

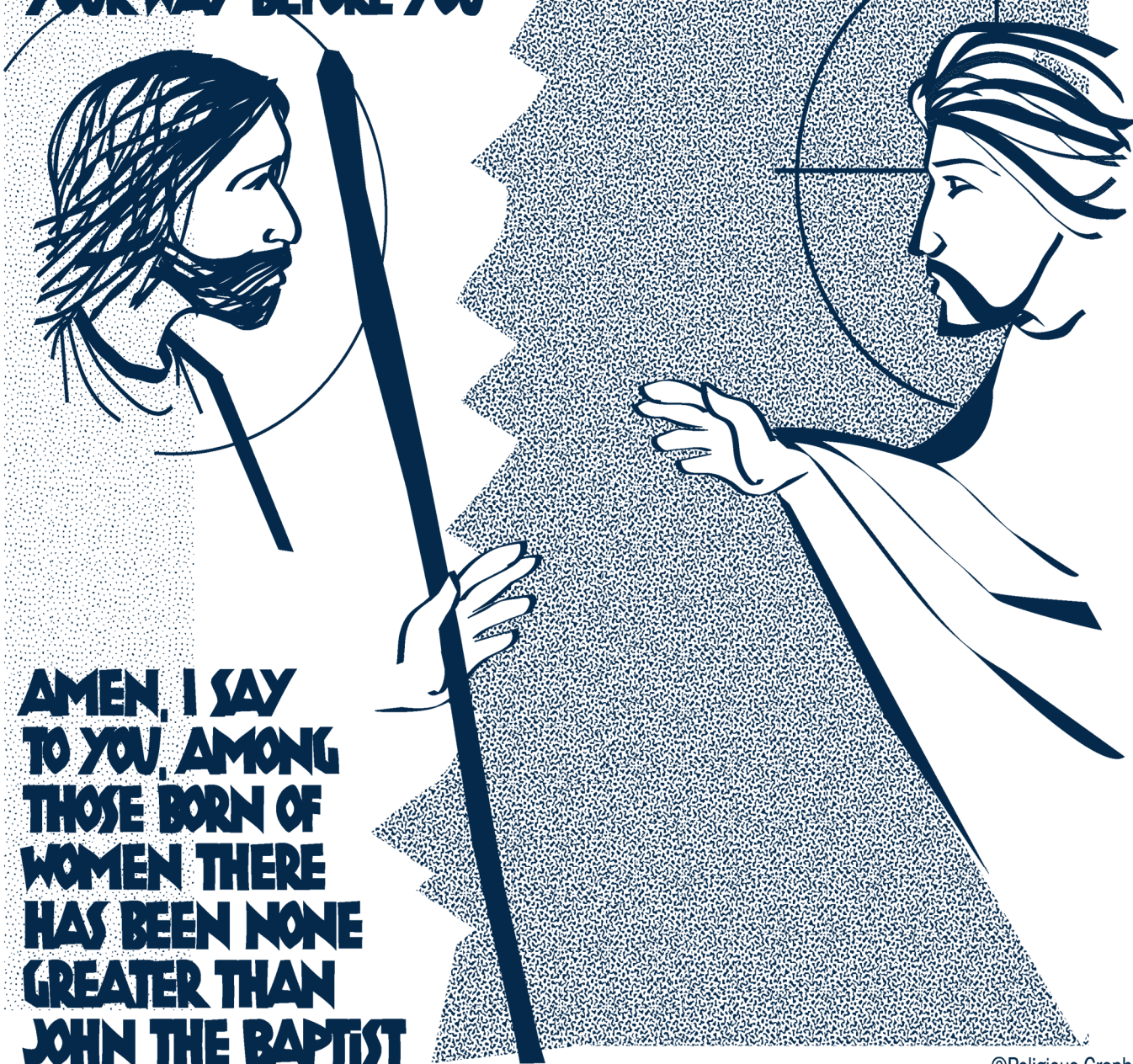
SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2019



**BEHOLD, I AM SENDING
MY MESSENGER AHEAD
OF YOU; HE WILL PREPARE
YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU**



