>ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REVENUE</b>			
Tuition, Fees and Misc. Operating Income	\$ 2,375,048	\$ 2,318,463	\$ 2,458,208
Fundraising	169,144	203,457	295,000
<b>Total School Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 2,544,192</b>	<b>\$ 2,521,920</b>	<b>\$ 2,753,208</b>
<b>ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EXPENSES</b>			
Salaries, FICA, Health, Retirement Share, Prof Growth	\$ 2,509,295	\$ 2,431,847	\$ 2,531,780
Occupancy Expense	235,971	244,368	271,569
Instructional, Technology, and Other Operating Expense	241,801	233,829	262,923
<b>Total School Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,987,067</b>	<b>\$ 2,910,044</b>	<b>\$ 3,066,272</b>
<b>(DEFICIT/SUBSIDY FROM PARISH)</b>	<b>\$ (442,875)</b>	<b>\$ (388,124)</b>	<b>\$ (313,064)</b>

## OTHER GIVING

In addition to the Operating Revenue noted above, SFX received directed donations for the following Outreach ministries:

Annual Catholic Appeal 2021 (payments through June 2021)	\$ 97,046
SFX Food Pantry - Donations from Individuals	112,265
SFX Food Pantry - Donations from Organizations	19,660
St. Agatha Parish	18,942
Other Charitable Organizations (visit our website for details)	61,717
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 309,630</b>



## Other Financial Information and Statistics

### STATEMENT OF CASH POSITION

	<u>6/30/2018</u>	<u>6/30/2019</u>	<u>6/30/2020</u>	<u>6/30/2021</u>	
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>					
Cash and Savings on Deposit	879,031	799,186	944,564	1,758,742	Note 1
Current Cash Liabilities	<u>384,364</u>	<u>439,461</u>	<u>471,293</u>	<u>540,551</u>	
<b>Net Cash Position</b>	<b><u>\$ 494,667</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 359,725</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 473,272</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,218,191</u></b>	
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Payroll Protection Program (PPP)	-	-	690,202	-	Note 1
Capital Campaign Fund	564,935	165,822	98,742	-	Note 2
Building Fund	107,640	68,938	69,362	197,301	
Parish Endowment Fund	207,433	213,172	211,928	277,486	
Educational Endowment Fund	<u>765,401</u>	<u>777,733</u>	<u>783,427</u>	<u>1,032,065</u>	Note 3
Restricted Funds on Deposit	<b><u>\$ 1,645,409</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,225,665</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,853,660</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,506,852</u></b>	

**Note 1:** The parish applied for and received the SBA Payroll Protection Program loan in April 2020; the loan was forgiven in October 2020. This loan enabled us to avoid dipping into cash reserves, and once forgiven, increased our savings.

**Note 2:** SFX recorded its last contribution from our 125th Anniversary capital campaign pledges in December 2020. The project's scope was completed, and at year end all funds had been allocated.

**Note 3:** The Educational Endowment Fund reached a targeted benchmark of \$1 million.

### Enrollment Statistics Current Fiscal Year (as of October 2021)

#### Day School Enrollment

449

#### Religious Education Enrollment

538

#### Quest Participation

109

### Parish Statistics

**Note: Church closure in April and May 2020 impacted our statistics**

#### Baptisms

2019-2020 95  
2020-2021 122

#### Confirmations

2019-2020 0  
2020-2021 253

#### Funerals/Burials

2019-2020 59  
2020-2021 79

#### First Communion

2019-2020 0  
2020-2021 265

#### Marriages

2019-2020 25  
2020-2021 17

#### Newly Registered Families

2019-2020 74  
2020-2021 86



**Songs for November 14, 2021**  
**33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Opening Hymn: "City of God" –\*vss. 1 & 2**

**Refrain**

**Let us build the cit-y of God. May our tears be turned in-to danc-ing!**  
**For the Lord, our light and our love, has turned the night in-to day!**

A-wake from your slum-ber! A-rise from your sleep!  
A new day is dawn-ing for all those who weep.  
The peo-ple in dark-ness have seen a great light.  
The Lord of our long-ing has con-quer-ed the night. **Refrain.**

