

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH
Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
December 24 & 25, 2021



*A child
is born
to us*

*who is
Christ
the Lord*



Welcome to St. Francis Xavier and Merry Christmas!



Whether you are reading this in the pew at one of our seven Christmas Masses, or from your home via live-stream, we are blessed that you have chosen our parish to celebrate the birth of Jesus, God With Us!

COVID PROTOCOLS

- **Masks are required for everyone** over age 2, regardless of vaccination status.
- **We invite everyone to sing with your mask in place!** Hymns for this Mass can be found in this bulletin. As you leave, please 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. **We ask all to come forward for the ritual of communion.** If you will not be receiving the host, we ask that you place your right hand across your chest so that the minister will know to give you a blessing. The ushers will be there to direct you.
- 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 understanding and adherence to these protocols as we continue to take necessary cautions to keep our community healthy.

MASS SCHEDULE

Join us for Mass EVERY weekend! Our regular weekend Mass schedule is as follows:

- Saturday at 5pm (this Mass is live-streamed on our Facebook page and at sfxlg.org)
- Sunday at 7:30am, 9am, 11am, and 5pm
- Special schedule for Sunday, December 26: 7:30am, 9am, and 11am

GIVING AT SFX

We are so grateful to all those whose financial support makes the mission of St. Francis Xavier parish possible. Out of an abundance of caution concerning the coronavirus, we continue to not pass a basket for our offertory collection. Please know that you can make a Christmas gift by using the boxes near the exits or by accessing this QR code.



For those joining us online, [click here](#) to donate or text JOYFUL to 708-340-6630 at <https://www.givecentral.org/location/218/category/167/event/7976>

Pastor's Letter

*See what love the Father has bestowed on us
that we may be called the children of God.*

And so, we are.

1John 3:1

In the Child of Nazareth, we all more deeply become God's children. The wonder of these days of Christmas is that God chose to be born as one like us, beginning his human life as a fragile infant placed in a feeding trough within a cave on the outskirts of town. Luke tells us that there was "no room" for this young family in the places where travelers lodged. Tradition has come to suggest that Bethlehem was crowded because of a decree of Caesar. But it is just as likely that this young couple, having traveled across the country with little more than a donkey and the clothes on their backs, simply were not welcome. There was "no room" in the hearts of innkeepers for this couple of little means from the other end of the country. There was "no room" for strangers in the minds of guests who already had secured rooms for the night and who expected to be kept apart from the rabble of the streets. There was "no room" for God to disrupt their lives.

This weekend we strive to **make room for all** who come to our doors. Whether you are with us on Friday evening or on Saturday or Sunday morning; whether you are visiting family, just passing through, or have not been among us in person for a while; **it is good that you are here**. Perhaps you came reluctantly because your family insisted; or perhaps you came with issues with church leaders or their statements; or perhaps you came because you were hoping to find something you have been missing. **All are welcome here.**

Many of our ancestors used the twelve days of Christmas, which end on January 6, as a time to gather with family and friends. This year, the Feast of the Holy Family arrives on the day after Christmas. The family of Nazareth most likely did not stand out from the families around them. Joseph travelled with the available carpenter jobs to support his family. Mary was a model of holiness for her growing child, and she and

Joseph taught Jesus the ways of their faith. There is no record that suggests that anyone realized that the child of Mary and Joseph was the Son of God. I invite you to ponder this in the time you spend among family and friends in these Christmas days. Where might Jesus be present among you, acting or speaking through unexpected people in unexpected moments. Set aside time to realize the presence of the Christ Child in the ordinary moments of these days. We all are indeed the children of God.

Thank you to all the parish ministries who give extra time to the Christmas liturgies and to our outreach to those in need. You provide us with the music, the atmosphere, the words of scripture and the sense of welcome; and the bags of food and coordination of gift cards that open our hearts to the blessings of God with us. You are the "God with skin on" that help us to experience the wonders of God.

On behalf of all of us who have the blessing of serving you and this faith community throughout the year, may your home be filled with blessings of comfort and joy and the wonders of God's love.

Christmas Peace,

J. Bill



What's Happening at SFX? We are so grateful that our Mission continues...

Merry Christmas! I invite you to browse these next pages of the bulletin to gain just a glimpse of the many areas of ministry at St. Francis Xavier Parish. To cover them all would require at least 50 pages! Thank you for your support of our mission through your stewardship: devoting time with God, sharing your talents, and giving of your financial resources. God is with Us!