**AMEN, I SAY
TO YOU, AMONG
THOSE BORN OF
WOMEN THERE
HAS BEEN NONE
GREATER THAN
JOHN THE BAPTIST**

Mass Intentions For The Week

Monday, December 16	8:30 am	Ellamae King Elaine Muldoon	Tom King The SFX Faculty & Staff
Tuesday, December 17	7:45 am 8:30 am	Word & Communion Service James Heinlein Herbert & Mary Schrack	Marlene Heinlein
Wednesday, December 18	8:30 am	Joseph & Mary Potsch	Joan & Jim Potsch
Thursday, December 19	7:45 am 8:30 am	Word & Communion Service Bill Valli	Mary F. Russell
Friday, December 20	8:30 am	Helen Nigida	Jeff & Shirley Augustyn
Saturday, December 21 Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church	9:00 am 9:30 am 4:15 pm 5:00 pm	Besse & Dick Parlon Billy Wielgos Sacrament of Reconciliation Sacrament of Reconciliation Bea Nelligan John Kelly	Pam Oplawski The Wielgos Family Donna Mulvenna & Family Don Kelly & Family
Sunday, December 22	7:30 am 9:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm 6:00 pm	William Gallagher Michael Thuma Kathleen Scanlon People of the Parish Jim Curtis Mel Justak, Sr.	Oriano & Mary Nomellini The Greyerbiehl Family Terri Simeoni Maureen Walsh SFX School Community

Please Pray For...

Jay Carroll	Emmett Miller
Chili Challenger	Patrick Morgan
Kevin Corrigan	Mike Morrison
Anthony Dina	Bernice Niemiec
Blake Donegan	Arnold Oppenheim
Pat Eaton	Jane O'Reilly
Lily Fielding	Ryan Patyk
Baby Collins Fitzpatrick	Donna Pekarek
Peter Ganzel	Jim Potsch
Lilli Gregory	James Pridmore
Wilson Gregory	Madison Raupp
Brian Hahn	Anna Rose
Patricia Hassler	Marilyn Rutkowski
Linda Hillsman	Matthew Schiek
Rose Ilo	Gretchen Sterwalt
Mary J.	Kate Frugoli Sullivan
Jane Jacobsen	Pat Sullivan
Theresa Kandall	John Thoms
Anne Kelly	Anne Titzer
Benny Kilman	Michael Ungari
Jerry Kolman	Gregory Van Gorp
Lou Ellen Krueger	Marian Ward
Marian Lucas	Liz Wilk
Caroline MacGregor	

Prayers are requested for our relatives and friends who are sick. To add a name to the prayer list, please call the rectory at 708-352-0168.

Names of the sick are listed for two months in the bulletin. If there is a recurrence of illness, names can be listed again. 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:

Sherman Dimailig
Brother of Ferdinand

Mitchel Korzenko
Father of Teresa Wlodarski

Diane Bell
Mother of David & Lisa

Weddings

Chloe Creber & Dan Dwyer
Laura King & James McGuire



Pastor's Notes

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, and the tongue of the mute will sing.

Isaiah 35:5-6

Isaiah prophecies God's transformation of the desert and the healing renewal of God's people after a time of ruin and destruction. God's kingdom had been corrupted by an abuse of power and a refusal to place God's desires at the center of all. As a result, the "corrupt kingdom" had to collapse so that a renewed kingdom could rise from the ashes. Isaiah proclaims that God always reaches out with loving arms to heal our ills and lift us up. All that we need do is admit our need for God's healing and invite God into our lives.

This **Tuesday**, our parish grouping offers an opportunity to celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** together at St. John of the Cross Parish, beginning at 7PM. The priests from all three parishes and a few guest priests will be there. Consider participating in this service; allow God's healing to flow through your heart.

This week marks the beginning of several traditions that "practice" Christmas joy. The rose-colored candle of the Advent wreath reminds us that *joy must not be hidden* or reserved only for "special" days. *Each day*, joy flows from God's continuing goodness and God's desire to bring flowers in the desert and renewed strength to our weakness.

Monday begins the **Christmas Novena**, nine days that lead us to December 25th. Mexican Catholics begin **Las Posadas**, nine evenings of travelling with Mary and

Joseph as they seek a home in which Mary can give birth to her child. At the final home each night, all are welcomed into a celebration of food and music. A piñata, originally a seven-pointed star representing the seven deadly sins, is smashed until it breaks open and pours forth candies that call to mind the sweetness of grace that flows when sin and temptation are overcome. Filipino Catholics celebrate **Simbang Gabi**. Families hang a parol, or star lantern, in the window to welcome the Christ Child and they gather each day for Mass. Filipinos in this country celebrate the original "Mass at dawn" in the evening.