We are sons of the morn-ing: we are daugh-ters of day.  
The One who has loved us has bright-ened our way.  
The Lord of all kind-ness has called us to be  
a light for his peo-ple to set their hearts free. **Refrain.**

**Responsorial Psalm 16:** (7:30/9:00) "You Will Show Me the Path of Life"  
**Refrain: "You are my in-her-i-tance O Lord." \*7:30 – vss. 1 & 2 only**

**Communion Hymn: "Now in This Banquet"**

**Refrain**

**Now in this ban-quet, Christ is our bread; Here shall all hun-gers be fed.**  
**Bread that is bro-ken, wine that is poured, Love is the sign of our Lord.**

You who have touched us and graced us with love,  
make us your peo-ple of good-ness and light. **Refrain.**

Let our hearts burn with the fire of your love;  
o-pen our eyes to the glo-ry of God. **Refrain.**

God who makes the blind to see, God who makes the lame to walk,  
bring us danc-ing in-to day, lead your peo-ple in your way. **Refrain.**

Hope for the hope-less, light for the blind,  
"Strong: is your name, Lord, "Gen-tle" and "Kind." **Refrain.**

Call us to be your light, call us to be your love,  
make us your peo-ple a-gain. **Refrain.**

Come, O Spir-it! re-new our hearts!  
We shall a-rise to be child-ren of light. **Refrain.**



**Recessional:** “Soon and Very Soon” 7:30 – vss. 1 & 2 only

**Verse 1**

Soon and ver-y soon we are goin’ to see the King,  
Soon and ver-y soon, we are goin’ to see the King.  
Soon and ver-y soon we are goin’ to see the King,  
Hal-le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah, we’re goin’ to see the King!

**Verse 2**

No more cry-in’ there we are goin’ to see the King,  
No more cry-in’ there we are goin’ to see the King,  
No more cry-in’ there we are goin’ to see the King,  
Hal-le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah, we’re goin’ to see the King!

**Verse 3**

No more dy-in’ there we are goin’ to see the King,  
No more dy-in’ there we are goin’ to see the King.  
No more dy-in’ there we are goin’ to see the King,  
Hal-le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah, we’re goin’ to see the King!

**Verse 4**

Soon and ver-y soon we are goin’ to see the King,  
Soon and ver-y soon we are goin’ to see the King,  
Soon and ver-y soon we are goin’ to see the King,  
Hal-le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah, we’re goin’ to see the King!

**All music is used with permission.**

**ONELICENCE #A-714844**

“City of God” – Dan Schutte

“Psalm 16: You Will Show Me the Path of Life” – Marty Haugen

“Now in This Banquet” – Marty Haugen

“Soon and Very Soon” – Andraé Crouch



## Weekend Mass Protocols at St. Francis Xavier!

The CDC recommends wearing masks in indoor, public spaces, following evidence that the COVID delta strain can spread rapidly even among fully vaccinated individuals.

- ◆ **Masks are required for everyone** over age 2, regardless of vaccination status.
- ◆ **We invite everyone to sing with your mask in place!** Pick up a bulletin as you enter church for the words to the hymns. As you leave, place any bulletins you are not taking home in the recycle baskets at each door.
- ◆ Please wait for an usher to invite your pew to come forward for communion. With your mask in place, receive the host in your hand and move six feet to the side before removing your mask to consume the host.
- ◆ **All church doors remain open** for all worshippers.
- ◆ **Unity Hall remains open to families with small children** to offer a remote viewing option on Saturdays at 5PM and Sundays at 9AM and 11AM. This is only for families with small children and no cold symptoms.
- ◆ Every other pew in the back of church and in the east transept is not available for seating. These areas provide social distance for parents with infants, those with immune issues, and those not yet comfortable being closer than six feet. All other pews are available for general seating.
- ◆ Please avoid physical contact with those not of your own household, especially during the **Sign of Peace**. A nod or a wave is always appropriate.

Thank you for your continued understanding and patience.

