



Pastor Transition Committee Report November 15, 2024

God of love, you are with us in every transition and change. As we seek our new pastor, we entrust our community to your Holy Spirit. You know the heart of our congregation and the unique gifts and challenges of our parish. May we remain united in your grace and rejoice in the promise of your will to bring the “fullness of joy.” May our future pastor do the same, listening to your Spirit with courage and openness as you lead us to one another. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

St. Francis Xavier Parish (SFX) is a vibrant Catholic community of faith. As we head into 2025, our 135th year as a Parish, we are praying for the selection of our next Pastor, the 11th to serve in this capacity for the people of SFX.

SFX is a spirit-filled community of people who believe in seeking communion in our rich diversity – from traditional to contemporary, and all ages, backgrounds, and experiences. We seek to live lives informed by the gospel of Jesus and fed by the Eucharist. We believe that Christ loves and embraces us in each moment, no matter what.

Our 3,200 registered households have great affection for this parish, which includes many multi-generational families, new families, and many expressions of family. While primarily drawing from La Grange and La Grange Park, the parish community also includes residents from other local neighborhoods. Parishioners describe SFX as a place where you are welcomed **as you are**. Parishioners are invited to engage and commit to serving the needs of one another, the local community, and the world.

Our next pastor will be greeted by capable parish leaders and staff who care deeply about and take great pride in our parish mission - from business operations to liturgy to pastoral care. It will be easy to hit the ground running! We would like to highlight a few forward-thinking new hires/positions: a Director of Operations, Director of Stewardship and Development, Director of Community Outreach, Director of Marketing and Enrollment (SFX School.)

As missionary disciples, we are guided by its mission statement:

We, the community of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Parish, wholeheartedly live and celebrate the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We commit ourselves to live in communion with God, others, and all of creation to create a more just world through sacraments and worship, learning, and service.

WHO WE ARE

In the fall of 2023, the parish mission statement, through discernment within the parish community, was distilled into this identity statement: **Belong, Believe, Be Love**. This phrase encapsulates who we are and our aspiration to grow in faith and connection to Christ.

BELONG

SFX Parish believes that we, the Church, are the body of Christ - a body in which we are united and to which we bring diverse gifts and talents. *God places the parts, each one of them, in the body as he intended (1 Cor 12:18)*. For that reason, all parts **Belong** here at SFX. We aspire to welcome each one and, with great joy, discover God's intention for each.

We actively foster a sense of belonging through our Hospitality/Welcome Team. The team creates a sense of community by providing warm welcomes at masses, organizing quarterly Nametag Sundays to facilitate introductions, sending personalized welcome notes to new parishioners, and hosting prayer services specifically for newcomers. Our annual Block Party provides another opportunity for all to become better acquainted. Joint events between the Parish School and Religious Education students offer children and their families fellowship and community in Christ as we seek to strengthen parish unity. Teens from the three local Catholic parishes experience *belonging* at service opportunities and our Sunday night programming.

Our *Alpha* program provides a place of welcome for all, a “soft kerygmatic entry point” for anyone to explore the idea of faith. In daily interactions and conversations, we seek to model inclusivity and radical hospitality to all. Furthermore, to respond to Pope Francis’ call to synodality, SFX models collaborative ministry, walking together with diverse and talented lay leaders to support the workings of the parish. *There are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone! (1 Cor 12:6)*. We have hosted listening sessions regarding the role of women in the Church and led Conversations in the Spirit gatherings, attended by Catholics throughout the Chicago area, to hone our listening skills and to better understand each other and invest in our future as Church.

BELIEVE

Once a “part of the body” knows that they belong, they feel safe to grow and be transformed in their faith. We minister to nearly 1100 children: over 450 students in our two-time Blue Ribbon Parish Elementary School (Pre-school 3 - 8th grade) and over

634 children in our Parish Religious Education Program (Kindergarten - 9th grade), both in person and online.

Our OCIA community, led entirely by dedicated lay leaders, thrives. Since 2000, we have initiated 189 adults into the Catholic Church. In November 2024, we welcomed our largest cohort of catechumens/candidates since 2016.

Religious formation at SFX is not limited to school-aged children or those preparing for sacraments of initiation. Adults in all stages of discipleship are offered several paths to grow in **Believe-ing**: through encounters with the person of Jesus, exploration of Scripture and Tradition, and personal faith-sharing opportunities.

For more than 40 years, we have served as a center for the Archdiocesan Special Religious Development (SPRED) program for people who learn in special ways, and we are currently hosting two communities of adults, many of whom have been together since childhood.

Our liturgies are designed to foster active participation among parishioners, from the initial planning stages to the final cleanup. Parishioners contribute to weekly liturgical celebrations by serving as ushers, cantors, lectors, altar servers, Eucharistic ministers, and members of our four diverse choirs. Our 5 pm Sunday Mass, featuring contemporary music, offers a special opportunity for teens to participate in all aspects of the liturgy.

The following offerings further nourish a deeper encounter with Jesus and understanding of what we believe:

- *Alpha* program
- *That Man is You* men's group
- Kairos retreats
- Weekly scripture studies
- Women's preaching circle
- Prayer groups
- Collaboration with *The Well* Spirituality Center run by the Sisters of St Joseph
- Seasonal spiritual enrichment
- Faith witness of parishioners at mass

BE LOVE

We believe that our relationship with Jesus should lead us to become like Him, to **Be Love**, as reflected in our actions and openness toward others and the transformation of our lives. We embody Jesus' love for those in need through these various initiatives:

- Weekly Food Pantry, serving over 100 local households
- Annual All Parish Service Days
- Parish Elementary School Service Learning Program & Annual Service Day
- Summer youth mission trip

- Outreach trips to Clarksdale, MS
- Ministry of Care to the homebound
- Physical and spiritual support for recent immigrants
- Our relationship with our sharing Parish, St. Simon of Cyrene

These are just a few examples. Over 50 formal ministries demonstrate our commitment to serving as the body of Christ, who has “no hands and feet on earth but ours,” and our strong sense of co-responsibility and lay leadership in the parish. Motivated by Jesus’ love, we listen to our community’s needs and are open to finding ways to meet those needs, always striving to narrow the margin in our community and beyond.

HOPES AND DREAMS

Like any Catholic Church, SFX faces the challenges of mass attendance and engaging young people, and we are concerned about the priest shortage. We seek continued creativity, collaboration, and guidance from our new pastor.

Belonging is essential to our spiritual growth. We are a large, diverse parish that wants to be a place that allows all to feel welcome. One of our goals is to have meaningful programs and worship experiences and provide a spiritual home for teens and young adults as they discover their faith. We want our parishioners to feel connected and known.

We hope to continue to empower the laity to be co-responsible for the Church and her mission, allowing our priests to focus on their pastoral vocation and ministry.

Our church is vibrant but has yet to reach Mass attendance levels prior to the pandemic. More outreach is needed to invite people to church or back to church, including those feeling alienated for any reason.

We have to strive as a church to be a welcoming community for people from diverse backgrounds. This increasing diversity enriches the church with new ideas and creates new bonds that better reflect the universal Church.

While we have a solid financial team, the future needs of our church include ensuring a solid financial standing of the church, backed by generous contributions from the parishioners. This will enable essential church renovations to further enhance the worship experience.

We hope to revitalize our youth and young adult ministries and fill our youth minister position. Youth involvement in the liturgy breathes life and sows the seed for future growth for the church.

It is essential for SFX to hold on to the Catholic faith and its teachings, speaking truth with love in an ever-changing secular world without alienating those who may feel on the margins.

