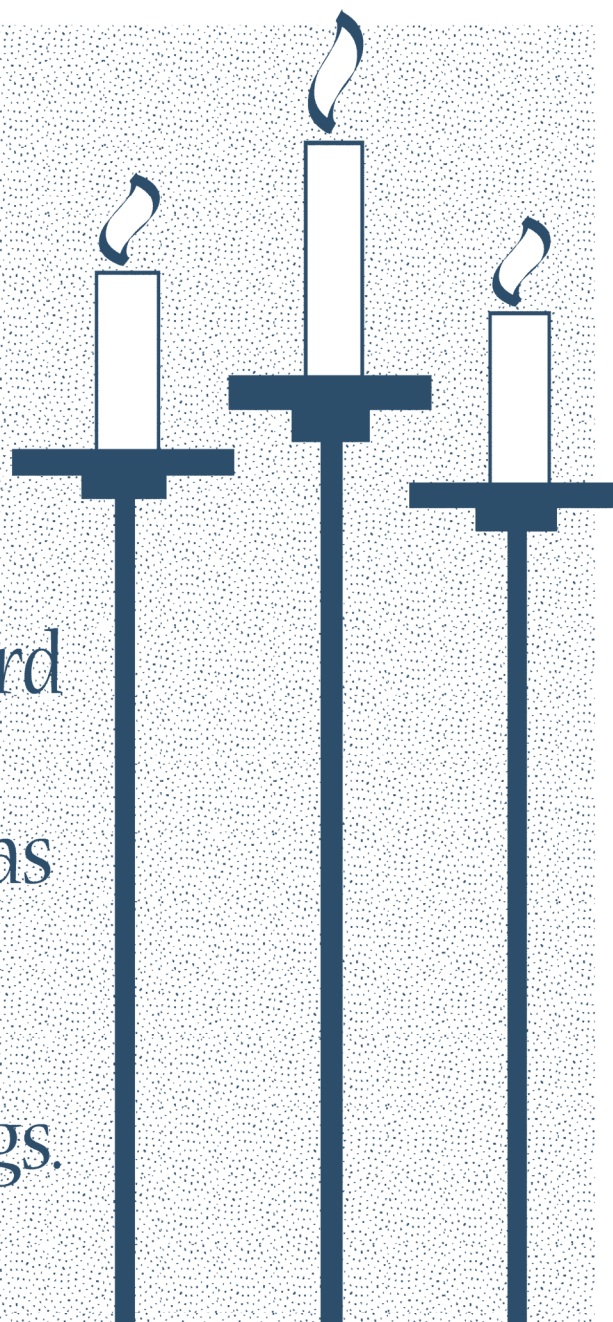


SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017



The Spirit of the Lord
is upon me
because the Lord has
annointed me.
He has sent me
to bring glad tidings.

REJOICE, FOR THE LORD IS NEAR!

Mass Intentions For The Week

Monday, December 18	7:45 am	Bill Riordan Donald Cushing	Clare & Ernie Froemel The McLaughlin Family
	9:00 am	Bruce Sirchio	The Morgan Family
Tuesday, December 19	7:45 am	Herbert & Mary Schrack Jeanne Desmond	The Schrack Family Jennifer Driscoll
	9:00 am	Robert E. Witte	The SFX Sunshine Committee
Wednesday, December 20	7:45 am	Joe Shannon	Jenny & Steve Palmer
	9:00 am	Besse & Dick Parlon Bill Valli Betty Wielgos	Pam Oplawski Mary F. Russell The Wielgos Family
Thursday, December 21 Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church	7:45 am	Word & Communion Service	
	9:00 am	Dorothy McGoldrick	Mary Charleza
Friday, December 22	7:45 am	Louis Szacik Bill Riordan	The Malek Family Jeff & Shirley Augustyn
	9:00 am	Word & Communion Service	
Saturday, December 23 Saint John of Kanty, Priest	9:00 am	Don Cushing Albina Samko	The McKenna Family The Samko & Hanks Families
	9:30 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
	4:15 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation	

Please Pray For...

Tony Banda	Emmett Miller
Keeley Barr	Mike Morrison
Carol Domecki	Fr. Jim O'Connor
Blake Donegan	Arnie Oppenheim
Fr. Dave Dowdle	Jane O'Reilly
Pat Eaton	Ryan Patyk
Bill Elliott	Donna Pekarek
Lily Fielding	Carissa Pessetti
Baby Collins Fitzpatrick	James Pridmore
Ginger Gies	Baby Madison Raupp
Lilli Gregory	Anna Rose
Wilson Gregory	Marilyn Rutkowski
Frank Grippo	Matthew Schiek
Linda Hillsman	Greyson Edward Stanley
Diane Hughes	Kate Frugoli Sullivan
Rose Ilo	Jerry Tazic
Jane Jacobson	Marty Thuerk
Mike Kelly	Anne Titzer
Benny Kilman	Michael Ungari
Jerry Kolman	Amanda Valerugo
Virginia Kottaridis	Gregory Van Gorp
Molly Anne McKenna	

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:

