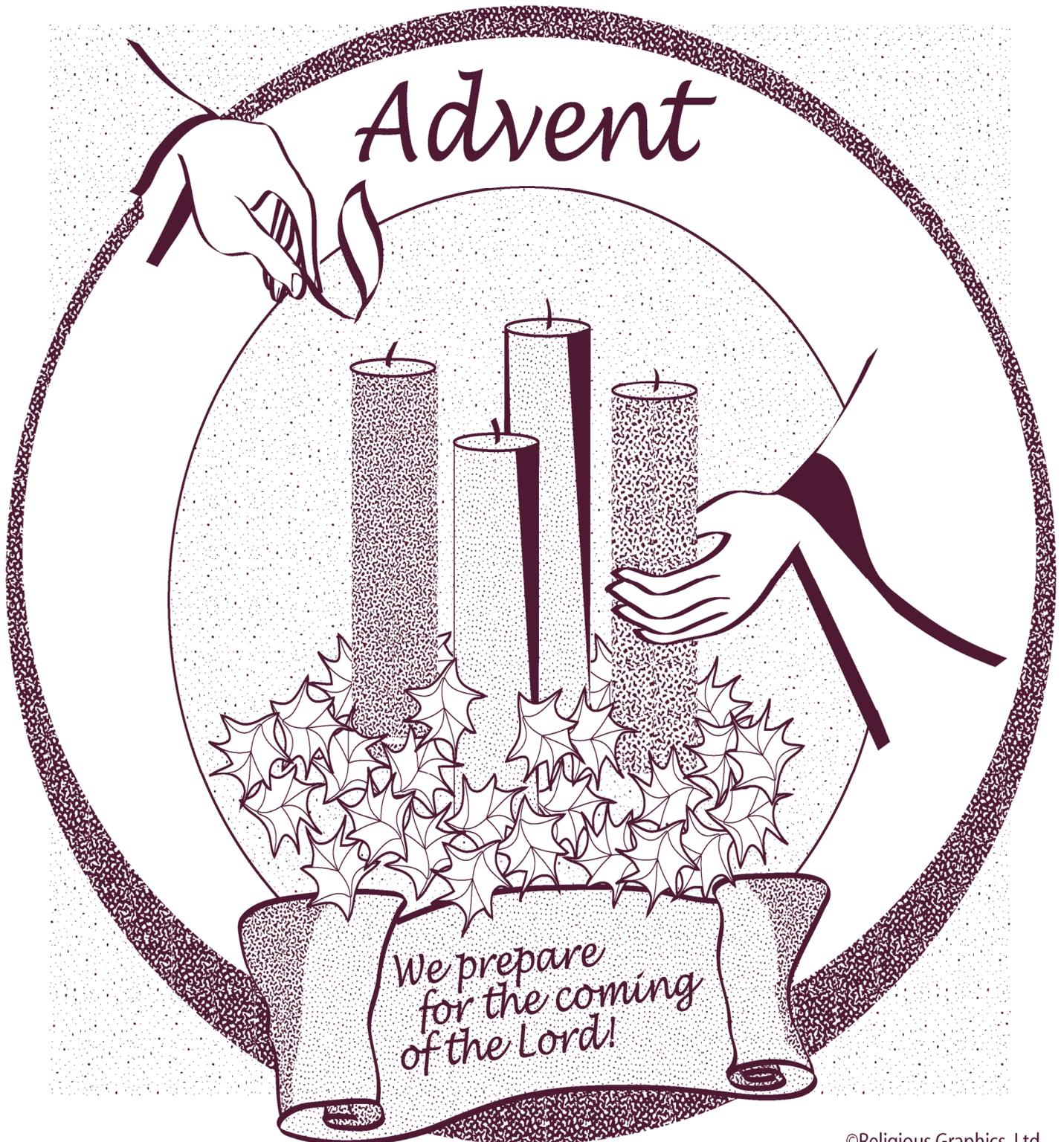


SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

1st Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2019



Mass Intentions For The Week

Monday, December 2	8:30 am	Mercedes McDonnell Suzanne Griffin	The McDonnell Family The Griffin Family
Tuesday, December 3 Saint Francis Xavier, Priest	7:45 am 8:30 am	Word & Communion Service Herbert & Mary Schrack Roderick J. Dougherty, Jr.	The Greyerbiehl Family
Wednesday, December 4 Saint John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church	8:30 am	Jessica Barry	The Barry Family
Thursday, December 5	7:45 am 8:30 am	Word & Communion Service Edwin Carroll	The Carroll Family
Friday, December 6 Saint Nicholas, Bishop	8:30 am	James McDonough	Jim & Mary Donahue
Saturday, December 7 Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church	9:00 am 9:30 am 4:15 pm 5:00 pm	Special Intention Sacrament of Reconciliation Sacrament of Reconciliation Bea Nelligan	Pam Oplawski
Sunday, December 8	7:30 am 9:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm 6:00 pm	Mary Rodger People of the Parish Im Sun Kim Eleanor O'Connor Rich Vlcek Bonnie Wieringa John Kelly Michael Kelly	Chris & Theresa Rodgers The St. Francis School Community Dolores Lewis The Courier Family Jerry & Colleen Prendergast Your SFX SPRED Family The Mattucci Family

Please Pray For...

Jay Carroll	Emmett Miller
Chili Challender	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	Liz Wilk
Marian Lucas	

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.

Weddings

Chloe Creber & Dan Dwyer
Laura King & James McGuire



prepare yourself
for the coming
of the LORD

Pastor's Notes

Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.
Isaiah 2:5

And so, it begins.... A new church year in which the Gospel of Matthew will be our guide to the message and mission of Jesus. A new season of Advent, in which we reflect on Christ coming into our world: past, present, and future. A new time of preparations, decorations, and celebrations of the Word of God coming into our world as one like us and one among us. A new opportunity *to gather* with family and friends, *to reconnect* with those with whom we have not spoken in a while, and *to mend* broken relationships. A new moment to seek the light of Christ that always shines in the darkness, whatever form the darkness may take at this point in our lives. A new call to be the light of Christ for others who walk in darkness at this moment in their lives.