Wednesday begins the singing of the "**O Antiphons**." Seven ancient symbols identify the Savior in the seven verses of the hymn, "O Come, Emmanuel." The singing of one of these antiphons on each of the seven days, and other rituals and celebrations, are meant to heighten anticipation and stir joy in our hearts in preparation for what God has given us in the birth of Jesus. Let us practice well the approaching Christmas joy.

This Sunday we bring back the **St. Francis Xavier Yule Flip Pancake Breakfast and a redesigned Santa's Workshop**. I hope you can take a break from the busyness of the season and enjoy the company of fellow parishioners in joy and good food. It is one more way to practice joy and prepare our hearts.

Advent Peace,

F. Bill

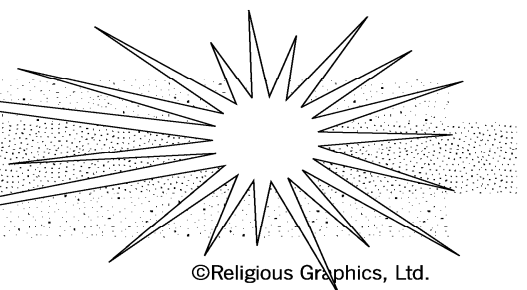
Reflection for the 3rd Sunday of Advent

Liturgy Planning Group #6

Susie Lehuta, Susan Lindsay, Sue Martin and Susan Nedza

As the days continue to lengthen and darkness engulfs our days, it is easy to ask, "Will Christmas ever come?" As the superficial busyness of the season threatens to overwhelm us, it is important to remember who we will encounter at the end of our Advent journey. As Isaiah reminds us, *Be strong, fear not!* We must heed the words of Saint James, *Be patient, brothers and sisters...the coming of the Lord is at hand!*

Rejoice! The Lord is near.



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Reconciliation Service

This Advent we celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation with our neighboring parish:

St. John of the Cross
Tuesday, December 17 at 7:00 pm

Individual reconciliation available at St. Francis Xavier on Saturdays, after the 9:00 am Mass and at 4:15 pm.

The Christmas Wafer

The Christmas Wafer (also known as “Oplatki”) is available in the Rectory during office hours Monday through Thursday 8:30 am -8:30 pm, Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm; Saturday 9:00 am-5:00 pm and on Sunday between 9:00 am-1:00 pm.



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.

**There will be NO 6PM MASS
on Sunday, December 29th.
Please make plans accordingly.**

The Giving Tree

Wrapped gifts with gift tags affixed to them, can start to be dropped off this weekend December 14 & 15. You can also bring them to the Yule Flip! But they are due by December 22 before the 12:00 pm Mass, so that we can deliver them to St. Agatha's who will distribute them to members of their community that afternoon. We are grateful for your generous support of this annual Christmas tradition sponsored by the QUEST teens of our parish.

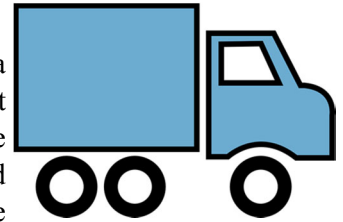


If you have any questions, please contact Olivia Zurowski at ozurowski@sfxlg.org or 708-352-0168 x338.

What's going on in Youth Ministry???

HELP NEEDED!

We are in need of a truck/large van that can fit~100 large garbage bags filled with Giving Tree gifts to deliver to St. Agatha's on Sunday, December 22nd (as well as a driver!) The vehicle and driver would be needed starting at 11am and should be done by 2pm. If you are available and interested, please contact Olivia Zurowski at ozurowski@sfxlg.org or 708-352-0168.



Help Wanted

Interfaith Community Partners is looking for a part-time Volunteer Coordinator to arrange for transportation for clients 60 and better within our community. Hours are Thursday and Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm. Computer skills necessary, pleasant phone communication plus love of working with older adults.

Please submit your resume to Janet Garreau at jgarreauicp@gmail.com or call our office for further assistance at 708-354-9328.



Want peace and joy during the Advent Season?
Come join us for Eucharistic Adoration!
December 19, 2019 at 6:00-7:00pm

As Catholics, we proclaim the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, not only during the Mass but in the preserved Hosts. **“Jesus remains in the Blessed Sacrament to give us the privilege of approaching him personally as so many people were able to do two-thousand years ago in Galilee and Judea”** (Fr. F. Racine). During Eucharistic Adoration, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed on the altar for individual, silent adoration.