**Fr. Bill**



We are excited to announce that for the first time, the teens of St. Francis Xavier, St. John, and St. Cletus are uniting to attend a Mission Service Trip in the summer of 2022. It's been two years since our last trip and all current 9th-12th grades in high school are invited to attend. The teens will depart on Sunday, June 19th, volunteer for four days and have one free day and then return mid-day on Saturday, June 25th. They will roll up their sleeves to restore, paint and rehab homes and to help social agencies, while working side by side with their fellow teens and people in the area around Montague, Michigan. Join us for a life changing week of serving, reflecting, transforming lives, celebrating the Catholic faith, building friendships, having fun and bringing hope to the world. Registration forms and more information can be found on the youth ministry page of the parish website. Spaces are limited, register early.

## 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.



**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER**  
WE PRAY • WE LEARN • WE SERVE



**We encourage all to follow SFX School on social media**

SFX School Website: [sfxlg.org/school](http://sfxlg.org/school)

SFX School Instagram: [@sfxlg\\_school](https://www.instagram.com/sfxlg_school)

SFX School Facebook: [facebook.com/sfx.lg](https://www.facebook.com/sfx.lg)

SFX School Website: [sfxlg.org/School](http://sfxlg.org/School)

SFX Falcon Alumni Facebook:  
[facebook.com/sfxlgalumni](https://www.facebook.com/sfxlgalumni)

**SFX VIRTUAL SCHOOL TOUR**  
<https://vimeo.com/506617250>

**See the latest happenings at the SFX school:**

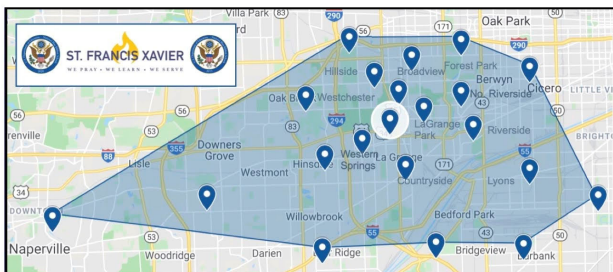
2021 Living Rosary: [vimeo.com/626693886](https://vimeo.com/626693886)

Homecoming Pep Rally: [vimeo.com/624574399](https://vimeo.com/624574399)

Homecoming Parade: [vimeo.com/624559358](https://vimeo.com/624559358)

Homecoming Football Game: [vimeo.com/624566088](https://vimeo.com/624566088)

Falcon 5K Video: [vimeo.com/643629220](https://vimeo.com/643629220)



## LA GRANGE *and* BEYOND

Saint Francis Xavier School has students from 20 different ZIP Codes.

Contact us today to learn more about what Saint Francis Xavier School can offer your family!

[sfxlg.org/school](http://sfxlg.org/school)



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Falcon 5K & Fun Run last Saturday!

- Over 350 registrants
- More than 50 volunteers
- 12 Fabulous sponsors
- One beautiful day!

A special thanks to parishioners and Race Directors, Meghan & Zack Fijal.

## Family Outreach Ministry Committee Volunteering Returns December 4!

The SFX Family Outreach Ministry Committee is excited to begin volunteer opportunities for families once again! Please join us on our first outing on Saturday, December 4 from 10:30 am-1:00 pm. We will be preparing and serving food to the needy during the Saturday Meals Program at First Congressional Church of LaGrange. Registration is required and we kindly ask for a \$5-\$10 donation per person to purchase food to prepare. Email Rachel Peterson at [petersonrtw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:petersonrtw@sbcglobal.net) in order to reserve your spot!

Be watchful  
for you do not  
know the day  
or the hour



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Advent begins in two weeks – and the “Little Blue Books” are back! Beginning this week, FREE Little Blue Books to guide your Advent reflection can be found in the baskets at each entrance to the church. If you are leading a small group or would like to join a weekly small group to discuss these reflections throughout Advent, please contact Carol Promisel at [cpromisel2000@yahoo.com](mailto:cpromisel2000@yahoo.com). Other Advent ideas/opportunities can be found on our parish website – visit [sfxlg.org](http://sfxlg.org) -> Parish -> Faith Formation -> ADVENT!

## OPLATKI

The Christmas Wafer (also known as “Oplatki”) is available at the Rectory. Please call 708-352-0168 to reserve your Oplatki and schedule a time to pick up.