Advent leads us into the darkest days of the year. Like our ancestors before us, we counter the darkness with light. Some cultures did this with huge bonfires and torchlit processions. In our day, we decorate our homes, inside and out, with bright lights and ornaments that reflect that light. And as a people of faith, we focus on the light that is Christ shining in the darkness. Our German Lutheran ancestors give us the tradition of lighting a new candle on each of the four Sundays of the season. Our Filipino ancestors offer the *parol*, or star lantern, that lights the front window of the home on the final nine days of the season. Our Latin American ancestors offer the pinata, a star with seven points that represent the seven deadly sins, whose destruction causes sweetness of hidden candies to burst forth in joyful light. Trees are adorned with lights that replace what once were candles reminding us of the light of Christ given us at Baptism.

Where do we find the light of Christ this Advent: in our lives, our homes, our community, our nation, and our world? How is Christ seeking to be known as he comes to us in the darkness of this moment? Who, what, or where is the light of Christ that desires to lead us to the joy and peace of a new Christmas?

Come, my friends. Let us walk in the light of the Lord.
Let us encourage one another as we discover the light of Christ in the darkness and prepare to celebrate the birth of God's light in a Child become Savior whose light will never leave us.

* * * * *

Christmas Notes: Tickets have been distributed for the Christmas Eve 3:00 PM Mass at Alexine Chapel (formerly the Motherhouse Chapel). Please call the parish office to see if any tickets remain. *No other Christmas Masses will require tickets for admission.* However, I advise you that the 3:00 PM Mass in church usually exceeds our seating capacity. Also, we have decided to cancel the Sunday 6:00 PM Mass on December 29th in anticipation of low attendance and to allow our ministers an opportunity to spend the evening with family. I appreciate your understanding.

Advent Peace,

J. Bill



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First Sunday In Advent Reflection Liturgy Team #2

Tina Flickinger, Bernadette McMahon, Diane Redmond, Katie Stetz, Joan Stopka

“EACH DAY IS A GIFT”

Just take a minute to concentrate and absorb the meaning of the above statement. It makes one approach life differently. Today's Gospel helps to drive home the point. Advent is a period when we prepare for the coming of Christ into the world but this reading suggests it is a time to think of the end of time too. Matthew along with the reading from Romans, is giving us a warning. Watch what we do in our daily lives. “Throw off the works of darkness” and “Put on the armor of light”. We hear the admonishment to “Stay awake!” We do not know the day nor the hour when our Lord will come. We do not know when our life will end. Our mortality is the uncertainty of human life. Death will come as a “thief in the night”. Be prepared.