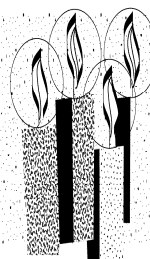
John Breen
Brother-in-Law of Susan Breen

Leanne Samuelson Oleson

Weddings



Marissa Mackenzie & Anthony Weihofen



o come,
emmanuel

Pastor's Notes

*"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.
In all circumstances give thanks."
1Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Mary and Joseph faced many challenges in the months that led to the birth of Jesus. Mary responded wholeheartedly to the invitation of the angel Gabriel; Joseph needed some time to hear the angel's confirmation in a dream. Mary spent the first three months of her pregnancy with her cousin Elizabeth. Returning to Nazareth, she and Joseph quickly completed the marriage rituals and left for Bethlehem – a difficult journey for a pregnant woman. They arrived in Bethlehem with limited resources and no family or friends. The kindness of a stranger provided shelter in a cave with his livestock. There, Mary gave birth with Joseph as the only family to comfort her. They established a home in Bethlehem but were forced to flee to Egypt to escape King Herod. They were refugees in a land in which they neither spoke the language nor were familiar with the food or customs. Only after some time had passed were they able to return to Nazareth and establish a home among family and friends.

Through all of this, scriptures tell us that Mary and Joseph remained close to God and continued to **pray without ceasing**. Joseph communicated with God even in his dreams; Mary treasured in her heart all that was occurring. They continued to **give thanks to God in all circumstances**, even the most challenging. Mary's song of praise, the *Magnificat*, proclaims the loving hand of God in what she is experiencing. Joseph brings the infant Jesus into his heart and home as God's gift. Through prayer and thanksgiving, Mary and Joseph came to **rejoice always** for the blessings and presence of God amid the struggles and successes of their early family life.

The third Sunday of Advent reminds us that our time of preparation is, above all, a time of rejoicing. To reach this joy, **we are challenged to make time to connect with God in prayer and to recall all in our life for which to be grateful**. We are invited to give ourselves some moments, alone or with others, to step away from all the chores of the season and dwell with the God who chooses to dwell among and within us. **We are sent as messengers of joy to others**, especially those weighed down by sorrow, loneliness, or want in any form. This is not an empty joy that ignores the struggles of others. This is the joy of Joseph and Mary; the awareness of God in our midst; journeying with all of us; offering in each moment the gifts that we most need.

I give thanks for the blessings of your generosity through the Giving Tree, our Food Pantry, and the cookies and toys given to others; for your support for our mission as a parish at Christmas and throughout the year; and for your vibrant faith and hospitality to all who enter our doors. God has blessed us. As we come together for prayer in these days, may we give thanks to God in all circumstances, and rejoice in the presence of God among us.

Please note the *special instructions for those attending the 3:00 and 5:00 Christmas Eve Masses at the Motherhouse Chapel*. The entrance is now directly across from the entrance to Nazareth High School.

Peace,

J. Bill

Scripture Reflection

**Reflection for the Third Sunday of Advent
Liturgy Planning Team #2**

Cathy Krepps, Bernadette McMahon, Renee Nutt, Diane Redmond, Joan Stopka

In the gospel, John tells us, "There is one among you whom you do not recognize." This is a startling revelation. He is already here. He was already there and he is here now. He will never leave us. We are everyday in the presence of God. He is also referred to as the light, here to banish the darkness of fear, hatred and greed. He is here to help us spread compassion, love and peace in the world. God gives himself to us so that we can give ourselves to others. He is counting on us to carry and spread his message. We are his eyes, ears and hands on this earth. What can we do as we prepare for Jesus' birth to welcome Him into our homes and our hearts? How can we individually do one thing this week to share His care for those with whom we come into contact with at home, work or school? In the first and second readings, through Isaiah and Paul's urgings we hear of glad tidings, healing and freedom. The feelings they stir in us are joyous because it is Gaudete Sunday and we are filled with intense anticipation. The candle on the Advent wreath is a bright color. We are reminded to pray and give thanks but we are to temper our actions with good judgment, keeping close what is worthy and rejecting what is evil. Justice and praise will soon appear.



Monday, December 18, 2017

Due to the Office Christmas Party

The rectory will be closed

@ 12:30 pm

And will reopen

@ 2:30 pm

Sorry for any inconvenience

Special Circumstances For Receiving The Eucharist

The Catholic Church has historically recognized the intimate relationship of wheat hosts and wine as matter for the Eucharist. However, if you have Celiac Sprue Disease or a family member suffers from a gluten intolerance or if you are alcohol intolerant, receiving the Eucharist is life-involving in seriously challenging ways. The logistics or manner of accommodating lay persons with gluten or wine intolerance in a parish setting during the Liturgy of the Eucharist is left to the afflicted party and the pastor to decide the best way during Mass for the afflicted party to safely receive the Precious Body or the Precious Blood.

If you or a member of your family is affected by this circumstance, please contact our pastor, Fr. John Hoffman, to discuss the particulars of your situation. Fr. John can be reached by calling the Rectory Office at 708-352-0168.