Our church is backed by a strong St Francis Xavier Elementary School and School of Religious Education. The schools are vital for the educational and faith formation of our young children. We must keep working to ensure school enrollments trend up and not downwards.

We hope to have more involvement from all parishioners in the various ministries, to serve each other and our local community better. Building community outside of church services is key in fostering a bond of love and support for each other.

OUR FUTURE SHEPHERD

SFX is fortunate to have talented and qualified staff and lay leaders. This allows the pastor to lead in an **empowering** and **collaborative** manner and gives him the freedom to focus on ministering to the congregation.

We hope our new pastor will foster an environment where everyone feels **welcomed** and **valued**. We seek a pastor who is **approachable**, **open-minded**, and a **good listener**. We are ready to be inspired with **effective preaching** that challenges us to grow in faith, and a model of commitment **to living the Gospel**.

By listening to the Holy Spirit, our new Shepherd will guide us with wisdom and appreciation for the diversity of God's people within our parish and community as we journey together in faith.

We are praying for you.

**The bolded words above were the aggregated results of the survey and town halls.*

TRANSITION TEAM MEMBERS

Elizabeth Cooley, Chair
Curt Aronson
Jude Dumfeh
Lee Egan
Ernie Froemel
Elis Guidice
Mike Hattie
Terese Kartholl
Maggie McMahon
Jim Owen
Tony Pangan
Mike West
Maureen Windmoeller

To ensure this Transition Report was representative of the entire SFX community, the Transition Team sought discernment from parishioners, ministry leaders, and staff. Specifically, we held three parishioner town halls, one staff roundtable, and distributed an online survey.



Pastor Transition Committee Report

ATTACHMENTS

- Annual Report 2024
- Ministry Resource Guide
- Disciple Maker Index Survey
- Staff List
- Mass Attendance Counts



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



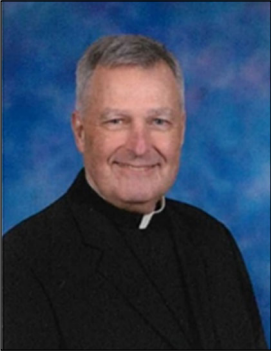
ANNUAL REPORT 2024



BELONG • BELIEVE • BE LOVE

OCTOBER 13, 2024

Pastor's Letter



Disciples on a Mission

St. Francis Xavier Parish has been exploring what it means to be *missionary disciples* of Jesus and how this shapes our life as a community of faith. An Archdiocesan survey affirmed that we are a parish of welcome, vibrant liturgy, and active outreach to those in need. More young families continue to join us on Sundays and bring their joyful “toddler choir.” Last autumn, parish leadership invited us all to submit three words that best describe this parish. Parish staff and leadership were then guided through a process to refine the many words submitted into a few words. **BELONG, BELIEVE, BE LOVE.** This is now our statement of how we see ourselves and who we strive to become in Christ.

I have long known the desire of this parish to be a community in which *all* could feel that they **belong**. Name Tag Sundays, new parishioner welcome evenings, and our Parish Block Party have provided opportunities for us to become better acquainted. Alpha evenings, That Man Is You (TMIY), and the faith witness of parishioners to enhance our Sunday homilies have nourished a deeper grounding in what we **believe** and our mission to invite others to learn more about Jesus. The expansion of Service Day to a series of *Service Days*, our outreach to local households requiring food assistance, and our assistance to recent immigrants establishing homes are just some of the ways that testify to our belief that faith must lead us to **be love** toward others in our actions and attitudes.

The following report is one way parish leadership remains accountable to all who invest in our parish mission. This report highlights *some* of the ways we practiced the good stewardship of time, talent, and treasure, including some basic statistics and the financial facts and figures. *Thank you for your ongoing stewardship of treasure* to fuel our mission.

Our parish gardens continue to expand through the labors of our restored Edythe Garden ministry. Discussions of the importance of women holding leadership roles in the Church entered the conversation at the October Synod in Rome. We completed the search for a new principal for the parish elementary school, increased our enrollment, and provided teacher bonuses after some very successful fundraising. In short, we have continued to allow the Holy Spirit to inspire our growth and outreach *with your support and involvement*.

A major goal this year is to balance the parish operating budget. This requires both increasing the number of regularly contributing households and increasing the annual contribution of all who are able. I invite you to reflect on the value of our parish mission to your household and this community. Prayerfully consider what you can give to fund our mission and ministries *this year*. Options for automated giving, including a QR Code, can be found on the parish website and later in this report.

Thank you for setting aside time to review this Annual Report. I thank our Director of Operations, Peter Brown, our Director of Stewardship and Development, Jennifer Zeisloft, our Finance Manager, Jane Bandyk, and the parishioners who serve on our parish Finance Council for their dedication and counsel this past year. We are blessed to have such wise and prudent stewards of our resources.

God bless you all. Your faithful stewardship of Saint Francis Xavier continues to make us a vibrant community of faith in which *all are invited* to **belong, believe** and **be love** for others as *missionary disciples of Christ*.

Peace,

Fr. Bill

Finance Council Letter

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

In last year's financial report, we described the financial challenges we faced during the year, noting the depletion in our savings resulting from an operating deficit of just over \$100,000 and the cost of the roof/window project undertaken in the 2022-23 fiscal year. We also emphasized that the Finance Council's primary focus is "achieving financial balance in our operations, where revenues match expenses."

For the 2023-24 fiscal year, we achieved a slight reduction in our operating deficit (in line with our projections), and our cash position increased by approximately \$132,000.

These "bottom line" numbers do not tell the whole story. As in prior years, following the end of the 2022-23 school year, we lost a number of elementary school faculty members to higher-paying jobs at other schools. To combat this trend, a concerted effort was undertaken by the School Advisory Board to raise funds in excess of the school's budgeted fundraising amount and use that excess to fund bonuses for the school's faculty and staff. As a result of those efforts and the generous donations of talent and treasure by parents and parishioners, the school was able to (i) pay unbudgeted bonuses of approximately \$214,000 to school faculty and staff and (ii) set aside just over \$82,000 to fund future bonuses without negatively impacting the bottom line relative to our projections. We believe these bonuses contributed heavily to the increased retention of our faculty this year.

Turning to the current fiscal year, our final budget achieves the balance aspired to in last year's report. A key to achieving this balanced budget is a projected 6% increase in the offertory. Last year, the offertory increased by 3.4%. Therefore, to achieve this goal, we once again humbly request that parishioners who regularly contribute consider increasing the amount of their offertory contributions and ask those parishioners who do not regularly contribute to consider doing so. Various methods of giving can be found on the final page of this report.

We believe the Parish and elementary school have strong tailwinds behind them as we enter this fiscal year. Jimmy Bajner joined the elementary school as Principal on July 1, and enrollment has continued to trend positively. Our Director of Stewardship and Development, Jennifer Zeisloft, is in her second year in the role. Her efforts have provided the Parish and elementary school with access to previously untapped resources. Finally, the contributions of time, talent, and treasure of all parishioners continue to demonstrate how blessed we are to be members of St. Francis Xavier Parish.

It is our honor and privilege to serve the Parish as stewards of its financial resources. We extend our deepest gratitude to all who have generously contributed their time, talents, and treasure. Your past contributions have been instrumental in our achievements, and we humbly request your continued generosity so that our staff and volunteers can continue their wonderful work in service of the parish's mission.