Let us live each day as Christ has taught us to live. Let us be good disciples for Him. Let us spread peace, justice and love all the days of our lives. Then we can go rejoicing to the house of the Lord knowing that we have made the effort to make our world a better place because we have been here and we have tried our best to serve Him.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.



Give in thanksgiving. “The nuns left lasting impressions on me,” writes a donor. “I shall always be grateful for my Catholic education.” Please join in thanking the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need. Next week’s second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious, which helps hundreds of religious communities care for aging members. Please give generously.

Why Buy Fair Trade Coffee??

The coffee sold at St. Francis Xavier is purchased from *Equal Exchange Fairly Traded*. There is a lot behind this coffee. “We work closely with our farmer partners, year after year, to better understand each other’s needs. The result is a trusting relationship and delicious coffee.” Beth Ann Caspersen, Quality Control Manager

Fair Trade builds right relationships between buyers and sellers that are rooted in the principles of human dignity and solidarity.

Fair Trade:

- Respects human dignity
- Promotes the common good
- Advances economic justice
- Empowers disadvantaged people
- Connects us with the people who create the things we buy
- Cultivates global solidarity



The Catholic Relief Services Fair Trade Program creates opportunities for us to bring these core values of our faith to bear on the choices we make as consumers—choices that have the power to lift our brothers and sisters out of poverty.

Effort is made to see that these coffee farmers are given a fair wage!!!

Welcome

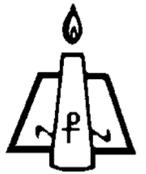
We welcome the following parishioners who have registered during the month of November:

Vinny & Julie Montesano
Kenneth & Kelly Wood
Jeanette Waleske
Thomas & Catherine Gannon
Tyler & Erin Johnson
Joseph & Deborah Butler
Joan Sylak-Sietz



Baptisms

We celebrate and welcome the newest members of our faith family, who were baptized:



Jack Gannon Rowan

Son of Edward & Colleen (Gannon) Rowan

Emilia Jean Flaherty

Daughter of Michael & Jacqueline (Coverick) Flaherty

Matthew Michael Connolly

Son of Michael Connolly & Shannon Kelby

Matthew Andrew Joyce

Son of Matthew & Erin (Gavin) Joyce

Roman Delio Urso

Son of David & Alma (Ruiz) Urso

Gino Anthony Weihofen

Son of Anthony & Marissa (MacKenzie) Weihofen

Vivienne Noreen Witteman

Daughter of Nicholas & Katie (Maier) Witteman

**NO 6PM MASS ON
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29**

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

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES FOR ALL AT ST. ALEXINE CHAPEL

On Christmas Eve, we again will celebrate Masses at 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM at the St. Alexine Chapel (formerly the Motherhouse Chapel). **We will not issue tickets for the 5PM Mass.** We have been able to accommodate everyone who has chosen to attend this Mass in recent years.

However, we need to respect the St. Alexine Chapel seating capacity of 800 persons. **Last year, we had to turn people away once we reached capacity. Therefore, we will return to the practice of issuing tickets for the 3PM Mass only. Tickets can be obtained on Monday evening, December 2nd.** Please tell your friends and others who plan to attend the 3PM Christmas Eve Mass at St. Alexine Chapel that they must obtain a ticket in advance.

The procedure for obtaining tickets:

1. Church doors will open on Monday, December 2nd at 5:30 PM.
2. As you enter church, you will be given a numbered stub from a volunteer.
3. Stubs will be given out in numerical order. You will be asked to sit in that same numerical order, beginning with the last row in church.
4. At 6PM, a drawing will determine the numbered stub that begins the distribution process. We will proceed in numerical order from that point forward to the last stub given out at the door. We then will continue with the first number given out until all tickets have been distributed.
5. If you arrive after 6PM, you will receive a stub in a new series of numbers. These will be called AFTER all of the initial numbers have been called.

Please do not arrive earlier than 5:30PM on December 2nd.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Christmas Blessings!