Jennifer Zeisloft, Director of Stewardship and Operations jzeisloft@sfxlq.org

Liturgies

Most of us have no idea how many employees and volunteers it takes to celebrate our liturgies! God bless the dozens of liturgy planners, greeters, ushers, lectors, sacristans, musicians, Eucharistic ministers, and cleaners/restorers who share their talents every weekend so that we all can celebrate Mass, Baptisms, and Weddings, as well as bring comfort to those who mourn the passing of a loved one.



Arts and Environment

The beauty of our church continues to be magnified under the stellar talents of our **A&E Committee**. Pop into Unity Hall after Mass to see how this group has brought the joy of Christmas to our room addition (completed with funding from our 125th Anniversary Capital Campaign).

Community Outreach

One example of our numerous ministries under Community Outreach is our parish **Food Pantry**, which has operated uninterrupted since March 2020. Every Tuesday, cars line up and drive through the church parking lot. Our volunteers, led by our Community Outreach Director, Mary Freeman, work through snow, sleet, rain, and sunshine!



Education



The motto of the **St. Francis Xavier Elementary School** is “WE PRAY, WE LEARN, WE SERVE”. In the 2020-2021 school year, SFX School successfully provided their top-quality, faith-filled education “in-person” and every day! Our 450 students from Preschool 3 through 8th grade experience daily a life of generous service, motivated by a love of Jesus and others. As an award-winning school for Academic Excellence, St. Francis Xavier is a TWO-time U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School. Open enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year has begun. Please [Click Here](#) or visit SFXLG.ORG/SCHOOL, or call 708-352-2175 for more information. You may also email us at enrollment@sfxlg.org.

And Calling All Alumni! Our Elementary School is preparing to graduate its 105th class in June of 2022. We would love to stay connected with you – please [Click Here](#) or contact sfxgrad@gmail.com for more information. And check out our multi-generational alumni initiative in our January bulletins!

Our **Religious Education Program** has been underway since October of this year under the leadership of Elis Guidice, Director of Religious Education. We are providing virtual asynchronous grade level lessons to over 500 of our young parishioners. With the amazing volunteer catechist staff of thirteen, we are making this program become a reality here at our parish. Our catechists are giving of their talents to come, plan and record these lessons ahead of time, delivering the Good News of Christ! If you are still interested in registering your children for our program, there is still time. Since the program is asynchronous this year you would have the ability to catch up on the lessons. To find out more about the program please [Click Here](#) or call the RE Office at 708-352-4555. You can also email us at sfxreligioused@sfxlg.org.

Our **Quest Confirmation Program** has also begun. We have over 100 teen parishioners who will be receiving the sacrament of Confirmation in May of 2022. Our groups have been meeting once a month in person since October and have been attending the 5PM Teen Mass on Sundays. It is wonderful to see so many young faces at Mass again. Many of them have already completed service projects as a group or with their families. We have 20 wonderful parent volunteers giving of their talent this year to lead our seven Quest Groups. If you are interested in finding more out about our Quest Confirmation Program, please [Click Here](#) or call the RE Office at 708-352-4555.



Welcome Committee

During our last fiscal year, 86 families joined our parish! This ministry helps connect new parishioners to each other, and introduces them to the many ministries we have here. If you would like to become a member of our community, please visit our website or [Click Here](#) for more information. Volunteer Laura Duelm heads up our **Welcome Committee**. Check out the ornament of our church (pictured at right) given as a gift to all new parishioners this year.



SFX Men's Club

The **SFX Men's Club** welcomes all parish men over the age of 21. This club strives to enhance the spiritual and social life of all men of the parish and provides support to various organizations of the parish and our local community by hosting fundraisers. This month, the men of the parish gathered at the American Legion to carry on the tradition of a Pig Roast! Upcoming events will be announced in our bulletins—stay tuned!



SFX Women's Club



The mission of the **SFX CWC** is to unite and engage all women of the SFX Parish community to promote spirituality, service, and friendship. The group's events promote community and goodwill and raise funds in support of the mission of SFX Church. In early March, the Catholic Women's Club will host their annual luncheon at The Elm. All women of the parish over the age of 21 and their guests are invited. For more information about the CWC luncheon, check out www.sfxladiesdayout.com.