The next Eucharistic Adoration will be **Thursday, December 19**. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from 6:00-7:00 pm. Come when you are able for as long as your schedule allows. If you have any questions, please contact Katie at k.f.kanzer@gmail.com.

O, Come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass Times

December 24

Christmas Eve Masses in Church
3:00 pm, 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Midnight Mass in Church
Caroling begins at 11:30 am

St. Alexine Chapel
(formerly Motherhouse Chapel)
3:00 pm (Tickets needed) and 5:00 pm

December 25

Christmas Day Masses in Church
9:00 am, 10:30 am and 12:00 Noon

Christmas Flower Donation

If you would like to donate to the Christmas Flowers in Memory and/or Honor of a Loved One, please take an envelope that can be found at the entrances of the church. We will publish the names in the New Year.

Thank you for making our worship space prayerful and lovely for this liturgical season.

Our Family Tree in Unity Hall

*Please help us fill our tree with **LOVE!***

Our theme this year is “Share With LOVE”

We are asking our Parish Families to bring an ornament that represents LOVE for this 2nd year of our Family Tree tradition.

The theme will change from year to year allowing our tree to reflect where our Parish focus is for Christmas & beyond.

Feel free to add your family ornament at any time during the season!

Questions Contact: Celine Heraty - SFX Arts & Environment - cmheraty@gmail.com

(You are welcome to take your ornament home after January 5th)



YULE FLIP PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Today Sunday, December 15

**From 8:00 am to Noon
(last seating at 11:45 am)**

**Admission \$10
Children (12 and under) \$5
Seniors (65 and older) \$7**

Feel Free To Walk-In

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Our Saturday evening 5:00 pm Mass offers the opportunity for children in Grades Kindergarten-Fourth to experience hearing and reflecting on the Word of the Lord in a way that is an empowering experience. Children in these grades are invited to follow their Reflector of the Word to a prayer space away from the gathered assembly to hear the Scriptures in words they can understand.

Children's Liturgy of the Word takes place in church whenever the children's choirs lead us in song/prayer AND when a Grade Level Mass is celebrated. The Scriptures we hear will then be taken from the Children's Lectionary and the homily will be given in a way that children are able to relate a little more readily. The children in Grades K thru 4 will go to their prayer space on the Saturdays that the choirs are not singing and when a specific grade is not scheduled to celebrate liturgy at the 5:00 Mass.

Here is the tentative schedule with the children's choirs: January 25; February 29; March 14.

Here is the schedule when a Grade Level Mass is celebrated: February 1 & 8; April 18.

Children in Grades K-4 will be invited to join their Reflector in a prayer space away from the adults and to hear the Word of the Lord in words they can better understand on the following Saturdays (subject to change): December 21; January 11 & 18; February 15 & 22; March 7, 21 & 28; and April 28.

You can call 708-352-0168 and direct your calls to: Allen Sterwalt, Director of Music or Terri Simeoni, Coordinator of Religious Education.

Religious Education Important Dates & Class Dates

Grade 2 Eucharistic Prep Liturgies
Sunday, January 12 1:30 pm in Church

Reconciliation
Grade 5 January 19 and January 22
during Class Time

Class Dates	
Sunday, December 15	Class
Pajama Day	
Wednesday, December 18	Class
Pajama Day	
Sunday, December 22	No Class
Wednesday, December 25	No Class
Sunday, December 29	No Class
Wednesday, January 1	No Class
Sunday, January 5	At Home Lesson
Wednesday, January 8	At Home Lesson
Sunday, January 12	Class
	8th Grade Retreat
Wednesday, January 15	Class
	8th Grade Retreat (4:00 Only)
Sunday, January 19	Class
Wednesday, January 22	Class



Calling all SFX Parishioners

Looking for a great gift for someone in our community?

We have two ideas that might suit you!

The roaring 1920's return to the Theatre of Western Springs, and guests can enjoy drama and intrigue while they are helping to support the parish ministries of St. Francis Xavier Church in LaGrange.

Pre-sales from the theatre's Wednesday, March 4, 2020 performance of "The Great Gatsby" are now on sale for \$25 each! You may recall last year's event, when parishioners had a fabulous evening of theater during the presentation of "Deathtrap". Don't miss the opportunity to join the parish again!