Fr. Bill Tkachuk

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN AT PARISH CHURCH

On Christmas Eve, we celebrate two Masses in the church, at 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM, that are planned for families with younger children. **Tickets will not be issued** for either of these Masses. We hope to accommodate everyone comfortably at each Mass. However, we advise everyone that the 3PM Mass in church usually exceeds church capacity (seats and allowable standing areas in the aisles and transepts). We broadcast each Mass into Unity Hall, which provides additional seating for approximately 80 persons and some additional standing room. This room also reaches capacity at the 3PM Mass.

Adults with no children or families with children who all are older than 2nd grade may want to consider the second Mass for children at 5PM or the 7PM Mass. Both have been able to seat all who come to celebrate the birth of Christ. At those times. Please plan accordingly.

Christmas Blessings!

Fr. Bill Tkachuk

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.

SPRED Christmas Liturgy

Please join the St. Francis Xavier SPRED group on Sunday, December 8 at the 6:00 pm. Mass for the SPRED Christmas liturgy. This Mass will incorporate some of the special ways our SPRED group celebrates liturgy. Come experience our unique way to celebrate God's love for us all.



YULE FLIP

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, December 15th



Please help our cooks by selecting from below an expected time of your arrival:

Name: _____

Admission _____ X \$10 = _____
 Children 12 & under _____ X \$5 = _____
 Seniors 65 & older _____ X \$7 = _____
Total = _____

- 8 am - 8:30 am
- 8:30 am - 9 am
- 9:30 am - 10 am
- 10:30 am - 11 am
- 11 am - 11:45 am

Please return this form with payment Cash or Checks (payable to St. Francis Xavier Parish) to the Rectory by December 12th. Any questions contact the Rectory @ 708-352-0168

Save The Date



Christmas Epiphany Concert & Candlelight Service

St. Francis Xavier Church
124 North Spring Avenue, LaGrange

Saturday, January 4, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Featuring the...

SFX Children's Choir, Celebration Ensemble, Gallery Choir, and Instrumentalists

IT'S BACK!

The St. Francis Xavier Parish presents: YULE FLIP PANCAKE BREAKFAST (in Joyce Hall)

Sunday, December 15th - 8 a.m. to Noon (last seating at 11:45 a.m.)
Purchase Tickets for Breakfast time at sfxlg.org

 **see order form opposite page**

Admission: \$10

Children (12 and under): \$5 - Seniors (65 and older): \$7

Featuring Santa's Workshop (in Gym)

**Join Santa Claus & Buddy
the Elf in Santa's
DIY Workshops and Photos
at 8:00 to 11:45 a.m.**

- **Cookie Decorating (\$1)**
- **Holiday Canvas Painting (\$5)**
- **Decorate and Plant
a Tree-in-a-Pot (\$5)**
- **Hand-craft Christmas
Cards for Community (FREE)**

Please note workshop fees are separate
from breakfast and determined
by workshop vendors.



SHHHHH, I HEARD SANTA WILL BE THERE!

**Sponsored by the SFX Social Committee
and the**



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS®**

Religious Education Important Dates & Class Dates

Class Dates

Sunday, December 1	No Class
Wednesday, December 4	No Class
Sunday, December 8	Class
Wednesday, December 11	Class
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)

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.

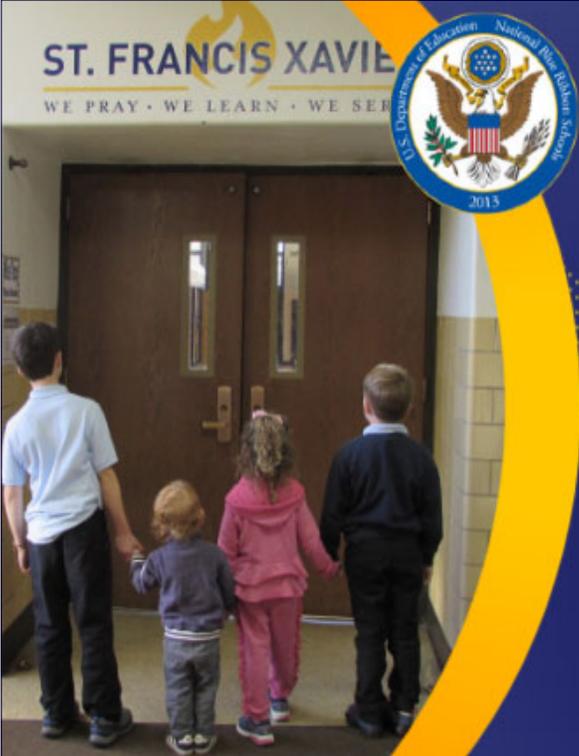
Children's Liturgy of the Word takes place in church whenever the children's choirs lead us in song/prayer AND when a Grade Level Mass is celebrated. The Scriptures we hear will then be taken from the Children's Lectionary and the homily will be given in a way that children are able to relate a little 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 14 & 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.