St. Francis Xavier Christmas Mass Schedule 2017

Sunday, December 24
7:30 am, 9:00 am and 10:30 am
NO NOON MASS

Christmas Eve
3:00 pm and 5:00 pm in Church
are Masses for which
Tickets have been distributed

Christmas Eve
3:00 pm and 5:00 pm
Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Chapel
Tickets are only required and have been
distributed for 3:00 pm Mass

Christmas Eve in Church
7:00 pm

Midnight Mass in Church
preceded by Christmas Carols
at 11:30 pm

Christmas Day in Church
NO 7:30 am
9:00 am, 10:30 am and NOON

Christmas Masses **at the** **CSJ Motherhouse Chapel**

The main entrance of the Motherhouse is under construction, please use the new East Entrance (directly across from the entrance to Nazareth High School) to enter the Chapel for the 3:00 and 5:00 pm Christmas Eve masses.

OUR GIFTS OF TIME, TALENT, AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

We are drawn to our parish home during this wondrous time of Advent and Christmas. We come with our families, joining other families, building the St. Francis Xavier community. Many precious moments have been fused into our memories within the walls of our church and Education Building. And now Unity Hall is surely a place where new memories have been and will be welcomed. Be sure to enter Unity Hall to behold the scene of the Nativity under the stained glass window of the prophet Moses.

These memories would not be possible without your stewardship. The time and talent of so many volunteers brings forth the beauty of Advent and the ways that we have touched lives with Christ's love by participating in the Giving Tree, the School Service Day, and the Religious Ed Toy Drive. And your financial gift assists the parish in providing moments that families will remember for a lifetime as we celebrate the coming of the baby Jesus.

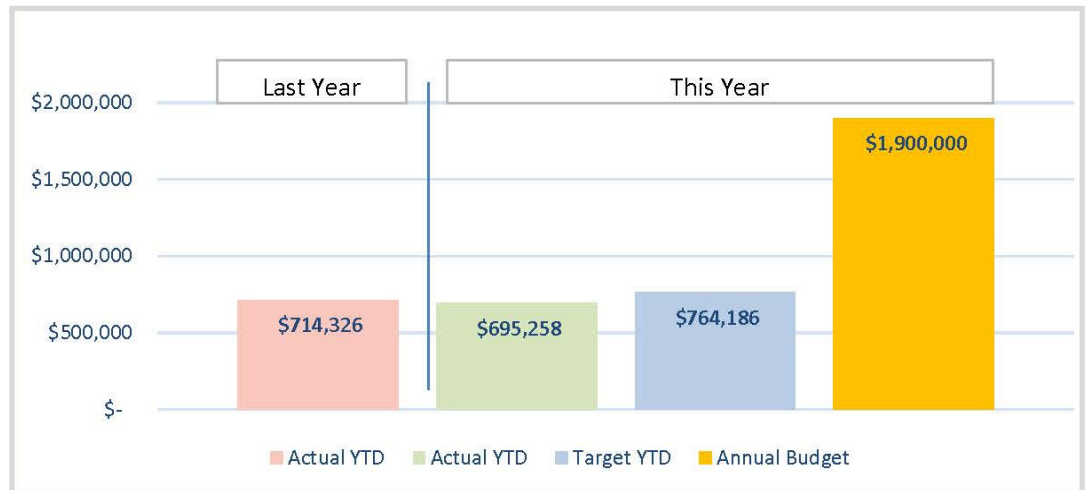
You may have received an email earlier this month about signing up for electronic giving using your credit card or bank account. Since our November appeal to increase the number of families who use automatic giving, 58 additional parishioners have signed up for the SFX electronic regular offertory program (our goal is 100 by December 31)! To enroll, visit www.sfxlg.org.

Note that in the graph below, collections received so far are **less** than last year at this time by about \$19,000. Please assist us with this shortfall if you are able. We need your financial resources in order to create a more just world through sacraments, worship, learning and service. God bless your generosity of time, talent, and treasure.

May the Prince of Peace be with you all!

Jennifer Zeisloft, SFX Business Manager

Your Parish Finances



Prior Month's Offerings:	EFT/Credit Card		+	Basket		=	November	
							Total	
November 2017	\$	46,567		\$	72,386		\$	118,953
November 2016	\$	39,279		\$	78,962		\$	118,241

God bless you for your generosity to St. Francis Xavier Parish!

SUGGESTIONS FOR AN INCREASE IN YOUR PARISH INVESTMENT	CURRENT INVESTMENT					WITH INVESTMENT INCREASE...				
						2.5%	4.0%	5.0%	7.0%	
Please consider the following for increasing your investment in SFX Parish ministries: ♦ Locate your current investment. ♦ Prayerfully consider investing an additional 4% or more.	\$	10	\$	10.25	\$	10.40	\$	10.50	\$	10.70
	\$	25	\$	25.63	\$	26.00	\$	26.25	\$	26.75
	\$	50	\$	51.25	\$	52.00	\$	52.50	\$	53.50
	\$	100	\$	102.50	\$	104.00	\$	105.00	\$	107.00
	\$	250	\$	256.25	\$	260.00	\$	262.50	\$	267.50

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.