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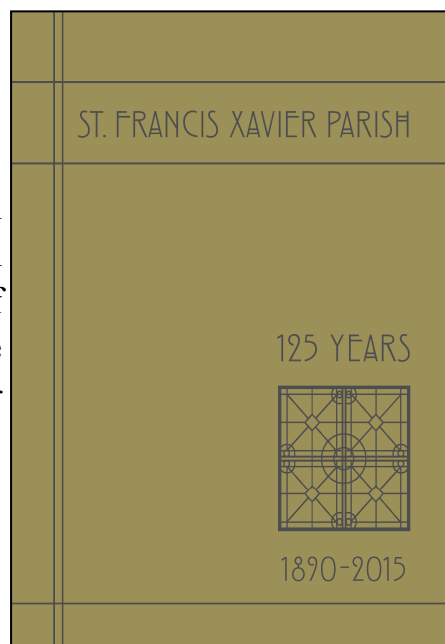
The rectory still has about 30 copies of the 125th Anniversary book available for sale (\$40 each). This commemorative edition contains a history of life at St. Francis Xavier from 1890 to 2015. In its vibrant pages, hundreds of parishioners and parish leaders share their memories and stories of our parish.

The book is organized into three segments:

- * Past, showing our early history
- * Present, with highlights from 1990 to 2015
- * Future, with articles and photos that cover our Capital Campaign and Capital Projects.

The 125th Anniversary Book flourished into existence with parishioners like you in mind. The gift of stewardship from hundreds of SFX parishioners is what makes these pages full of warmth and love. Once these books are gone, we will not be ordering anymore. So stop by (or call) the rectory for your copy!

PS~If you supported the
125th Anniversary Capital Campaign,
YOUR NAME IS PROBABLY IN THE BOOK!



SAFE AND SOBER HOLIDAYS

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

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

Here are some healthy guidelines for holiday drinking and entertaining.

F. Bill

HOLIDAY DRINKING GUIDELINES

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

Just one drink can hurt you.

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

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

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

Not drinking is okay.

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

Drunk drivers can kill people.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING GUIDELINES

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

The calendar has no effect on the effects of alcohol.

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

Don't poison your guests.

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

Provide non-alcoholic refreshments and let your guests choose.

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

Drunk drivers can kill people.

Surviving the Holidays

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

- 1. Have realistic expectations.** This year WILL be different; don't try to make it the same as other years.
- 2. Know you can stay home this year.** This year you may feel like staying at home, which is a normal part of grief and healing. But many people will insist—maybe even push—to get you out. Be honest with yourself. If you are overwhelmed and need the security of solace, give yourself permission to stay in. If you go to the party and are ambushed by extreme emotions, give yourself permission to thank the host and leave early.
- 3. Do something special for yourself.** Plan a time close to Christmas day to go to a good movie, do a little window shopping, drop into church for a prayer, or enjoy a special treat. It doesn't have to be lavish. If you'd rather stay home, then rent a favorite movie, cook a favorite meal, and cozy up in a way that comforts you.
- 4. Do something for someone else.** One of the best ways to come out of our misery is to help someone else. Volunteering brings many back to the reality that God is good and there are many things for which to be thankful. Others focus their attention on Christmas presents for the children.
- 5. Keep it simple.** Having a Christmas tree may cheer up some; but for others it will be too depressing. Sending Christmas cards can be very therapeutic; but for some it is a time-consuming and unnecessary expense. Re-examine everything you used to do during the holidays; keep what works and get rid of the rest.
- 6. Keep in touch with the children.** Children crave routine and rituals which give them a sense of security—especially holiday customs. Keep as many of the holiday routines that they best love. Ask what their favorites are and help them focus on the fun.
- 7. Don't celebrate with your ex.** Not unless it's been years, the kids are older, and you really do get along fairly well. It sounds good that you should all be able to get along at the holidays—but it's most often a myth. In most cases it confuses everyone, especially the children.
- 8. Help the children buy a present for their other parent.** Imagine how difficult it would be to get a present for mom or dad without any help. Some things should never change . . . like encouraging kids to love, honor, and respect both parents.
- 9. Draw close to God.** This holiday is about the answer to every person's prayer: God come to us in the flesh. Let Mary's kind eyes fall upon you and Joseph's strong gaze give you hope.
- 10. Go to Christmas Mass and rejoice in your heart.** On Christmas day your emotions may be extremely tender; the tears may flow and the cries of your heart may mix with the strains of "Silent Night." But come. Come as you are. Know that you are loved. Know that there is hope. Know that if you remain open to God through the crosses of life there *will* be resurrection and salvation. *This* is the hope we have in these holidays.