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL

OPEN ENROLLMENT

for 2020-2021

Registration Begins **NOV 18th**

Call 708-352-2175 for INFORMATION or a SCHOOL TOUR

PreSchool 3 through 8th Grade - **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**
Centered in Catholic values of **PRAYER, LEARNING & SERVICE**
Onsite Before & After School Care for full day students

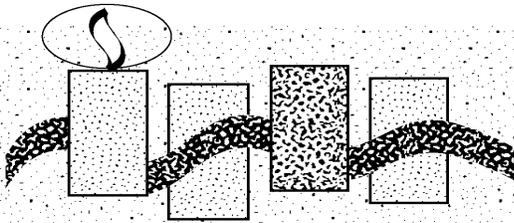
We Pray, We Learn, We Serve

www.SFXLG.ORG/SCHOOL

What's going on in Youth Ministry???

Giving Tree Gift Tags

Quest Teens will be making the Giving Tree gift tags on Tuesday, December 3 at 7:30pm in the Courtyard Meeting Room (enter through the main rectory door at 124 N Spring). This is a really quick, simple service opportunity and all teens are welcome to help. Contact Olivia Zurowski at ozurowski@sfxlg.org or 708-352-0168 if you have any questions.



The Giving Tree

Please help make Christmas a special time of year for families supported by our sharing parish, St. Agatha's on the west side of Chicago as well as some outreach organizations in our community. Giving Tree tags will be available after all masses the weekend of **December 7 and 8.**



Wrapped gifts with gift tags affixed to them, can start to be dropped off on 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.

Mention St. Francis Xavier when you have lunch or dinner at Q-BBQ from 11AM-9PM, or Hot Dog & Burger Co. (Behind Q-BBQ!) from 11AM-8PM on Tuesday, December 10 and they will donate 20% of the proceeds to St. Francis!



QCARES



* Behind QBBQ

HDBCO CARES



FUNDRAISING DAY

Return this form and Q-BBQ will donate 20% of your entire bill back to your organization

-----FUNDRAISING DAY-----

Organization: **St. Francis Xavier School**
 Location: **Q-BBQ La Grange, 70 S. La Grange Road**
 Date: **December 10, 2019 11am-9pm**

Organization: **St. Francis Xavier School**
 Location: **Behind QBBQ**
 Date: **Tues. Dec 10, 2019 11am-8pm**

Welcome to Advent!

Stewardship...

is our willingness to acknowledge the blessings of our lives, and reflect upon ways to continue sharing time, talent, and treasure, as we joyfully prepare for the coming of Christ anew in our hearts.



Prayer & Reflection

This Advent we join St. Cletus and St. John of the Cross Church in praying with the Little Blue Book. This book contains 6 minute reflections on Advent and Christmas, including Scripture, prayers, action steps, and a variety of thoughts about Catholic traditions & customs.



Feast of St. Francis Xavier, Dec. 3

We will celebrate our patron saint at all masses the weekend of Nov. 30/Dec. 1

Support the Giving Tree

Quest teens collect gifts for inner city families through St. Agatha. Take a tag Dec. 7 & 8, and return wrapped gift before the noon Mass Dec. 22.

Advent Wreath

Set up a wreath in your home, and light it for prayer and meals.

Daily Mass

Mon-Fri, 8:30 am
Sat, 9am.
Communion Service Tues & Thurs 7:45 am

SPRED Christmas Mass

All are welcome to attend the 6pm Mass on Sun, Dec. 8 where friends play a special role.