With gratitude,

Cathy Bier, Carolyn Broughton, Jennifer Driscoll, Tom Kostal, Jim Owen (Chair), Meredith Ritchie, John Schaff

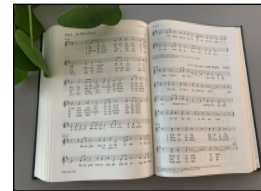
Stewardship

Belong. Believe. Be Love. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our parish community embraces this identity statement in many ways, including through stewardship (time, talent, treasure).

Devoting Time in Prayer

Our 500 new *Gather* hymnals are central in our liturgies as we devote time in prayer to God. One of my absolute favorite hymns is *In This Place* (#1041, lyrics by Victoria Thomson):

*We are gathered at table as one in the Lord.
We are gathered as people who are living the Word.
Our hearts and our spirits are nurtured by grace.
It is Jesus who fills us. He is here in this place.*



Allen Sterwalt, our Music Director, shares: “The sung prayer we share by opening our hymnals and singing with one another is a wonderful gift of God’s love and grace given to all, whether you are active in a leadership role with one of our many music ministries, or you continue to be present in the pews. Our newest hymnal offers a message of inclusivity and hospitality for ALL who walk through our doors. No matter if you are a more traditional worshiper, or looking ahead to a new way to pray, this newest hymnal brings prayer through song to our liturgies which reflect the Church’s need to connect to our modern world, while at the same time, allowing our rich and beautiful music traditions to shine through as an important foundation of our Christian faith. St. Francis Xavier continues to be open to progress through our music and liturgy. My mission and challenge as Director of Music at SFX is to continue offering opportunities for a more meaningful spiritual connection for every person entering our beautiful church. I pray that we will always remain open to a renewal of heart and mind, through sung prayer - old and new.”

Sharing Talent

We celebrated the stewardship of sharing our talents with a significant anniversary in June. According to Mary Freeman, our Director of Community Outreach, we planned the first All Parish Service Day in 2015 as part of our 125th Anniversary celebration. Using a line from Patrick Windmoeller, SFX School alum, our parishioners said YES to “Doing God’s Work in the World.” In June 2024, we celebrated our 10th **Annual Service Days** with 262 volunteers participating. While our parish responds daily to the needs of our community through many outreach ministries, our All Parish Service Days have given hundreds of parishioners the opportunity to serve with 44 partners in our community and Chicagoland. We developed relationships with many of these partners through our parishioners’ involvement with their missions.



Stewardship

The dedication of our volunteers was also in full force as our parish community gathered at the first annual Ignite Benefit, celebrating the ministry of our elementary school. Our **Ignite 2024** chairs and School Advisory Board members conceptualized and brought to fruition the school's largest event fundraiser ever, enabling the establishment of faculty and staff bonuses as part of the school's annual budget. Many of us know that Catholic educators' salaries and benefits are significantly lower than those in public schools; the success of Ignite 2024 raised over \$350,000 in support of Catholic elementary school education. In addition, the school honored Joe and Bea Nelligan for their decades of stewardship in the parish, especially the school. Finally, we wished principal Sharon Garcia a happy retirement, and welcomed Jimmy Bajner as our new principal. The school has another fabulous team in the planning stages for Ignite 2025, which is on the parish calendar for April 26, 2025 – hope to see you there!



Giving Treasure

Before I came to work at St. Francis Xavier, I thought of pastoral care as a vocation for our priests alone. Now I see that, in addition to two wonderful priests, our parish is blessed with other pastoral staff members who are vital shepherds here. One of these members is our Pastoral Associate, Maggie McMahon, MDiv. Maggie is passionate about bringing Christ into our community in many ways, including helping others learn about our Catholic faith and grow along their own faith journey.

Building a relationship with Jesus is a lifelong undertaking. Our “grade school understanding” of God likely cannot stand up to our questions as we pass through the challenges of each decade of life. However, if we continuously explore our relationship with Jesus, our growing understanding reveals the graces present to each of us. While some explore and nurture this relationship on their own, blessings abound from having a trained, professional minister to guide us. The multiplication factor cannot be underestimated in faith formation programs such as Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (formerly RCIA) or Alpha. Maggie McMahon shares: “St. Francis is an incredible community of welcome and **Belong-ing**. But oftentimes we aren’t sure how to take our next step to keep growing in our **Believe-ing**, and that’s the great joy of my job! I love walking with others as the Holy Spirit invites them deeper. And I love equipping people to turn around and confidently welcome the next person, walk in the Spirit with them, and support them in their mission to **Be Love**.”

The outpouring of time, talent and treasure here at SFX truly shows that “*We are gathered as people who are living the Word.*” God bless you!

In gratitude for your stewardship,
Jennifer Zeisloft
Director of Stewardship & Development

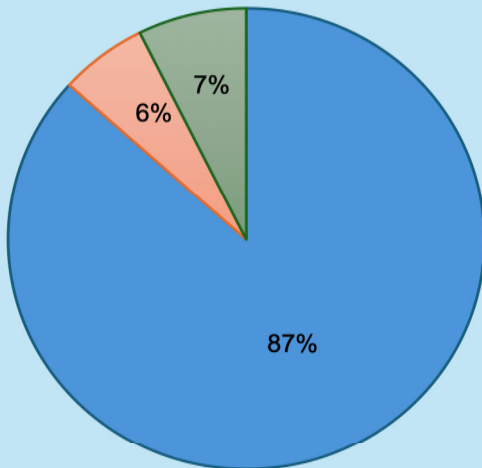
Finance Report

During budget preparation, the Finance Council, Director of Operations, and Principal strive to present the Pastor with a balanced budget. For the 2024-2025 budget, the Finance Council recommends a 6% offertory increase. This increase will help eliminate the budget deficit.

Church and Religious Education

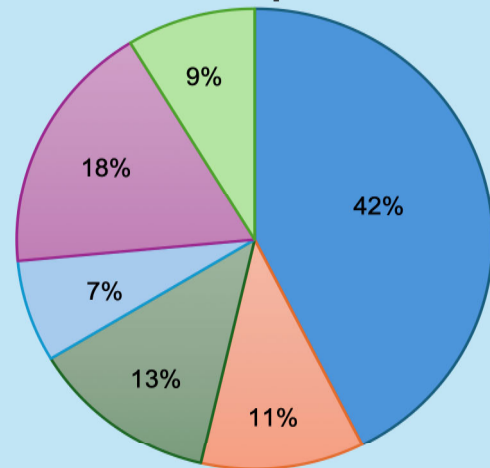
	Actual 6/30/23	Actual 6/30/24	Budget 6/30/25
Operating Church & Religious Education Revenue			
Sunday, Holy Days, Christmas & Easter	1,761,074	1,820,622	1,965,000
Other Operating Income and Interest Income	87,014	125,016	62,000
Religious Education Tuition, Fees, and Fundraising	134,059	154,920	153,550
Total Church & Religious Education Revenue	\$1,982,147	\$2,100,558	\$2,180,550
Operating Church & Religious Education Expenses			
Salaries, FICA, Health, Retirement, Professional Dev.	924,385	930,462	975,421
Archdiocesan Admin., Priest Retirement	232,164	243,036	245,743
Building and Grounds	214,193	278,686	229,473
Liturgical and Administrative	134,272	156,395	149,601
School Subsidy (see next page)	394,540	387,696	351,738
Religious Education Expenses	184,155	191,503	228,574
Total Church & Religious Education Expenses	\$2,083,709	\$2,187,778	\$2,180,550
Net Church & RE Operating Surplus (Deficit)	(\$101,562)	(\$87,220)	\$0

Church & RE Revenue FY24



- Sunday, Holy Days, Christmas & Easter
- Other Operating Income and Interest Income
- Religious Education Tuition, Fees, and Fundraising