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



Christmas Epiphany Concert & Candlelight Service

St. Francis Xavier Church
124 North Spring Avenue, LaGrange

Saturday, January 4, 2020

HAS BEEN CANCELLED!

Domestic Abuse

St. Francis Xavier is committed to serving the needs of the abused in our parish and beyond. For more information regarding our domestic violence outreach ministry efforts here at SFX, please call: 708-352-0168.



Did You Know?

In the United States, one in four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.

Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women in the U.S. between the ages of 15 and 44—more than car accidents, rapes, and muggings combined.

Boys who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their own partners and children as adults.

Signs of Abuse:

Is your partner ...Controlling you? Isolating you from people/activities? Blaming you for his/her problems? Making all the important decisions? Humiliating you? Threatening or using violence? Making you feel as if you are crazy? Expecting you to “do as you’re told”? Abusive to children/past partners?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, you are not alone.

Call 911 if you feel you are in immediate danger.

If you or someone you know needs help, call a 24 hour hotline:

Pillars: 708-485-5254

Family Shelter Services: 630-469-5650



Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide

Offering Hope and Healing for Those Who Mourn a Loss to Suicide

St. John of the Cross parish will begin hosting a monthly support group for those grieving the loss of a loved one from suicide. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month.

L.O.S.S. (Loving Outreach to Survivors of Suicide) is a non-denominational program that provides a safe, judgement-free environment intended to help survivors and family members share experiences and draw strength and hope within a loving community. Trained counselors are on hand at each meeting. Call LOSS at 312-655-7285 or SJC 708-246-4404 for more information.



Join us at the WELCOME Women's Retreat and see what gifts you will receive.

THE GIFT OF...

"Time to reflect, rest and laugh."
Heather F.

"Silence, solitude and deep lasting friendships."
Pam D.

"The opportunity to re-charge my spirit and to still my mind."
Katie M.



Women's WELCOME Retreat Weekend

Saturday, February 8 - Sunday, February 9, 2020

(begins at 8:30 am on Saturday - ends at 3 pm on Sunday)

Carmelite Spiritual Center

8433 Bailey Road, Darien, IL

Registration is now open and spots are filling up fast. Please visit the SFX Parish website or our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/WelcomeWomenSFX/>) for more details and if you have questions, please contact Pam Devitt at (708) 250-3711.

Please join us for the
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB

Pre-Lent Event



Carnivale

Saturday, February 1, 2020

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

LaGrange Country Club

To purchase event tickets or donate, please visit: Prelentevent.com

Please register by January 25th



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. 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
- **Capt. Maura Hoffman & Capt. Christopher Hoffman**—niece and nephew of Margie & Steve Hull and
cousins of Kate, Janie & Caroline Hull
- **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 Jack & 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**—grandson of Marian, nephew of Rosemary and Sr. Kathleen Lucas,
and Kate & Beau Medlock
- **Deanna Ciaccia, U.S. Navy**—daughter of Julie & Anthony Ciaccia and granddaughter of Harold Held
- **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
- **Joseph Somers, U.S. Navy**—nephew of Maureen & Nick Burriesci
- **Major Meghan Cumpston, U.S. Army**—cousin of Lauren Schultz
- **Sgt. David T. Benson**—son of Linda & Charles Benson
- **Airman Jeffrey Niemiec, USAF**—nephew of Nancy & Harry Devereux
- **1st Lt. Alexander Dale Fisher, USMC**—nephew of Michelle & Bill McKeown and cousin to Elizabeth & Liam
- **Rob Parisi, PV2, U.S. Army 19K**—son of Kathi & Chuck Parisi, Brother of Caitlin & Jack
and Grandson of Robert J. Lynch

**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

Rev. William Tkachuk

wtkachuk@sfxlg.org

Deacon

Mr. Andrew Allison

aallison@sfxlg.org

Retired Weekend Sacramental Minister

Rev. William Killeen

Retired Weekday Sacramental Minister

Rev. Ed Barrett

Weekend Sacramental Minister

Rev. Stan Ilo

Education Ministry

Day School Principal

Mrs. Sharon Garcia

sgarcia@sfxlg.org

Assistant Principal

Mrs. Janice Carr

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Assistant to Day School Principal

Mrs. Mary Hoffman

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Day School Secretary (Main Campus)