The word “Bethlehem” means “the house of bread.” The breaking of the bread is a sign of charity, unity and friendship. Religious family customs bring the truths of faith into the home. One of these beautiful Christmas Eve customs is the Christmas Wafer. The thin wafer bearing the Christmas characters is broken by the head of the family and distributed to each member. With a simple prayer for God’s grace and the welfare of all members of the family, those present as well as those who are absent, the head of the house breaks the wafer and distributes it, one piece to each person at the table. While doing so, each member of the family is kissed and wished a joyful feast. Members then greet one another in the same way.

The spiritual lesson in this age-old custom is that the unity of the family is grounded in God’s love for us. May you experience unity and love through this simple celebration.



## BEDS Dessert Program

Sign up for the BEDS Dessert program is now open. Please plan to bring dessert for 18 guests of the BEDS Plus program. We kindly ask that the desserts be store bought, individually wrapped and delivered to the BEDS Plus Care Facility located at **9601 East Ogden in LaGrange before 12:00 pm on Monday**. If you would like to be a back-up in case of unforeseen cancellations, please email at [thsully28@yahoo.com](mailto:thsully28@yahoo.com). For questions, please call or text Theresa Sullivan at 773-592-7155.

Thank you for your generous support!

The sign up link is [Copy of Oct-Dec 2021 Dessert for BEDS](#).



## **Pig Roast 2021 is back on!! SFX Men's Club**

*Friday, December 10  
6:00-11:30PM*

*American Legion Post 1941  
900 South La Grange Road*

*More details to follow.  
Contact Matt Hubert at [mthubert@gmail.com](mailto:mthubert@gmail.com)  
for more information.*

## **SFX Women's Retreat 2022**



*Save the date--February 5th & 6th, 2022, at the Carmelite Retreat Center located in Darien, Illinois. More details coming soon!*



## A Note From Claret Center

Greetings, Parishioners!

We've recently initiated a new month, and we can already notice how Mother Nature is giving us varied temperatures, as well as the variations in leaf color. As we observe and feel the changing seasons, we may notice that for some, these changes result in more indoor activity while for others, they result in a decrease in social activities.

As a result of these variations in temperature and activities, many individuals may feel as though they are experiencing a seasonal change from bright days to rainy nights. If you are experiencing any changes, such as getting worried or irritable more easily, feeling lonely, anxious, or just want to talk to someone about a challenge you are having, please contact your Parish counselor so we can work together.

Georgina Lopez, B.A.  
Parish Counselor, Intern  
St. Francis Xavier Parish, 124 N. Spring Ave., LaGrange, IL 60525  
Phone: 323-487-2359



## VOLUNTEER for the SFX AUCTION!



Volunteering is a fun way to **become involved** in SFX School and Parish, to **meet new friends** & to **help throw a GREAT & MEMORABLE party!**

Please sign up for one of the volunteer committees below! We are looking for volunteers to help with:

**Event Coordination**

**Live Auction**

**Silent Auction**

**Registration**

**"Fund a Need"**

Email: **Andrea Dekoj** [andreadekoj@gmail.com](mailto:andreadekoj@gmail.com) to sign up!

*All time belongs to the Lord*

## Interfaith Career Network

### Mid-Career Job Search Techniques for Success

Looking for a new job? Are you over the age of 50? Be sure to join us on Thursday, November 18 from 7-9 pm. Many mid-career job seekers have concerns of age bias when in search for new opportunities. There are ways to enter the competition with more confidence when you overcome some of your natural concerns. Panelists Eileen Paliakas and John Fix are two mid-career professionals who have recently successfully landed great new jobs. They will share their experiences including obvious suggestions, the less obvious and what may potentially waste your time. We look forward to seeing you at St. John of the Cross Parish Center, 5005 Wolf Road, in Western Springs.

This will be a Hybrid meeting both in-person and via Zoom. The link to the Zoom meeting can be found on our website at <http://interfaithcareernetwork.org/calender>. If you attend in-person, masks are required. Everyone is welcome and there is no cost to attend.



Please register for programs at The Well Spirituality Center [www.csjthewell.org](http://www.csjthewell.org).