Reconciliation Services

This Advent we celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation with our neighboring parishes:
St. Cletus: Mon, Dec. 16, 7 pm;
St. John of the Cross: Tues, Dec. 17, 7 pm. Individual reconciliation available at SFX on Saturdays, after the 9 am mass and at 4:15 pm.

WELCOME Women's Retreat...

Register now for the Feb. 8-9, retreat, to deepen your relationship with God and other women, and be fed spiritually. Details in bulletin & on website: sfxlg.org.



Eucharistic Adoration

Dec. 19, 6-7 pm in church

Individual Prayer

The church is open daily for prayer, 7:30 am to 2 pm.

Congregation of St. Joseph Events at the Well:

Dec. 8, 2 pm

Sneak Peak of New Space

Dec. 8, 3 pm

Village Vocal Chords Concert

After the Concert - **Yuletide Treats and Christmas Fair**

Choose a Ministry & Get Involved!

Visit sfxlg.org for the *Ministry Resource Guide* and to complete the *Ministry Interest Form*.

Tear Out These Advent Pages To Hang On Your Refrigerator. As Guide To Our Upcoming Advent Dates!

Advent Events Calendar

2019

Dec. 1

Begin daily Advent Prayer with
The Little Blue Book

Dec. 3

Feast of St. Francis Xavier.

Celebrated at all masses the previous weekend.

Dec. 3

Catholic Women's Club Social

Shopping Night

Dec. 6

Service Day for
Day School Students

Dec. 8

Take a tag to donate to
The Giving Tree



Dec. 8

SPRED Christmas Mass
6pm Mass. All are welcome.

Dec. 9

Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Mass at 8:30 am & 7 pm

Dec. 12

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Mass at 8:30 am

Dec. 12

Day School--2nd, 4th & 6th Graders present
Carol & Light,
7-8 pm, Church



Dec. 14

Commit to **baking for incarcerated men through North Lawndale Adult Transition Center.**

Drop-off Dec. 21.

Dec. 15

Yule Flip Pancake Breakfast
family event for all ages.

Dec. 15-22

Return your wrapped gift for
The Giving Tree before the noon Mass on the 22nd.

Dec. 16 & 17

Reconciliation Services. 7 pm

- St. Cletus: Mon., Dec. 16

- St. John of the Cross: Tues, Dec. 17

Individual Reconciliation is offered at SFX on Saturdays after 9 am Mass & at 4:15 pm.

Dec. 19

Eucharistic Adoration, 6-7 pm, Church

Dec. 21

Drop off day for baked goods for incarcerated men, 9 am-5 pm. Details in bulletin.

Dec. 24

Christmas Eve Masses - In SFX Church
3 pm, 5 pm, 7 pm

In St. Alexine Chapel

(formerly Motherhouse Chapel)
3 pm & 5 pm

Midnight Mass in Church - Caroling begins at 11:30 am

Dec. 25

Christmas Day Masses - In SFX Church
9 am, 10:30 am and Noon

Jan. 1, 2020 Solemnity of Mary

Mass at 5 pm Dec. 31, and 10 am Jan. 1



Congregation of St. Joseph -- Events hosted at the Well Spirituality Center

Ennaagram - Type 3 (The Performer. Dec. 5, 7-8:30 pm, register in advance.)

Holiday Extravaganza! Dec. 8, 2 pm Sneak Peak of New Space
Dec. 8, 3 pm Village Vocal Chords Concert

Healing Gong - Dec. 12, 7:00-8:30 pm, register in advance.

The Well Spirituality Center, Register at 708-482-5048,
www.csjthewell.org, 1515 Ogden Ave, La Grange Park

Christian Meditation at St. John of the Cross

"To learn to meditate, you have to learn to be silent, and not to be afraid of silence. [W]e don't have to create silence. The silence is there, within you. What we have to do is to enter into it, to become silent, to become the silence. The challenge of meditation is to allow ourselves to become silent enough to allow this interior silence to emerge. Silence is the language of the spirit. The language of the spirit is love. And the purpose of meditation is to be in the presence of love, the love that, as Jesus tells us, casts out all fear."

John Main, OSB

One of the meditators said she notices a difference in how she experiences Mass-- "I feel like I am really hearing the words and teachings for the first time and they are making sense, connecting me to my humanity and to God in each person around me."