J. Bill

HOLIDAY DRINKING GUIDELINES

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.

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.

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

Not drinking is okay.

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

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.

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

Don't poison your guests.

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.

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

Drunk drivers can kill people.



little falcon fun

St. Francis Xavier

who

Two & Fall Three year olds! (turns 3 after 9/1)

A parent or an adult caregiver must be present.
Open to SFX school families, parishioners, and community members

what

Lil Falcon Fun:

Play, sing, meet new friends!
A casual, play-based program that would provide an opportunity to meet, socialize, and play together. Each class will include fun with literacy, music and movement. Younger siblings are welcome!

when

Monday mornings from

9:00 am - 9:45 am

Twice A Month

January 8 & 22

February 12 & 26

March 12 & 26

April 9 & 23

May 7 & 21

where

St. Francis Xavier School - East Campus
21 N. Catherine, LaGrange
Room 22 (first floor)

why

Provide families an opportunity to engage and develop a sense of community.

how

Register online at: <https://tinyurl.com/yd5p8qn3>

Session fee is \$50 / due at the first class.
(Space is limited. Checks payable to SFX)

Preschool

We here at St. Francis Xavier School are very excited to announce the expansion of our Preschool Program beginning 2018-2019! Preschool 3 will offer half day classes with three and five day attendance options, and Pre K 4 will run Monday through Friday with half day and full day options.

Our Preschool program combines cognitive and play-based philosophies. We believe purposeful play with experiential learning fully engages the child and develops a true love of learning. In addition, SFX focuses on actively living one's faith and providing an example of character to others in daily life. Our goal is to guide children in their journey to realizing their own personal gifts and learning to value the contribution of others.

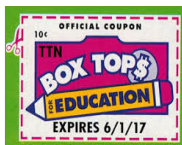
Enrollment will begin mid-November! Please contact our Advancement Director Jennifer Courier at jcourier@sfxlg.org for more information or to be placed on the distribution list for applications.

New Tax Credit Scholarship Program

You may have heard by now about the new tax credit scholarship program created through the Invest in Kids Act. This Christmas, you can give the gift of a Catholic education to children from low-income families while also receiving a tax credit yourself. This program is different from regular charitable giving to St. Francis Xavier or another charity.

Visit archchicago.org/tcs to learn why and to access a step-by-step guide to the program.

Box Tops For Education Collection



Please help in earning cash for our school. We would like your help in collecting Box Tops For Education. There is a drop box located at the back of church in the vestibule. Please place Box Tops that you have collected inside.

Thank you for your help!

Welcome Wednesdays at St. Francis Xavier School



We would like to invite you to attend a Welcome Wednesday admissions event and learn all about our programs and tour our school. Reservations are suggested, but not required.

2018 Welcome Wednesday dates:
January 17, 2018 & May 16, 2018

Welcome Wednesday kicks off at 8:30 am at our East Campus with an informal presentation from our principal and an early education teacher, and ends with a school tour.

Our East Campus (Pre-school 3 – Kindergarten) at
21 North Catherine Avenue, LaGrange
morning begins at 8:30 am

Families interested in enrolling a child in grades 1-7,
please call the school to arrange for a private tour
at your convenience.

To make reservations, schedule a private tour,
or request a shadow day for your child,
contact Jennifer Courier at 708-352-2175.

Our all-school **Open House is January 28, 2018.**
The “Gym Fair” at the Main Campus
will showcase all clubs and extracurricular activities,
and teachers will be in their
class rooms at both campuses
to answer any questions you may have.

Open Enrollment begins mid-November.

Our early education classes reach capacity very quickly.

Contact Jennifer Courier jcourier@sfxlg.org to be placed
on distribution list for the application paperwork.

SFX YOUTH MINISTRY WEBSITE:

www.youthministry.sfxlg.org

Giving Tree

THANK YOU to everyone who generously donated their time, talent, and treasure to the Giving Tree. There were over 500 gifts and 100s of dollars in gift cards donated! These went to over 75 families through St. Agatha's, the SFX Food Pantry, Caring Place, and the LaGrange Area Department of Special Education (LADSE). Thanks especially to all the teens and adults that helped sort and bag these gifts!

Fretus Identity Retreat: Choices

HURRY, HURRY, HURRY! The deadline to sign up has passed, but THERE ARE STILL SPACES OPEN! The Fretus Identity retreat provides high school freshmen and sophomores the chance to get away for a weekend to connect with other teens, explore their faith, and have fun at Dickson Valley Camp and Retreat Center. The retreat is January 12-14, 2018. More information and registration can be found on the Youth Ministry website under Retreats. For more information contact Olivia Hollman ohollman@sfxlg.org or 708-352-0168 x338.



God's Garage Open Hours

God's Garage will be open weekly on Mondays and Tuesdays from 7-8pm. I (Olivia) will be there during these times with snacks if anyone would like to stop by and say hi, use the space to hang out with friends, do homework, etc. I have set this time up as an opportunity to get to know the teens and parents of St. Francis. Don't be afraid to stop by!