**Advent at Home Directed Retreat** on Monday, November 29 at 7:00 pm through Tuesday, December 14 at 7:00 pm with Facilitators: Pat Bergen, CSJ, Diane Pfahler, SND, and Bridget Spurduto. Thomas Merton says, "Advent is the beginning of the end of everything that is not Christ." In addition to gatherings on Zoom on the evening of November 29 and December 14, each participant promises to spend a half-hour a day in prayer and to meet with a retreat director 5 times for ½ hour during the 16-day retreat. Cost of this retreat: \$125.

### Follow the Parish on Social Media!

Did you know the Parish has Instagram and Facebook accounts? Follow us to stay up to date with SFX happenings, a weekly scripture reflection, and more!



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St. Francis Xavier Parish  
LaGrange, IL



### Blood Drive

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4:00-8:00 pm**

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Helpful tip:

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



### Kitchen Angels



The Kitchen Angels are a group of parishioners who help people by bringing meals to their homes. The Kitchen Angels have been in existence for many years yet many of our parishioners are not aware of this outreach ministry.

If you know of a person or a family who could use some meals, or if you are interested in becoming a Kitchen Angel, please contact **Susie Lehuta** at 708-354-6380 or [lehutams@gmail.com](mailto:lehutams@gmail.com).



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

- **Sgt. David Phillips**—brother of Rebecca Casiple
- **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
- **Technical Sgt. Rhonda Russell, USAF**—daughter of Deidre & John Russell and granddaughter of Mary F. Russell
- **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
- **Deanna Ciaccia, U.S. Navy**—daughter of Julie & Anthony Ciaccia
- **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
- **PFC Rob Parisi, U.S. Army 19K**—son of Chuck 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
- **1st Lieutenant Michael Sullivan, U.S. Army**—son of Gene & Mary Pat Sullivan
- **Col. Jessica Nichol, USAF**—daughter-in-law of Tom & Lucile Nichol

**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  
Director of Community Outreach  
Retired Weekend Sacramental Minister  
Retired Weekday Sacramental Minister  
Weekend Sacramental Minister

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

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

## Education Ministry

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

Mrs. Sharon Garcia  
Mrs. Janice Carr  
Mrs. Mary Hoffman  
Mrs. Peggy Evans  
Mrs. Mary Tassi  
Mrs. Jennifer Zeisloft  
Mrs. Elis Guidice  
Mrs. Cindy Johnson

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

## Youth Ministry

Coordinator

youthministry@sfxlg.org

## Music Ministry

Director

Mr. Allen Sterwalt

asterwalt@sfxlg.org

## Parish Office Staff

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

Mrs. Jennifer Zeisloft  
Ms. Jane Bandyk  
Mrs. Maureen Pipal  
Mrs. Melissa Westerhoff  
Ms. Debra Soulje  
Mr. Frank Roccasalva

jzeisloft@sfxlg.org  
jbandyk@sfxlg.org  
mpipal@sfxlg.org  
mwesterhoff@sfxlg.org  
dsoulje@sfxlg.org  
froccasalva@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.....sfxreligious@sfxlg.org  
Parish Web Site .....www.sfxlg.org

## Rectory Hours

Monday-Thursday ..... 8:30 am-8:30 pm  
Friday ..... 8:30 am-4:30 pm  
Saturday ..... 9:00 am-5:00 pm  
Sunday ..... 9:00 am-1:00 pm

**At this time due to COVID-19 the rectory offices are closed. Staff members will now be answering phones Monday through Friday from 8:30 am-4:30 pm and on Saturdays from 9:00 am-12:00 Noon. The answering service will answer calls after that time.**

## Weekday Masses at St. Francis Xavier Church

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30 am

## Rosary at St. Francis Xavier Church

Thursday 8:15 am

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday morning .....9:00-10:00 am  
Reconciliations are being heard in the lower vestibule of Unity Hall between the church and education building.

## Private Prayer at Neighboring Churches

**St. Cletus** (Monday - Friday) .....9:00 am-Noon  
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.

## 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, Georgina Lopez, from the Claret Center (Georgina is also bilingual in English and Spanish. She can be reached by phone 323-487-2359 or email glopez.claret@gmail.com.

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