Church & RE Expenses FY24



- Salaries, FICA, Health, Retirement, Professional Dev.
- Archdiocesan Admin., Priest Retirement
- Building and Grounds
- Liturgical and Administrative
- School Subsidy (see next page)
- Religious Education Expenses

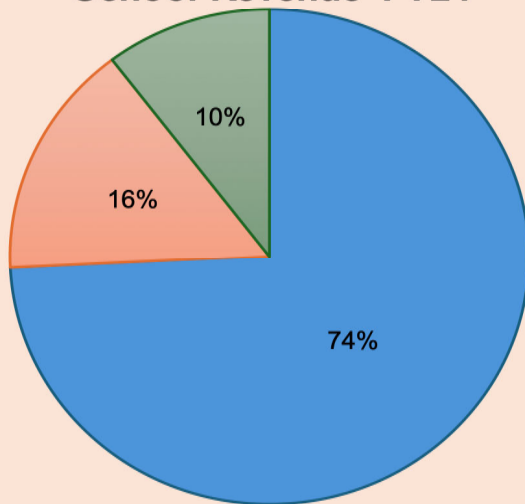
Finance Report

School

	Actual 6/30/23	Actual 6/30/24	Budget 6/30/25
School Revenue			
School Tuition, Fees, and Misc. Operating Revenue	2,427,682	2,774,887	2,896,192
Fundraising	262,900	575,780	563,000
Subsidy from Parish	394,540	387,696	351,738
Total School Revenue	\$3,085,122	\$3,738,363	\$3,810,930
School Expenses			
Salaries, FICA, Health, Retirement, Prof. Development	2,522,984	2,714,249	2,895,103
Faculty/Staff Bonuses (including FICA)	0	213,954	214,000
Faculty/Staff Bonus Reserve*	0	82,734	0
Building and Grounds	295,099	331,541	281,294
Instructional, Technology, and Other Operating Expenses	267,039	395,885	420,533
Total School Expenses	\$3,085,122	\$3,738,363	\$3,810,930

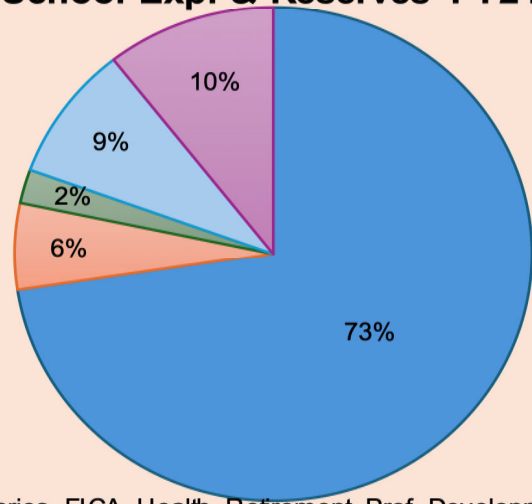
* The faculty/staff bonus reserve is maintained to absorb fluctuations in fundraising, ensuring a consistent bonus fund for school faculty and staff each year.

School Revenue FY24



- School Tuition, Fees, and Misc. Operating Revenue
- Fundraising
- Subsidy from Parish

School Exp. & Reserves FY24



- Salaries, FICA, Health, Retirement, Prof. Development
- Faculty/Staff Bonuses (including FICA)
- Faculty/Staff Bonus Reserve*
- Building and Grounds
- Instructional, Technology, and Other Operating Expenses

Non-Operating Sources of Parish Income

	Actual 6/30/23	Actual 6/30/24
Building/Capital Fund	\$138,820	\$143,174
Bequests	20,000	60,000
Memorials	8,553	2,350
Educational Endowment Draw	0	40,000

Other Financial Information

Statement of Cash Position

	6/30/22	6/30/23	6/30/24	
Unrestricted Funds				
Cash and Savings on Deposit	1,462,994	1,430,263	1,787,858	
Current Cash Liabilities	545,359	535,406	761,078	
Net Cash Position	\$ 917,635	\$ 894,858	\$ 1,026,779	
Restricted Funds for Long Term Initiatives				
Building Fund	805,779	608,597	121,323	Note 1
Bonus Reserve Fund	-	-	101,826	Note 2
Parish Endowment Fund	267,155	384,164	424,927	
Educational Endowment Fund	976,425	932,227	1,016,084	Note 3
Restricted Funds on Deposit	\$ 2,049,359	\$ 1,924,988	\$ 1,664,160	

Note 1: The final payment for the school's roof replacement was completed in July 2023. The remaining balance of the Building Fund was primarily allocated towards the replacement of air conditioning units and sewage pumps during the summer of 2024. The final expenditures related to these projects are expected to be completed and paid by the end of fiscal year 2025.

Note 2: The Bonus Reserve Fund was established to mitigate fluctuations in annual fundraising efforts. Its purpose is to ensure the consistent provision of bonus payments to faculty and staff across fiscal years, stabilizing bonus distributions despite variances in fundraising income.

Note 3: The Educational Endowment Fund surpassed the \$1 million milestone during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. The first significant distribution of earnings, amounting to \$40,000, was used to provide bonuses for faculty and staff. The growth of the fund was supported in part by a bequest from Eleanor, Irene, and Father Jim O'Connor, which contributed to reaching the \$1 million threshold.

Other Giving

SFX received directed donations for the following outreach ministries:

Annual Catholic Appeal 2024	120,331
SFX Food Pantry	69,274
St. Simon of Cyrene (formerly St. Agatha Parish)	20,688
St. Vincent de Paul Society	17,388
Fuller Center for Housing	7,193
Other Charitable Organizations (for a complete list, visit www.sfxlg.org)	63,446
Total	\$298,320

Giving Treasure—Frequently Asked Questions

Considering which method of giving is right for you? Check out the FAQ below.

What method of giving is most cost-effective for the parish?

- Online monthly donations from your bank checking or savings account.
- The processing fees for these are about 0.5%, as compared to credit card fees of 3.5%.

If I want to give using my credit card, can I cover the higher transaction fee?

- Yes – you can! This is relatively new to Give Central, our online giving processor.
- Log into your Give Central account and select “I would like to cover the processing fee” when you make or change your contribution.

I prefer using offertory envelopes – is that ok?

- Absolutely. Please continue to do so.
- We have identified ways to reduce the cost of printing and mailing, and there were some changes made in January 2024 to the number of envelopes and frequency of mailing.

How important is my Christmas or Easter donation?

- Very important! These two special donations totaled 13% (\$241,489) of our funding last year.
- While all parishioners receive the envelopes with Fr. Bill’s Christmas and Easter reflections, you can set up online giving right now using the QR code above.

Are there any other methods to give to offertory?

- Yes. Donations of appreciated stock, IRA distributions, and donor advised funds are tax-efficient methods, which many donors prefer.
- Contact Jennifer Zeisloft, Director of Stewardship and Development, at 708-352-0168 or jzeisloft@sfxlg.org to learn more and if you have questions about these giving methods.

Set up regular donations with this QR code. Thank you for your support to SFX Parish!