Christmas Eve

There will be NO 6pm Mass on December 24th. See the Mass schedule for other Masses offered that day.

~ *Olivia Hollman*

Religious Education Important Dates & Class Dates

Sunday, December 17	Class
	Pajama Day
Wednesday, December 20	Class
	Pajama Day
Sunday, December 24	No Class
Wednesday, December 27	No Class
Sunday, December 31	No Class
Wednesday, January 3	No Class
Sunday, January 7	At Home Lesson
Wednesday, January 10	At Home Lesson
Sunday, January 14	Class
Wednesday, January 17	Class

Children's Liturgy of the Word

The Word of the Lord has a message for children as well as adults. Children's Liturgy of the Word offers the children an experience to hear the scripture in words that they can understand. Here at St. Francis we are fortunate and proud to have adult volunteers and Presiders of Liturgy who journey with our children so that they can experience the Word of the Lord with a message that is relevant and fitting for them.

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 Reflectors 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 "kicked off" the school year on Saturday, October 14. Allen Sterwalt, our Director of Music, along with our Cherub Choir and SF Choristers (Children in Grades 1-8) led us in prayer with music. **Children's Liturgy of the Word takes place in church whenever the children's choirs lead us in song/prayer.** 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 to 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.

Here is the **tentative** schedule:

January 6—Cherub;
February 3—Combined Choirs;
February 24—Choristers;
March 3—Cherub and
March 24—Choristers

Children in Grades K-4 will be invited to join their Reflectors 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 16;
January 13, 20 & 27;
February 10 & 17;
March 10 & 17;
and April 7, 14, 21 & 28

You can call 708-352-0168 and direct your questions to:
Terri Simeoni, RE Coordinator
Allen Sterwalt, Director of Music

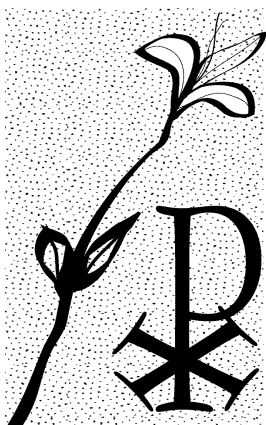
The Christmas Wafer

The Christmas Wafer (also known as “Oplatki”) is available in the Rectory during office hours Monday through Friday 9:00 am until 8:30 pm, Saturday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and on Sunday between 9:00 am to 2:00 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.



**ROOT
OF JESSE**

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

OUR JOURNEY. OUR VOICE. SFX Music Ministry CD



In honor of our parish’s 125th Anniversary, the SFX music ministry released the CD recording entitled, “**Our Journey. Our Voice.**” This two-disc set highlights music created and performed at St. Francis Xavier through Sunday worship and special concert events over the past 25 years! Featured are diverse and inspiring performances by our past and present **Celebration Ensemble, Gallery Choir, Spirit Choir and Children’s Choirs.** Also featured is **Kairos** with vocalists Jenny Palmer, Carolyn Kline, Jennifer Kerr Budziak and Meriel Owens.

This journey will take you through the timeline of music directors and music leaders within the last 25 years including Kathy Sherman, Ed Nowak, Jennifer Kerr Budziak, and most currently Allen Sterwalt. A warm thank you and gratitude goes out to Sr. Therese Fassnacht for her musical service and leadership as music director as well.

Highlighted are pieces from the SFX-sponsored *Frontiers of the Heart* (1996), the premiere of *At Bethlehem’s Door* – a musical journey to the heart of Christmas (1995), *Amazing Grace*—A gospel concert collaboration with Rev. Calvin Bridges and Chicago Praise Ensemble (1998), *Roses in the Snow* Advent performance (2004), *Ecumenical Concert* (2004), and the *Epiphany Christmas Concert* (2015).



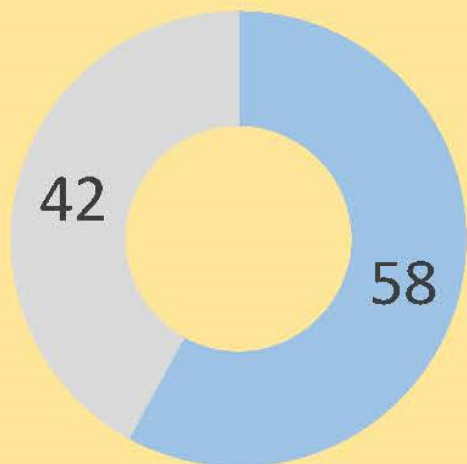
The CD is available for purchase at St. Francis Xavier for the holidays! The cost is \$15 per two-CD set; or buy multiple copies for holiday gifts and receive a discount. Proceeds will help support a community outreach organization, and the SFX Music Ministry.

CD Sales to Benefit SFX Food Pantry

During Advent and Christmas, SFX cantor Barb Kalnes once again offers her CDs for sale to benefit the St. Francis Xavier Food Pantry. This year, two recordings are featured: *Dream Traveler*, a 2017 release featuring Multiplicity Jazz Ensemble; and the Advent-themed recording entitled, *Roses in the Snow*. These recordings are available for purchase at Anderson’s Bookshop and Veni Vidi Val in downtown LaGrange, as well as the LaGrange Park Antique Mall located at the corner of Barnsdale and 31st Street. The price is \$12 per disc.