This is just a sampling of our many ministries at SFX. We continue to fulfill our mission "to live in communion with God, others and all of creation to create a more just world through sacraments and worship, learning and service." Whether you have a couple hours a month or a couple hours a week, we invite you to contact the rectory office to learn more about volunteering here at St. Francis Xavier Parish!

Carols for December 24 & 25, 2021

Processional

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant,
O come ye, O come ye to Beth-le-hem;
Come and be-hold him, born the King of an-gels;
O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-dore him, Christ, the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light, Lo!
He comes forth from the Vir-gin's womb.
Our ver-y God, be-got-ten not cre-a-ted,
O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-dore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of an-gels, sing in ex-ul-ta-tion,
Sing, all ye cit-i-zens of heav'n a-bove!
Glo-ry to God, all glo-ry in the high-est;
O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-dore him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap-py morn-ing,
Je-sus, to thee be all glo-ry giv'n;
Word of the Fa-ther, now in flesh ap-pear-ing;
O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-dore him, Christ, the Lord!

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 96: "Proclaim to All the Nations" (3pm/5pm/7pm)

**Refrain. "Pro-claim to all the na-tions the mar-vel-ous deeds of the Lord!
Pro-claim to all the na-tions the mar-vel-ous deeds of the Lord!"**

Psalm 96: "Today Is Born Our Savior" (Midnight/9am)

Refrain: "Today is born our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord."

Psalm 118: "This Is The Day" (11am)

**Refrain: "This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!
This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice, let us rejoice, and be glad!"**

Communion

"What Child Is This" (3pm/5pm/7pm/9am)

What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet, While shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
This, this is Christ the King, Who shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mar-y.

Why lies he in such mean es-tate, Where ox and ass are feed-ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here, The si-lent Word is plead-ing.
This, this is Christ the King, Who shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mar-y.

So bring him in-cense, gold and myrrh, Come peas-ant, king to own him;
The King of kings, sal-va-tion brings, Let lov-ing hearts en-throne him.
This, this is Christ the King, Who shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mar-y.



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“Away in a Manger” (3pm/5pm)

A-way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed, The lit-tle Lord Je-sus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, The lit-tle Lord Je-sus, a-sleep on the hay.

The cat-tle are low-ing; the ba-by a-wakes, But lit-tle Lord Je-sus, no cry-ing he makes,
I love you, Lord Je-sus, look down from the sky, And stay by my cra-dle till morn-ing is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Je-sus, I ask you to stay Close by me for-ev-er, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear chil-dren in your ten-der care, And fit us for heav-en to live with you there.



“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (7pm/9am)

O lit-tle town of Beth-le-hem, How still we see thee lie! A-bove thy deep and dream-less sleep
The si-lent stars go by; Yet in the dark streets shin-eth The ev-er-last-ing Light;
The hope and fears of all the years Are met in thee to-night.

For Christ is born of Mar-y, And gath-ered all a-bove, While mor-tals sleep, the an-gels keep
Their watch of won-d’ring love. O morn-ing stars, to-geth-er Pro-claims the ho-ly birth!
And prais-es sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth.

How si-lent-ly, how si-lent-ly, The won-drous gift is giv’n! So God im-parts to hu-man hearts
The bless-ings of his heav’n. No ear may hear his com-ing, But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will re-ceive him, still The dear Christ en-ters in.

O ho-ly Child of Beth-le-hem! De-scend to us we pray: Cast out our sin and en-ter in,
Be born in us to-day. We hear the Christ-mas an-gels The great glad tid-ings tell;
O come to us, a bide with us, Our Lord Em-man-u-el!”

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (Midnight)

Of the Fa-ther’s love be-got-ten, Ere the worlds be-gan to be, he is Al-pha and O-me-ga,
He the source, the ending he, Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see,
Ev-er-more and ev-er-more!

O that birth for ev-er bless-ed, When the Vir-gin, full of grace, By the Spir-it blest con-ceive-ing,
Bore the Sav-ior of our race; And the Babe, the world’s Re-deem-er, First re-vealed his sa-cred face,
Ev-er-more and ev-er-more!

Let the heights of heav’n a-dore him; An-gel hosts, his prais-es sing; Pow’rs, do-min-ions, bow be-fore him,
And ex-tol our God and King; Let no tongue on earth be si-lent, Ev-’ry voice in con-cert ring,
Ev-er-more and ev-er-more!