Enrollment Statistics

Elementary School Enrollment

October 2023: 449
October 2024: 462

Religious Education Enrollment

October 2023: 609
October 2024: 625

Parish Statistics

Baptisms

2022-2023 175
2023-2024 164

Confirmations

2022-2023 126
2023-2024 96

Funerals/Burials

2022-2023 64
2023-2024 59

First Communion

2022-2023 117
2023-2024 132

Marriages

2022-2023 25
2023-2024 34

Newly Registered Families

2022-2023 104
2023-2024 145



MINISTRY RESOURCE GUIDE

St. Francis Xavier Parish

Ministry Resource Guide

Welcome! Within these pages, you will find: 1) A list of the ministries, organizations and resources available through St. Francis Xavier Parish and 2) Opportunities for you to share time and talent throughout the community. Ministries & Organizations are grouped into Liturgy; Adult Formation, Spirituality, and Evangelization; Children and Youth; Outreach and Parish Life. To become more deeply involved in a particular area, please connect with the contact person listed. Questions? Contact the Rectory Office at sfxinlg@sfxlg.org or 708-352-0168.

Thank you for sharing your gifts!

Liturgy

Altar Committee **Contact: Bernadette McMahon**
bbcmahon@comcast.net

This committee cares for altar linens (purificators, altar cloths) and does a light cleaning of the church each week.

Volunteer Time Commitment - Those who attend daily or Saturday mass could easily assist with this committee as often as you are able.

Altar Servers **Contact: Missy Westerhoff**
sfxinlg@sfxlg.org / 708-352-0168

Seventh and eighth grade students from both the SFX Elementary School and the School of Religious Education are eligible to be altar servers. Girls and boys may serve. Before starting as an altar server, students must attend training sessions.

Volunteer Time Commitment - varies

Art & Environment **Contact: Celine Heraty**
cmheraty@gmail.com

This committee is responsible for creating a mood or atmosphere that helps make our worship space a suitable place for liturgy. Through color, texture, and design, a sense of warmth and hospitality is achieved, making St. Francis Xavier an inviting place for all worshippers.

Volunteer Time Commitment - varies. Advent and Lenten preparations take about three hours to set up. Christmas is slightly longer because of decorating the tree. There are many hands needed during Holy Week.

Bereavement Ministry **Contact: Fr. Rich Milek**
rmilek@sfxlg.org / 708-352-0168

The Bereavement Ministry of St. Francis Xavier Parish is made up of generous and caring men and women who have made the commitment to accompany their fellow parishioners through the journey of grief.

Volunteer Time Commitment - Ministers of Consolation are available during the evening and morning hours to attend wakes and funeral liturgies, as well as occasional training and formation sessions.

Eucharistic Ministers **Contact: George Rutkowski**
grutkowski@aol.com

Eucharistic Ministers are lay persons mandated to assist the priests in distributing the Eucharist at Mass. High School age and above.

Volunteer Time Commitment - Eucharistic Ministers serve at mass according to a published schedule. On average, ministers serve 2x per month.

Funeral Sacristans **Contact: Missy Westerhoff**
sfxinlg@sfxlg.org / 708-352-0168

Funeral Sacristans are special "on-call" adults who serve both as sacristan and altar server, and set up for the Funeral Masses.

Volunteer Time Commitment - Funeral Sacristans are needed with 1-3 day notice, usually for about 2 hours in the morning.

Greeters **Contact: Maggie McMahon**
mmcmahon@sfxlg.org

Greeters are some of the first people to welcome parishioners and visitors to our weekend liturgies. It is a ministry of hospitality.

Volunteer Time Commitment - Greeters arrive 15-20 minutes before each scheduled mass in order to welcome those who attend. They serve at a mass time of their choice, as their schedules allow.

Lay Leaders of Prayer **Contact: Maureen Pipal**
mpipal@sfxlg.org / 708-352-0168

These men and women assist by hosting Word and Communion services when necessary and lead worship at various other prayer services.

Volunteer Time Commitment - several hours approximaely once a month, as your schedule allows. Training provided as necessary.

Lectors **Contact: Susie Lehuta**
lehutams@gmail.com

Lectors read the scripture selections for the weekend liturgies. (High School age and above)

Volunteer Time Commitment – Scheduled based on need and availability at the mass time you select. As often as you are willing. One time training session is required.

Liturgy Planning **Contact: Bernadette Mc Mahon**
bbcmahon@comcast.net

Four teams of 4-6 parishioners do seasonal and weekly liturgy planning. Our focus is on practical, real-life applications of scripture. Teams meet to reflect on the scriptures for assigned Sundays. Based on that reflection, notes are written for homilists' consideration, prayers are selected/written, general intercessions are written, and an ordo form is submitted. Representatives of each team and the parish staff do seasonal planning for Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. We gather to reflect, pray and share our thoughts.

Volunteer Time Commitment – An annual planning schedule is prepared. Teams meet for 90 minutes every six weeks, at a time and place of their choosing, in addition to advance preparation and reflection, post-meeting writing, and organization of the ordo.

Ministers of Care **Contact: Mary Sue and Scott McDonald**
sjmcdonal@yahoo.com

Educated and formed Ministers of Care in our parish bring the gifts of Eucharist and companionship to those living in nursing homes, the permanently homebound, and parishioners who are patients in our local hospitals. Their visits to those who are unable to attend liturgy at church allow these parishioners to remain connected to the parish community in the sharing and celebration of the Eucharist—Jesus present in all of our lives.

Volunteer Time Commitment –variable and can range from 1 hour per week to 3 hours per month. Initial training consists of 12 classroom hours of education/formation in accordance with archdiocesan policy.

Music Ministry **Contact: Allen Sterwalt** Director of Music Ministry
asterwalt@sfxlg.org / 708-352-0168

Singers and instrumentalists of all ages come together to worship the Lord through music. It's a hands-on desire for spiritual growth through community that brings people to this special ministry. We sing with one another and with the parish community in hopes that the Holy Spirit may be found and heard in each one of us. There are numerous opportunities for people of all ages to serve: Cantors, Celebration Ensemble, Gallery Choir, Men's Schola, Resurrection Choir, Spirit Choir, Cherub Choir, SF Choristers, and Instrumentalists.

Volunteer Time Commitment – varies. Please visit the Music Ministry page on the parish website (sfxlg.org) for rehearsal schedule.

Sunday Sacristans **Contact: Steve Eaton**
stevenfeaton@gmail.com

The sacristan carefully arranges the liturgical books, the vestments, and other things necessary in the celebration of Mass. This person undertakes the overall preparation of liturgical celebrations, including all that is needed for special days, such as Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday.

Volunteer Time Commitment – Sunday Sacristans are scheduled on a rotating basis.

Ushers **Contact: Mike Hattie**
michaelhattie@sbcglobal.net

Ushers will seat at mass, select individuals/families for the procession of gifts, collect offerings, assist with seating those who require additional assistance, distribute bulletins, and contact appropriate person in emergency situations.

Volunteer Time Commitment – Monthly rotation at a mass time you request.

Wedding Ministry **Contact: Sue Baker**
grandbaker30@gmail.com

Do you want to be part of our greatest Sacrament of unity and love? We serve in teams of two, assisting at wedding ceremonies, arriving one hour prior to the scheduled start time. Duties range from answering questions about the history of the church to helping with last minute details. We assist various participants of the wedding (i.e. Florist, Musician, etc.), including lining up the wedding party for the opening procession. Team members who are Eucharistic Ministers may also help distribute communion.

Volunteer Time Commitment – Approximately two and one half hours per wedding, with an average of 8 assignments per year, always working in pairs. Join us and we'll provide guidance and training in this important Service Ministry of our Parish.

Adult Formation, Spirituality and Evangelization

Adult Faith Formation **Contact: Maggie McMahon**
mmcmahon@sfxlg.org

This group facilitates or participates in small group discussion and other seasonal faith formation events with the guidance of the Pastoral Associate. *Time commitment varies according to the event and role of the participant.*

Baptismal Prep **Contact: Missy Westerhoff**
mwesterhoff@sfxlg.org

When you sign up for the baptism, you will be given a link to do on-line preparation for the baptism.