How To Meditate

Sit still and upright in a quiet place with feet flat on the floor and hands in lap or on knees.

Let go of any expectations or demands. Just Be.

Gently close your eyes and silently, interiorly begin to say a single prayer word. The word recommended is Ma-ra-na-tha (Aramaic, the language Jesus spoke), meaning "Come, Lord".

Continue repeating the word during the entire time of meditation. Whenever distractions come, gently return your attention to the word, without judging or analyzing. It is recommended to meditate 20-30 minutes twice a day.

All are welcome to any of the 4 weekly groups for Christian Meditation in the Parish Center, room 7.

Meetings last 45 to 55 minutes, and no experience is necessary.

Tuesdays, 7:30 pm

Wednesdays, 2:30 pm

Saturdays, 8 am

Mondays, 10:30am--

Christian Meditation as an 11th Step Practice.

For further information contact Betsy at
wccmchgo@gmail.com or 708-246-8315.



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

WHAT: During Adoration, sometimes referred to as a Holy Hour (but can be of any duration), the Blessed Sacrament is exposed on the altar for individual, silent Adoration. As Catholics, we proclaim the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, not only during the Mass but in the preserved Hosts. St. John Paul II offered that "our communal worship at Mass must go together with our personal worship of Jesus in Eucharistic adoration in order that our love may be complete."

HOW: Adorers are invited to pray a rosary or other devotions, meditate on Scripture or meditate on devotional books. Adorers may also choose to just simply sit and 'be' with Jesus. If you are interested, prayer and reflection suggestions are available as starting points.

WHO: Jesus waits for us, each of us, in the Eucharist. He waits when we are joyful, thankful, frustrated, or tired. All are welcome, including children. **Families are most welcome.** Jesus specifically calls children to Himself, "Let the children come to me." Especially during this Advent Season, children can focus on the true celebration of the season: the coming of the Infant Jesus and His continued presence. Children's activities, books, and meditations on the rosary, adoration, sacraments are available for even our youngest adorers.

WHY: As we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth, it's important to remember, He is still present with us in the Eucharist. As St. Teresa of Calcutta reminds us: The Holy Eucharist is the continuation of Christ's incarnation on earth. The mystery of the Eucharist gives us the joy of having Christmas every day. When we come to the Blessed Sacrament we come to Bethlehem, a name which means "house of bread." Jesus chose to be born in Bethlehem because He would dwell with us forever as the "Living Bread" come down from heaven. When the shepherds and Magi came to adore Him, they brought Him so much joy with their humble visit to Bethlehem that their visit has been praised and retold down through the centuries. [Y]our humble visit to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament brings Him so much joy that it will be retold for all eternity and bring the world closer to His promise of peace on earth.

WHEN: The next opportunity for Eucharistic Adoration will be **December 19, 2019.** The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from 6:00-7:00 pm. Please come when you are able for as long as your schedule allows. If you have any questions, please contact Katie Kanzer at k.f.kanzer@gmail.com.

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



**The Well Spirituality Center, 1515 Ogden Avenue in LaGrange Park.
To register: www.csjthewell.org or call 708-482-5048.**

Enneagram – Type 3 (The Performer). On Thursday, December 5 from 7:00–8:30 pm. Adaptable, Excelling, Driven, Image-Conscious do you know anyone like this? In this session you'll hear from a panel of Type 3s and find out what makes them tick. Cost: \$15.

Healing Gong. On Thursday, December 12 from 7:00-8:30 pm. This unique sound therapy and mindfulness meditation event helps one reach a higher state of conscious awareness, to relax, and re-balance the core of one's being. Facilitated by Marian and Gabriela Kraus. Cost: \$35.