Christ, to you with God the Fa-ther, Spir-it blest e-ter-nal-ly, Hymn and chant and high thanks-giv-ing,
And un-end-ing prais-es be: Hon-or, glo-ry, and do-min-ion, And e-ter-nal vic-to-ry,
Ev-er-more and ev-er-more!

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” (Midnight)

Lo, how a Rose e’er bloom-ing From ten-der stem hath sprung!
Of Jes-se’s lin-eage com-ing As men of old have sung.
It came, a flow’r-et bright, A-mid the cold of win-ter, When half spent was the night.

I-sa-iah ‘twas for-told it, The Rose I have in mind,
With Mar-y we be-hold it, The Vir-gin Moth-er kind.
To show God’s love a-right, She bore to us a Sav-ior,
When half spent was the night.

“Night of Silence” *sung with *Silent Night* (11am)

Cold are the peo-ple, win-ter of life, We trem-ble in shad-ows this cold end-less night,
Fro-zen in the snow lie ros-es sleep-ing, Flow-ers that will ech-o the sun-rise,
Fire of hope is our on-ly warmth, Wea-ry, its flame will be dy-ing soon.

Voice in the dis-tance, call in the night, On wind you en-fold us, you speak of the light,
Gen-tle on the ear you whis-per soft-ly, Ru-mors of a dawn so em-brac-ing,
Breath-less love a-waits dark-ened souls, Soon will we know of the morn-ing.

Spir-it a-mong us, shine like the star, Your light that guides shep-herds and kings from a-far,
Shim-mer in the sky so emp-ty, lone-ly, Ris-ing in the warmth of your Son’s love,
Star un-know-ing of night and day, Spir-it we wait for your lov-ng Son.

Meditation

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

Si-lent night, ho-ly night, All is calm, all is bright Round; yon Vir-gin Moth-er and Child,
Ho-ly In-fant so ten-der and mild, Sleep in heav-en-ly peace, Sleep in heav-en-ly peace.

Si-lent night, ho-ly night, Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo-ries stream from heav-en a-far,
Heav’n-ly hosts sing al-le-lu-ia; Christ, the Sav-ior, is born! Christ, the Sav-ior is born!

Si-lent night, ho-ly, night, Son of God, love’s pure light; Ra-diant beams from thy ho-ly face,
With the dawn of re-deem-ing grace, Je-sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je-sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Recessional

“Joy to the World”

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
Let earth re-ceive her King;
Let ev-‘ry heart pre-pare him room,
And heav’n and na-ture sing, And heav’n and na-ture sing, And heav’n and heav’n and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Sav-ior reigns:
Let us, our songs em-ploy;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Re-peat the sound-ing joy, Re-peat the sound-ing joy, Re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy.

No more let sin and sor-rows grow,
Nor thorns in-fest the ground;
He comes to make his bless-ings flow
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the na-tions prove
The glo-ries of his right-eous-ness,
And won-ders of his love, And won-ders of his love, And won-ders, won-ders of his love.

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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. 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-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 by appointment only. Staff members will now be answering phones Monday through Friday from 8:30 am-5:00 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, Friday and Saturday 8:30 am

Rosary at St. Francis Xavier Church

Thursday 8:15 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday morning9:00-10:00 am
 The Reconciliation room is located off the walkway behind the tabernacle prayer area.

Private Prayer at Neighboring Churches

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

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesdays at St. Cletus

St. John of the Cross (Monday - Saturday)8:00 -10:00 am

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ONELICENCE #A-714844

“Away in a Manger” –

Text John T. McFarland/Tune: MUELLER

“Joy to the World” –

Text: Isaac Watts/Tune: ANTIOCH, CM

“Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming” –

Th. Baker

“Night of Silence” –

Daniel Kantor

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” –

Text: John F. Wade /Tune: ADESTE FIDELES

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Text: Aurelius Prudentius

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” –

Text: Phillips Brooks/Tune: ST. LOUIS

“Silent Night, Holy Night” –

Text: Joseph Mohr/Tune: STILLE NACHT

“What Child Is This” –

Text: William C. Dix/Tune: GREENSLEEVES

“Psalm 96: Proclaim to All the Nations” - Marty Haugen

“Psalm 96: Today Is Born Our Savior” - Howard Hughes

“Psalm 118: This is the Day” –

Text: Psalm 118/Tune: Tim Schoenbachler

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