That Man Is You Men's Group**Contact: Patrick McMahon**
patrick.mcmahon65@gmail.com

TMIY Men's Group gathers weekly for a social, video content, and small group faith sharing on the topic of authentic male leadership in a modern context. The group meets for 26 weeks throughout the year, 13 weeks in the fall and 13 weeks in the spring. Meetings last about last about an hour and half, and participants are encouraged to join when they can -- even if not every week. Core Team members (who facilitate the group) can expect to commit roughly 12 hours a month during the fall and spring (including the weekly gatherings).

Becoming Catholic (OCIA)**Contact: Susan Lindsay**
selindsay22@yahoo.com

RCIA offers an opportunity for adults to become fully initiated into the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Volunteers are needed to invite and accompany participants to parish events.

Volunteer Time Commitment – As your schedule allows. The process goes from late September/early October until May. Some Sundays are also needed.

Retired Men**Contact: John Carroll**
jrcnfamily@aol.com / 708-354-0205

This group offers an informal monthly gathering of retired men of the parish. Its mission is educational, social and spiritual.

Volunteer Time Commitment - monthly meetings and gatherings are 1-2 hours in length.

Senior Women**Contact: Clare Froemel** clare.froemel@gmail.com / 708-354-9386
Marge Schwendner mmsnana3@yahoo.com / 708-203-3459

All senior women are welcome. The luncheon requires a reservation with a fee. The meetings are announced in the church bulletin and a reminder is sent by mail.

Volunteer Time Commitment - we meet 4 times a year, 3 in the east rectory meeting room with a speaker of interest. The 4th meeting is a spring luncheon.

**SPRED
Special Religious Development****Contact: Nancy Kalkowski** Friday Group Chair
nancy.kalkowski@gmail.com
Cindy Anderson Saturday Group Chair
cindyaaa@comcast.net

The goal of SPRED is for catechists and friends with special needs to form a community of faith in which everyone experiences the presence of God. We are committed to the belief that every person deserves an opportunity to grow in faith and to be part of our Church community. The SFX SPRED program is specifically designed as a journey in faith for young adults and adults. Children and adolescents are served at other local parishes.

Volunteer Time Commitment – varies. Nancy is the Friday Group Chair; Cindy is the Saturday Group Chair.

Children and Youth

Boy/Girl Scout Troop 33**Pam Titzer** Committee Chairperson: pamtitzer@sbcglobal.net
Marko Magajne mfmagajne@gmail.com

BSA provides a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develops physical fitness. Involvement in BSA helps build the future leaders of this country by combining educational activities and lifelong values with fun. The Boy Scouts of America believes that helping youth is key to building a more conscientious, responsible, and productive society. Troop 33 at St. Francis Xavier Church is sponsored by the SFX Men's Club.

Volunteer Time Commitment - we have weekly Thursday night meetings from 7:30-8:30pm in Joyce Hall and have monthly outings (e.g. campouts and activities). Any adult that is willing to assist with the Boy Scouts is encouraged to volunteer. No previous scouting experience is required.

Confirmation Prep**Contact: Elis Guidice**, Religious Education Director
eguidice@sfxlg.org / 708-352-4555

Confirmation Prep begins with catechesis in the 7th and 8th grade religious formation program and concludes with a final retreat in the Fall of Freshman Year followed by the Confirmation celebration the month after the Retreat.

Volunteer Time Commitment varies. New volunteers are sought each spring and summer.

Cub Scout Pack 33**Contact: Brian Lisek**
brian.lisek@me.com

We offer outstanding growth experiences for boys by preparing them to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes - instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. Details about Cub Scout Troop 33 can be found at sfxcubscoutpack33.wixsite.com/ourwebsite.

Volunteer Time Commitment - We have several adult leadership positions that need to be filled. Commitment varies from 6 to 40 hours/year.

Girl Scouts of SFX**Contact: Veronica Ponce** School Coordinator
verocxx@gmail.com

Saint Francis Xavier Girl Scouts is an organization dedicated to living by the Girl Scout promise and law while encouraging girls to build self confidence by trying new activities. One of our more popular activities is selling cookies! We have troops at the Daisy, Brownie, Junior and Cadette levels. There are opportunities for adult troop leaders or cookie managers.

Volunteer Time Commitment - varies depending on troop and responsibility

Family & School Association**Contact: Shanae Strayer**
Visit the Day School page at www.sfxlg.org

The St. Francis Xavier Family and School Association, better known as FSA, provides the supportive link between the families and the school. We are comprised of a Board of five couples, 40 different committees, and hundreds of volunteers. All Day School families are members of FSA.

Volunteer Time Commitment varies.

School of Religious Ed.**Contact: Elis Guidice**, Director of Religious Education
eguidice@sfxlg.org / 708-352-4555

The School of Religious Education offers both an in-person and online catechesis program. Catechists and catechist aides offer their time and talent to reach the Word of God to our young parishioners. Today, SFX has over 600 students in ten towns. There are 50+ catechists and several aides.

Volunteer Time Commitment – varies. Catechists meet according to RE calendar for the school year. The Advisory Board is to meet once a month.

Parish Life

Baptismal Banners**Contact: Missy Westerhoff**
mwesterhoff@sfxlg.org

Members of this ministry make all the baptismal banners for parish baptisms. Each baptismal banner is a special keepsake for the family.

Volunteer Time Commitment – varies according to the number of children being baptized, but requires cutting, sewing, gluing and delivery of banners on a monthly basis.

Catholic Women's Club**Contact: Katie Gallagher**
katiehuston@yahoo.com

All women over the age of 21 who are registered parishioners are in the SFX Catholic Women's Club. Our purpose is to welcome new women into the parish, provide spiritual and social activities for members, encourage participation in parish life, and promote charitable and humanitarian projects on behalf of SFX.

Volunteer Time Commitment – varies with particular activities. You are welcome to become as involved as your schedule allows.

Edythe Gardeners**Contact: Cathy Skokna**
cmskokna@att.net

In memory of the many years of gardening and beautification work done by Edythe Skokna, this group aims to beautify the church grounds by creating and maintaining seasonal baskets, refreshing planters, and caring for all plantings on the church grounds.

Volunteer Time Commitment – any and all "green thumbs" are invited to help in any way they can, any or all seasons of the year.

Men's Club**Contact: Matt Hubert or Jack Horrigan**
mthubert@gmail.com jfhorrigan@gmail.com

The Men's Club is an organization of adult male members of St. Francis Xavier Parish whose purpose is to enhance the spiritual and social life of its members, while providing support to various organizations of the parish and our local community. The SFX Men's Club helps sponsor BEDS, Boy Scouts Pack #33, Cub Scouts Pack#33, Food Pantry, Girl Scouts, Habitat for Humanity, SFX Athletics, along with many other activities.

Volunteer Time Commitment - meets 2nd Tuesday every month, 7:30pm. Social and Spiritual events are scheduled throughout the year.

Toddlers Together**Contact: Maggie McMahon**
mmcmahon@sfxlg.org

Connecting families with children under age 5.

Outreach

All Parish Service Day**Contact: Mary Freeman**, Director of Community Outreach
mfreeman@sfxlg.org / 708-352-0168

Annual outreach event to connect parishioners with one another and live the Gospel message of discipleship in our community and Chicagoland.

Volunteer Time Commitment - Team leaders work with an outreach organization to organize a service activity for 10-20 people for approximately 2 hours in early June.