Mrs. Peggy Evans

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Advancement Director

Mrs. Mary Tassi

mtassi@sfxlg.org

Tuition Accounts

Mrs. Jennifer Zeisloft

jzeisloft@sfxlg.org

Religious Education Coordinator/Sacrament Prep

Ms. Terri Simeoni

tsimeoni@sfxlg.org

Religious Education Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Cindy Johnson

cjohnson@sfxlg.org

Youth Ministry

Coordinator

Mrs. Olivia Zurowski

ozurowski@sfxlg.org

Music Ministry

Director

Mr. Allen Sterwalt

asterwalt@sfxlg.org

Parish Office Staff

Business Manager

Mrs. Jennifer Zeisloft

jzeisloft@sfxlg.org

Parish Accountant

Ms. Jane Bandyk

jbandyk@sfxlg.org

Pastor's Secretary

Mrs. Maureen Pipal

mpipal@sfxlg.org

Parish Secretary

Mrs. Melissa Westerhoff

mwesterhoff@sfxlg.org

Staff Secretary

Ms. Debra Soulje

dsoulje@sfxlg.org

Facilities Manager

Mr. Frank Roccasalva

froccasalva@sfxlg.org

Food Pantry/Community Outreach

Coordinator

Mrs. Mary Freeman

mfreeman@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-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

Sabbath Liturgy

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am, 12:00 Noon and
 (6:00 pm September until first weekend of May)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday morning.....After 9:00 am Mass
 Saturday afternoon.....4:15 pm
 The Reconciliation room is located off the walkway behind the
 tabernacle prayer area.

Liturgy Schedule

Monday through Friday8:30 am
 Saturday9:00 am
St. Cletus (Monday - Saturday).....8:00 am
St. John of the Cross (Monday - Saturday).....9:00 am

Bulletin Deadline

The deadline for submitting all bulletin articles is 9:00 am on the Monday preceding the Sunday of publication. If a holiday falls on a Monday, articles are due by 12:00 Noon on the previous Thursday. Please email all articles to the bulletineditor@sfxlg.org.

Domestic Violence Resources

Family Shelter Services—24 hr. counseling 630-469-5650
 LaGrange Police Emergency Assistance 911 or 708-579-2354

Food Pantry

The St. Francis Food Pantry is open every Tuesday from 9:30 to 11:00 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

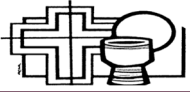
Please call the Parish Office for scheduled 1:30 pm Sunday Baptismal dates. Baptism Preparation Classes: 4th Thursday of every month at 7:30 pm. We encourage participation in this program before the baby's birth or adoption.

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, respectful, understanding, and take place in a safe environment. Counseling and psychotherapy services are available for individuals, couples, and families experiencing difficulty with anxiety, depression, grief, relationship conflicts, work stress or job loss problems, or feelings of being overwhelmed. For further information or to make an appointment, our parish counselor, Patrice Nerone, from the Claret Center can be reached by phone 312-884-9879 or email patricenerone@protonmail.com.



Liturgical Ministers' Schedule—December 21 & 22, 2019

Mass Time	Presider	Lectors/ Commentators	Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers	Cantors	Greeters
5:00 PM	Fr. Killeen	J. Hayford M. Kanzer C. Grech	J. Denson C. Cooke K. Corrigan S. Devitt D. Dunlap K. Kanzer D. Mulvenna K. Preussner Open			R. MacEntee
7:30 AM	Fr. Killeen	M. Carroll G. Schuler J. Van Gorp	G. Rutkowski S. Hayes D. Challender N. Kalkowski P. Olson			C. Urbain
9:00 AM	Fr. Tkachuk	T. Gannon J. Stopka M. Perkovich	R. Barker M. Branecki V. Bracht C. Froemel E. Froemel J. Cogelja A. Gargano D. Sherman M. Hull			D. Sherman
10:30 AM	Fr. Killeen	S. Lastres K. Justak T. Dudek	A. Clark J. Clark N. Cummings L. Egan M.P. Flaherty J. Garreau A. Krol O. Lastres M. Joscelyn			K. Titzer
12:00 PM	Fr. Tkachuk	L. Freda T. Bezouska L. Freda	L. Donegan B. Edelmann Open Open Open			J. Svehla
6:00 PM	Fr. Cyscon	Quest Teen	Quest Teens		Spirit Choir	



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Readings For The Week of December 15, 2019

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17

Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25

Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25

Friday: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45

Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

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