**IT'S A HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA!
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8**

- 2 pm** SNEAK PEAK OF OUR NEW SPACE
- 3 pm** VILLAGE VOCAL CHORDS CONCERT
- after the concert** YULETIDE TREATS & CHRISTMAS FAIR

THE WELL SPIRITUALITY CENTER

1515 WEST OGDEN AVE, LAGRANGE PARK

REGISTER ONLINE / MORE INFO:
CSJTHEWELL.ORG OR CALL 708-482-5048

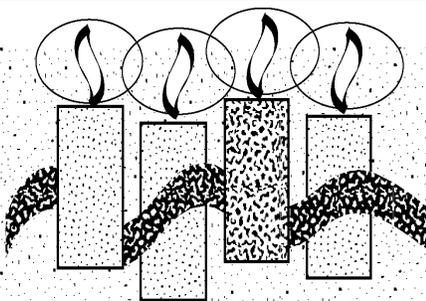


We loved them last year, and they're coming back! The Village Vocal Chords, an all-women's choir, has won awards in the U.S. and abroad. Their Christmas concert has it all - great singing and music, lots of fun, and a welcoming, community feeling.

Come early to get a first-look at The Well's new digs! We can't wait to show you our beautiful classrooms, artroom, library, meditation, spiritual direction, and overnight rooms.

But wait, there's more! After the concert, stick around for some delicious Yuletide treats, and to shop for a good cause. We'll have tables from Ministry of the Arts and Women At Risk.

Cost: \$10



come, LORD JESUS

Senior Women's Group



Sr. Marianne Race

Advent: The Gift We Receive

BEFORE Christmas

December 5, 2019

Refreshments @ 9:00 am

Presentation @ 9:30 am

**St. Francis Xavier Parish Unity Hall
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No RSVP required**



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

THE GIFT OF...

"Inner peace and stillness." Veronica

"Prayer on my terms." Maureen

"Finding beautiful, powerful women that unconditionally care." Cathy



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

SAVE THE DATE

Registration opens soon. Please contact Pam Devitt at (708) 250-3711 with any questions.



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
- **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.**

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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

jcarr@sfxlg.org

Assistant to Day School Principal

Mrs. Mary Hoffman

mhoffman@sfxlg.org

Day School Secretary (Main Campus)

Mrs. Peggy Evans

pevans@sfxlg.org

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

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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

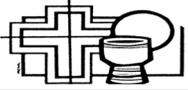
Please call the Parish Office for scheduled 1:30 pm Sunday Baptismal dates. Baptism Preparation Classes: 4th Thursday of every month at 7:30 pm. We encourage participation in this program before the baby's birth or adoption.

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 7 & 8, 2019

Mass Time	Presider	Lectors/ Commentators	Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers	Cantors	Greeters
5:00 PM	Fr. Killeen	L. Bannach M. Becker T. Conwell C. Cooke K. Corrigan J. Denson S. Devitt D. Dunlap M. Milligan	E. Anderson A. Holmes L. Whelton	B. Gannon M. Doyle Open		R. MacEntee
7:30 AM	Fr. Killeen	S. Augustyn S. Hayes N. Kalkowski D. Challender T. Nichol	G. Rutkowski M. Kalkowski D. Walsh	E. Siffermann D. Quinlan A. Colin		C. Urbain
9:00 AM	Fr. Tkachuk	R. Barker M. Branecki V. Bracht J. Cogelja A. Cargan L. Hill M. Hull C. Froemel E. Froemel	R. Cook O. Washburn K. Hayes	Q. Filbin D. Dudek J. Nisivaco		J. Burson
10:30 AM	Fr. Killeen	B. Boyd A. Clark J. Clark N. Cummings L. Egan M.P. Flaherty J. Garreau M. Joscelyn A. Krol	D. Ankenbruck S. Zlatic L. Nowak	E. Cushing C. Cushing C. Hull		K. Titzer
12:00 PM	Fr. Tkachuk	K. Borawski A. Chimento L. Donegan N. Dekoker B. Edelman	C. McLaughlin C. Anderson M. Weihoffen	N. Olson D. Janiszewski E. Justak		O. Lozano
6:00 PM	Fr. Tkachuk	Quest Teen	Quest Teens		Spirit Choir	

Attention: Lectors and Commentators

The 2020 Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word has arrived.

If a book would be helpful to you to practice your readings before for the dates you are assigned, please stop by the rectory to pick up your copy.

Readings For The Week of December 2, 2019

Sunday: Is 2:1-5/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44
 Monday: Is 4:2-6/Mt 8:5-11
 Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
 Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37
 Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27
 Friday: Is 29:17-24/Mt 9:27-31
 Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35--10:1, 5a, 6-8
 Next Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12



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