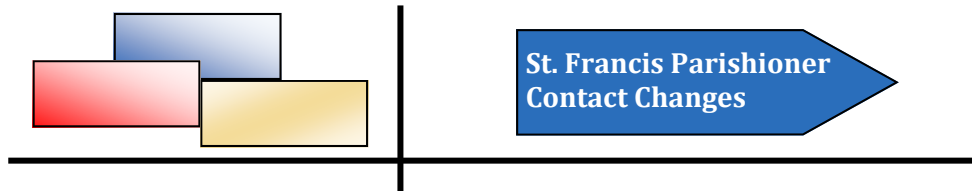
Your purchase of *Dream Traveler* and/or *Roses in the Snow* will directly benefit SFX Community Outreach. Half of all proceeds from the CD sales will go directly to the SFX Food Pantry to help stock the shelves and provide meat, fresh produce, and dairy products to those in need. Thank you for supporting these local music projects and the parish Food Pantry.

Electronic Giving Goal



- New Enrollees
- Needed to Meet Goal

Just 42 more to go!
We can make it to 100 new e-Givers by 12/31/17 with your help.
Please visit our website, www.sfxlg.org, and click "Donate Online" to enroll.



Please help us keep our records current! We are asking for any changes. Also, if you could please update phone numbers and emails and specify as to who the information is for we would really appreciate it. This will help to keep our data base current. Thank you!

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number Home _____

Mr. Cell _____ Mrs. Cell _____

E-mail Address Family _____

Mr. _____

Mrs. _____

St. Francis Outreach Ministry

The weekend of November 18 and 19, we coordinated our Thanksgiving Pie Drive for the SFX Food Pantry. Parishioners donated 50 pies that accompanied the Thanksgiving week distribution to SFX Food Pantry participants. We also had a couple of families go to senior homes and deliver pies. We had some great feedback from the seniors. They enjoyed having pies with the families and visiting with them.

Thank You Family Outreach Ministry



A special thank you to the twenty-five SFX parishioners and friends who joined together on Sunday, December 10 to spread Christmas joy to adults with disabilities. The Family Outreach Ministry Committee organized a holiday caroling event at three residential group homes. We entertained the residents with Christmas carols and shared hot chocolate. The Helping Hand residential home manager sent us an email afterwards saying, "Our clients can't stop talking about how great you guys are. Thank you!"

St. Francis Outreach Ministry Opportunity

On Saturday, December 30, we will meet at Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) in Aurora for a great service project. We have reserved 63 spots from 11:30 am-1:30 p.m. At FMSC, the two-hour session begins with an orientation and then meals are packed by hand for the worlds hungriest children. Some moments of prayer and reflection end the session. This service opportunity, unlike most of the others, has a minimum age requirement of 5 years old and there is a 1-1 adult to child ratio for children in grades K-2. Please contact Ana Dimailig for sign up at apd3@core.com.

Catholic Women's Club

All women of the parish are members of the Catholic Women's Club. If you would like to get involved or if you would like to receive monthly newsletters about our upcoming events via email, please contact Tiziana Lambert at tizianalambert@gmail.com.

SFX Men's Club

All men of the parish are welcome.
For further information, please contact:

Matt Hubert at mthubert@gmail.com or
Joseph Enright at joseph_owen@hotmail.com.

What's Your
Favorite Memory
of St. Francis Xavier?

Another question to consider: **People often say that St. Francis Xavier is a special place. Why do you think people feel this way?**

The SFX Staff, EnlightIN Team, our 125th Anniversary Planners and interested Volunteers are working on our *125th Anniversary Book*, and we invite your input. People of all ages are invited to write a favorite memory or answer the question above, and return it to sfxinlg@sfxlg.org or the rectory. Please include:

- Your memory or thoughts — a sentence, a paragraph, or a page (200 word max)
- Info about You: name, phone number, email address, age (if child), and how long you have been a parishioner
- A photo of yourself or an image related to your memory (optional)

Please return your memory or thoughts to sfxinlg@sfxlg.org or the rectory by **Jan. 15, 2018**.

Memories and thoughts selected by our editors will be highlighted in the 125th Anniversary Book, as well as in the parish bulletin and on the website. Contact Missy Westerhoff for further information: 708-352-0168 or sfxinlg@sfxlg.org.



The Shock of Advent, Pat Bergen, CSJ

As we are drawn more deeply into Advent and Christmas something wonderful is beginning to dawn on us. Can you perceive it? If you are eager to discover what is dawning or if you are ready for a shock that will change your life, or if you can't figure out what is happening in the world and you are tired of walking around in the dark, join us! Offered twice: Monday, December 18, 7:00-8:30 pm and Tuesday, December 19, 9:30-11:00 am. Co-sponsored by SFX and SJC; free to parishioners.