Seasons of Hope Grief Group	In need of facilitator Contact Maggie McMahon at mmcmahon@sfxlg.org
Seasons of Hope Grief Group runs 3-4 times a year for a six-week series of conversation and reflection after the loss of a loved one. Participants commit to about one hour a week for a six-week period, while facilitators commit to 2-3 hours a week for the six-week period.	
Family Outreach Ministry	Contact: Ana Dimailig apd3@core.com Rachel Peterson petersonrtw@sbcglobal.net
The Family Outreach Ministry is designed for families to teach children and model the gift of stewardship. Throughout the year we serve the Saturday meal program at the First Congregational Church of LaGrange. <i>Volunteer Time Commitment – Each event is about a two hour commitment.</i>	
Food Pantry	Contact: Mary Freeman , Food Pantry Coordinator mfreeman@sfxlg.org / 708-352-0168
The Pantry's mission is to: (1) provide supplemental nutritious food assistance to those in need in a safe, respectful and prayerful environment and (2) partner with our community through food drives and volunteer opportunities. <i>Volunteer Time Commitment – Monday and Tuesday mornings and special projects as needed. Donations are always welcome and can be dropped off at the rectory or the side altars in the church.</i>	
Fuller Center (Formerly Habitat)	Contact: Bob Albertini smc87@sbcglobal.net
The SFX Fuller Center ministry helps to build affordable housing for low income families in Clarksdale, Mississippi. In the process of fulfilling this ministry, SFX parishioners have an opportunity to meet and work with future homeowners. <i>Volunteer Time Commitment – Volunteers spend one week in Clarksdale during the summer months. We leave SFX early on a Saturday morning and return the following Friday.</i>	
Kitchen Angels	Contact: Susie Lehuta lehutams@gmail.com
Kitchen Angels reach out to those in need by offering a home-cooked meal. When the parish is made aware of an individual or family who could be helped with one or several meals, a volunteer will contact you to see if you could prepare a meal in the coming week, on an evening that fits your schedule. Everyone has a favorite dish... share one with someone in need! <i>Volunteer Time Commitment – On average, volunteers are called to supply one meal every 3 months based on requests.</i>	
Knights of Columbus	Contact: Brian Lisek brian.lisek@me.com / 630-939-2626
The Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic family fraternal organization in the world. It provides an opportunity for the men of the parish to deepen their faith, while it offers support for families and involvement in community service. <i>Volunteer Time Commitment – Voluntary monthly business meetings along with voluntary monthly social and service events.</i>	
Peace and Justice	Contact: Mary Freeman mfreeman@sfxlg.org / 708-352-0168
Peace and Justice Ministry carries out the teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount; to work for peace and justice in our community, the world and on behalf of all creation; to involve the parish and the broader community in this mission; and to create awareness through education, dialogue and action. Events are scheduled throughout the year. All are welcome!	
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Contact: Mary Freeman mfreeman@sfxlg.org
Members of this ministry knit and crochet prayer shawls intended to provide comfort for the recipients, including Fisher House. We also make baby blankets for several ministries and warm scarves and hats for the BEDS program and SFX food pantry. Ways to become involved include knitting or crocheting, donating supplies (yarn and ribbon), making a monetary contribution for supplies, and praying for all involved. <i>Volunteer Time Commitment - crafting is primarily done at home on your own time and at your own pace, but the group also meets in Unity Hall several times a year.</i>	
St. Vincent DePaul Society	Contact: Pat Murphy ptmnrj2@yahoo.com
Vincentians are united in an international society of charity by their spirit of poverty, humility and sharing, which is nourished by prayer and reflection, mutually supportive gatherings and adherence to a basic Rule. Locally, the St. Vincent de Paul Society helps individuals and families address the needs and requirements of everyday life: food, clothing, shelter. <i>Volunteer Time Commitment – We meet on the first Monday of each month from 7:00-8:00pm in the rectory. In addition to the meetings, approximately 2 hours every other month is required to help those in need.</i>	
Welcome Committee	Contact: Laura Duelm / Maggie McMahon lauraduelm@hotmail.com / mcmahon@sfxlg.org
Our goal is to welcome new parishioners by inviting them to attend a prayer service and welcome dinner and helping them to connect to any other ministry or group that may interest them. <i>Volunteer opportunities - assist with dinner social, letter writing and ornament delivery.</i>	



DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX SURVEY

SHARE YOUR VOICE SUPPORT OUR PARISH

It's official! The **Disciple Maker Index (DMI) Survey** is a great way to reflect on your own spiritual growth while helping our parish plan for the future.

Please help by completing the short, 10–15-minute survey as soon as possible. Visit catholicleaders.org/chicagodmi or scan the code below.

We will provide hard copies of the survey at the church doors.

The survey is available from **Ash Wednesday, February 22 to March 31** and will ask you to consider your spiritual growth and provide feedback on our parish's efforts to help you grow. All responses are **anonymous**, and the parish will only receive information about the community as a whole.

We will receive the results this spring/summer at which time we will share what we have learned with the entire parish.

Don't miss this opportunity to be heard.



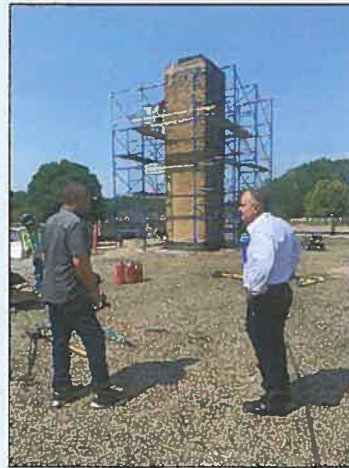
Thank you for helping our parish!

SUMMER CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE

In June, our project hummed along on schedule!



All the stones you see on the rooftop were vacuumed up in preparation for the new roof to be installed.



While masons were on our rooftop to do work on the windows, the B&G Committee recommended we add tuckpointing on the chimney stack.

Antonio Franceschi (our Facility Manager) and Frank Mungo (from our Buildings and Grounds Committee) also conferred on the heating system in a classroom on the third floor.



Make an investment in our project by contributing to the Building Fund! Use this QR code or visit our website www.sfxlg.org and click on **Donate**.

DMI SURVEY RESULTS

Dear St. Francis Xavier Family,

Thank you to all who took time this past Lent to complete the Disciple Maker Index survey. **271 parishioners**, which accounts for about **27% of those who attend Mass regularly**, shared their input on several aspects of faith and community life at St. Francis Xavier. As you may recall, the survey asked questions about each parishioner's own journey of discipleship and how well the parish and the pastor are supporting you along the way.

Our Parish Pastoral Council, pastoral staff, our parish Evangelization Team, and I will take time when we resume meeting in late August to review and interpret the results and develop a comprehensive report on what was collectively shared. Following that initial assessment, and guided by our parish Evangelization Team, we will identify actions to address specific areas of growth – whether for the parish or for me, personally, as pastor.

I am grateful to everyone in our parish for what you have contributed through this survey. I welcome further input from any who have not yet participated; the August report will provide more direction for your feedback. In so many ways you have witnessed that we, as a community of faith, are hungry to grow closer to our Lord and to assist one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. I look forward to sharing more in the coming months and working with all of you to continue renewing our local Church and our community of faith.

Summer Peace,
Fr. Bill

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 24, 2023



FIRST



“Thus, the last will be
first, and the first
will be last.”

MATTHEW 20:16

Who do you say that we are?