ZOOM Into 21st Century Spirituality with John Surette, SJ

The Well's beloved friend, remains in Massachusetts. But thanks to 21st century technology, we will "meet" with him to entertain a discussion around a question of John's choice. Participate from your home in this video conference call with your computer, or better yet, join us at The Well and gather with a group around a large screen. Monday, December 18, 1:00-2:00 pm, also same time Monday January 15, February 19, and March 19. Cost: \$10/session.

SAVE THE DATE

The Well Coffeehouse – Fun-raiser

On Friday, February 2, 7:00-10:00 pm be prepared to be entertained with live performances ranging from comedy to poetry to piano and song, jazz to pop, amateur to professional. Bring your own food and drinks. Sweets available for purchase. Cost: \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door.

The Well Spirituality Center, 1515 Ogden Avenue in LaGrange Park. To register: 708-482-5048 or thewell@csjoseph.org; www.csjthewell.org.



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Office of Human Dignity & Solidarity
Immigration Ministry



Share the Journey—Support the Dream Act

“Dear brothers and sisters...the coming months offer a unique opportunity to advocate and support the concrete actions which I have described with four verbs: to welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate immigrants and refugees” -Pope Francis

The Dream Act of 2017 (S 1615/HR 3440) was recently introduced in Congress. If passed into law, this bipartisan bill would protect immigrant youth, including DACA beneficiaries. The Catholic Bishops have long supported these immigrant youths and their families who are contributors to our economy and exemplify the extraordinary contributions that immigrants provide to our nation. It is both our moral duty and in our nation's best interest to protect them and help them reach their God-given potential.

ACTION: Respond to the call by asking your legislators to pass the Dream Act of 2017. Visit the USCCB website: www.JusticeforImmigrants.org.

For additional ways to advocate for immigrants and refugees visit: www.CatholicsAndImmigrants.org.

A Call To Ministry

A new year with new challenges! What about that nagging feeling deep in your hearts? Is God calling you to be more fully a part of the ministries here at SFX? Have you thought that maybe you'd like to minister to those assembled as an extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion? As a Eucharistic Minister, you would be a sign and carrier of Eucharistic joy. Please consider His call to serve our parish in this way.

At SFX we are in need of ministers especially at the 10:30 am and Noon Masses. To discuss the possibility of becoming a member of this ministry please contact either David at d2rsherman@aol.com or George at Grutkowski@aol.com.

Are you Thriving or Just Surviving?

Welcome. ^{CRHP 2.0}

There is More to Life
Experience the weekend



Registration Form

The Welcome (Christ Renews His Parish/CRHP 2.0) women's retreat offers a wonderful opportunity to connect with others and share experiences on a journey to renew your relationship with the Lord and build a bond with other women of the parish. All women are welcome on this spiritual journey.

Women's Weekend, January 20th - 21st, 2018

Carmelite Spirituality Center
8433 Bailey Rd., Darien, Illinois

Please arrive between 8:00 am – 8:30 am on the 20th

We conclude @ 3:00 pm on the 21st

Questions: Please contact Tammy Walczyk @ (708)354-7312

Scholarships Available Please Contact Fr. Bill Tkachuk

Please drop off registration form with payment (payable to St. Francis Xavier Parish)
to the Rectory attention Missy Westerhoff by January 10, 2018

Women's Weekend January 20-21, 2018

_____ Single Occupancy \$135

_____ Double Occupancy \$115 Room with _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____ E-mail : _____

Emergency Contact

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Please list 2 people we may contact to ask to pray for you while on retreat. (Optional)

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

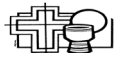
Name: _____ Phone #: _____



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
- **Lt. Christopher Ocasio, U.S. Army**—friend of the Berger Family
- **Staff Sgt. Rhonda Russell, USAF**—daughter of Deidre & John Russell and granddaughter of Mary F. Russell
- **Ensign Jonathan Devitt Brown**—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
- **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
- **Master Sgt. Andrew Lang**—son of Marge & Ray Lang
- **Scott Conway, U.S. Navy**—nephew of Robert Dunne & Mark Conway
- **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 William Baker, U.S. Army**—son of Meg & Barry Baker
- **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 Julia & Anthony Ciaccia and granddaughter of Harold Held
- **Chris Johnson, USCG**—nephew of Judi Kudlacz and grandson of Jerry & Nancy Johnson
- **Michael Rodden, USAF & Christopher Osterhaus, USMC**—son and nephew of John & Vicki Rodden
- **Dominic James Greco, U.S. Navy**—nephew of Rita Pantoni
- **Robert Weiler, U.S. Navy**—brother of Rebecca Dionisio

**Please inform us of those serving in the Military Overseas...
and please let us know when friends and loved ones
return from their deployment Overseas.
Email the bulletineditor@sfxlg.org.**



Liturgical Ministers' Schedule—December 23-24, 2017

Mass Time	Presider	Lectors/ Commentators	Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers	Cantors	Greeters
5:00 PM	Fr. Killeen	M. Justak K. Justak K. McCarthy	C. Cooke J. Denson K. Kanzer J. Kelly M. Milligan D. Mulvenna K. Preussner L. Young Not Filled	A. Justak	A. Cherry	P. Devitt
7:30 AM	Fr. Killeen	B. Ritchie M. Kanzer D. Walsh	S. Augustyn K. McInerney J. Morsch R. Nutt P. Olson	J. Eraci	J. Petkus	J. Morsch T. Morsch
9:00 AM	Fr. Tkachuk	T. Gannon J. Van Gorp M. Lukanich	R. Barker L. Hill E. Olsen B. Olson P. O'Malley C. Pratali R. Pratali J. Prendergast D. Sherman	T. Dudek	K. Fron	D. Sherman
10:30 AM	Fr. Ilo	M. McFadden L. Hillsman S. Lastres	B. Boyd R. Caragher A. Clark J. Clark N. Cummings L. Egan M. P. Flaherty J. Garreau M. Joscelyn	E. McFadden A. Sullivan	B. Kalnes Celebration Ensemble	K. Titzer
3:00 PM Church	Fr. Tkachuk			W. Carroll C. Carroll C. Katchmarik	A. Cherry/C. Kline SF Choristers	
3:00 PM CSJ Motherhouse Chapel	Fr. Killeen	G. Sbrissa C. Broderick J. Gatsos		C. DelGuidice C. Holmes A. Holmes	A. Setzke	
5:00 PM Church	Fr. Tkachuk			Q. Siegel M. Hayford D. Wéalsh	K. Kelly	
5:00 PM CSJ Motherhouse Chapel	Fr. Killeen	J. Stopka L. Freda Lo. Freda			J. Pfluger	
7:00 PM	Fr. Hoffman	S. Lehuta E. McGovern T. Hill			S. VanOrdstrand	

Readings For The Week of December 17, 2017

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

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

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

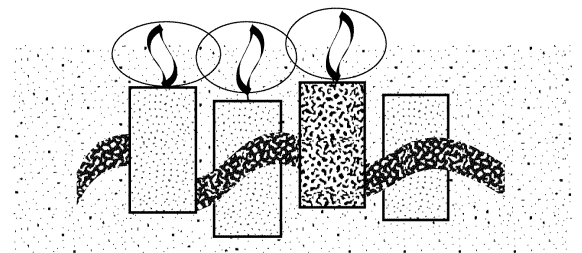
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38

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

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66

Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38



St. Francis Xavier Personnel

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Pastor
Associate Pastor
Deacon
Pastoral Associate
Weekend Sacramental Ministers
Weekend Sacramental Ministers

Rev. William Tkachuk
Rev. William Killeen
Mr. Andrew Allison
Dr. Kate DeVries
Rev. Stan Ilo
Rev. Keith Muccino, S.J.

wtkachuk@sfxlg.org
bkilleen@sfxlg.org
aallison@sfxlg.org
kdevries@sfxlg.org

Education Ministry

Day School Principal
Assistant Principal
Assistant to Day School Principal
Day School Secretary (Main Campus)
Day School Secretary (East Campus)
Coordinator (East Campus)
Advancement Director
Tuition Accounts
Religious Education Coordinator/Sacrament Prep
Religious Education Office Staff
Religious Education Office Staff

Mrs. Sharon Garcia
Mrs. Janice Carr
Mrs. Mary Hoffman
Mrs. Peggy Evans
Mrs. Kathie Kinahan
Mrs. Margaret Houston
Mrs. Jennifer Courier
Mrs. Jennifer Zeisloft
Ms. Terri Simeoni
Mrs. Cindy Johnson
Mrs. Lucile Nichol

sgarcia@sfxlg.org
jcarr@sfxlg.org
mhoffman@sfxlg.org
pevans@sfxlg.org
kkinahan@sfxlg.org
mhouston@sfxlg.org
jcourier@sfxlg.org
jzeisloft@sfxlg.org
tsimeoni@sfxlg.org
cjohnson@sfxlg.org
lnichol@sfxlg.org

Youth Ministry

Coordinator

Ms. Olivia Hollman

ohollman@sfxlg.org

Music Ministry

Director

Mr. Allen Sterwalt

asterwalt@sfxlg.org

Parish Office Staff

Business Manager
Parish Accountant
Pastor's Secretary
Parish Secretary
Staff Secretary

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

jzeisloft@sfxlg.org
jbandyk@sfxlg.org
mpipal@sfxlg.org
mwesterhoff@sfxlg.org
dsoulje@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.....sfxreligious@sfxlg.org
Parish Web Sitewww.sfxlg.org

Rectory Hours

Monday-Friday.....8:30 am-8:30 pm
Saturday.....9:00 am-5:00 pm
Sunday.....9:00 am-2:00 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)

Holy Days of Obligation as scheduled in bulletin.

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 Wednesday7:45 and 9:00 am
Thursday.....9:00 am
Friday.....7:45 am
Saturday.....9:00 am

Word Communion Services

Thursday.....7:45 am
Friday.....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. All articles must be emailed 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, call
our parish counselor, Nancy Kennedy, 773-643-6259 ext. 31 at the
Claret Center or email nkennedy4@luc.edu.

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