Several weeks ago, Jesus asked a very similar question of his disciples. Peter spoke up, proclaiming Jesus as “the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Today, we invite all parishioners to respond to this question as it applies to St. Francis Xavier Parish. We also begin to provide the results of the Disciple Maker Index Survey, which all parishioners were invited to complete in Lent 2023. Today’s request is much simpler, and yet requires some reflection. What are the **three words** that you think best describe St. Francis Xavier Parish? If someone asked you to describe this parish in three distinct words, what three words would you choose?

Disciple Missionary Index: The Results

Over the past few months, a group of parish staff, parish leaders, and I have reviewed the results of the Disciple Maker Index survey, which everyone was invited to complete during this past Lent. 271 parishioners chose to complete the survey.

Breakdown of Respondents

99% Catholic	67% Female
95% Caucasian	61% Pray daily
88% Attend Mass at least weekly	57% Parishioners for < 20 years
75% Married	53% Give < 10% of my income annually

There is much to be hopeful about in the responses. One clear strength of the parish is a sense of welcoming. Respondents also affirmed the vibrancy of our Masses and our various forms of outreach to those in need. There is strong belief in the Risen Lord and his presence in Word and Eucharist.

Motivation to Recommend

St. Francis Xavier Parish to Others

- 94%** Information is readily available
- 91%** A welcoming community
- 89%** Financial transparency
- 88%** The parish staff
- 85%** Vibrant/ engaging liturgies
- 81%** Helps me to reflect on God in my life
- 79%** Preaching and homilies
- 75%** The pastor

Belief in Core Catholic Teaching

- 92%** Jesus died and rose from the dead for my salvation
- 89%** Scripture is the Word of God
- 86%** Jesus’ moral teachings for my life as taught by the Church
- 83%** Eucharist is really the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ
- 73%** The Church is critical to my relationship with God
- 71%** Teaching authority of the Church

I also find hope in the areas that indicate opportunities for improvement. The strong sense of belief and community seemed not to extend outward to relationships in the community. A significant percentage stated that they had *never* shared with others the stories of Jesus or their own spiritual encounters with God. This is key to a *missionary* disciple, who shares their beliefs with others. Many of us were raised to think of this as a “Protestant” practice, while Catholics “came to Mass” and “obeyed” the teachings of the Church. However, our culture has changed significantly. Most Catholics do not “come to Mass” on weekends and have lost a sense of the purpose in doing so. We who gather to be nourished and strengthened by Word and Eucharist have a responsibility to *witness* to what we believe and how that directs what we do.

Opportunities for Growth

I have never:

- 76% Participated in a retreat
- 62% Participated in a class or workshop to develop my faith
- 56% Participated in a Bible study or prayer group
- 42% Shared a personal faith story
- 36% Shared a story of Jesus
- 35% Invited someone to Mass
- 34% Invited someone to a parish activity
- 21% Prayed with someone
- 18% Volunteered to serve someone

In the aftermath of a Church scandal that has shocked Catholics over the past 30 years, many have walked away from the Church and/or lost respect for its leaders. We who remain are challenged to **be** a church that is much broader and deeper than its hierarchy or even its failures in any given era. We are called to share with others the *meaning and support* that we find in coming together as the People of God and disciples of Jesus. How do we help and encourage one another in our mission of witness?

Posted to our website is a series of reports that provide additional results and insights that parish leadership will use to identify and develop future actions. We will take time to prayerfully develop realistic, yet aspirational, actions for the future. This will connect with the spiritual renewal effort already begun through Renew My Church and will focus on the unique opportunities for improvement and growth at St. Francis Xavier Parish.

Over the next two weeks, Maggie McMahon, our pastoral associate, and Elis Guidice, our Director of Religious Education and Sacramental Prep Coordinator, will offer their insights into what the survey results tell us in the areas of adult and family formation and their plans to address our opportunities for growth. I invite you to review the results on your own. We welcome your feedback on what you see and how best to move forward.

Peace,
Fr. Bill

Belief in Core Catholic Teaching

Questions related to parishioners' degree of belief in core teachings of the faith

x 2023

(Optional) Filter the responses to this question by a particular demographic by selecting a question and associated response below

Select a question

Select a response

Belief: Jesus died and rose again

Show table



Belief: Eucharist is body/blood of Christ

Show table



Belief: Scripture is word of God

Show table



Belief: Authority of the Church

Show table



Belief: Church critical in relationship with God

Show table



Belief: Jesus moral teachings

Show table



Legend

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- I Do Not Know

Leadership Indicators

Questions most directly related to parish leadership

x 2023

(Optional) Filter the responses to this question by a particular demographic by selecting a question and associated response below

Select a question

Select a response

Community: Involved in decisions

Show table



Legend

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Community: Financial transparency

Show table



Community: Follow up on involvement

Show table



Community: Opportunities to serve

Show table



Recommend Pastor

Show table



Recommend Parish

Show table



Recommend Parish Staff

Show table



Recommend Other Priests

Show table



Missionary Impulse

Questions related to the missionary discipleship practices of your people

x 2023

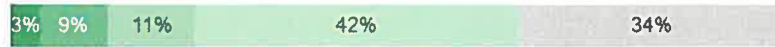
(Optional) Filter the responses to this question by a particular demographic by selecting a question and associated response below

Select a question

Select a response

Frequency: Invited someone to parish activity

Show table



Legend

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Quarterly
- Once or Twice a Year
- Never
- Group Daily, Weekly & Monthly

Frequency: Invited someone to Mass

Show table



Frequency: Invited man to priesthood

Show table



Frequency: Invited another to religious life

Show table



Frequency: Answered someone's spiritual question

Show table



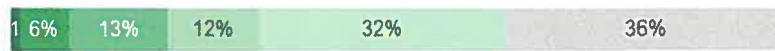
Frequency: Volunteered to serve someone

Show table



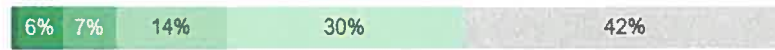
Frequency: Shared story of Jesus

Show table



Frequency: Shared personal story

Show table



Frequency: Prayed with someone

Show table



Frequency: Social event

Show table



Parents responsible for growth of child

Show table



Legend

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Sunday Experience

Questions directly related to the Sunday experience

x 2023

(Optional) Filter the responses to this question by a particular demographic by selecting a question and associated response below

Select a question

Select a response

Community: Welcoming

Show table



Legend

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Growth via: Mass

Show table



Growth via: Music deepens participation

Show table



Growth via: Preaching

Show table



Strengths & Opportunities

Questions for which your parish had the strongest positive and negative results based on strongly agree or high frequency

2023

(Optional) Filter the responses to this question by a particular demographic by selecting a question and associated response below

Select a question

Select a response

Hide data with low responses

Strengths

Top 3 by Highest Percentage Strongly Agree

Recommend Parish

Show table



Community: Information availability

Show table



Recommend Other Priests

Show table



Legend

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Top 3 by Highest Percentage Monthly or More Often

Frequency: Mass attendance

Show table



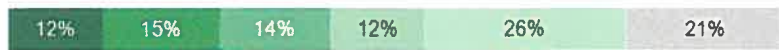
Frequency: Individual prayer time

Show table



Frequency: Prayed with someone

Show table



Legend

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Quarterly
- Once or Twice a Year
- Never
- Group Daily, Weekly & Monthly

Opportunities

Top 3 by Lowest Percentage Strongly Agree

Conversations:

Confidence in teachings

Show table



Legend

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Growth via: Forming as a Disciple

Show table



Growth via: Preaching

Show table



Top 3 by Lowest Percentage Monthly or More Often

Frequency: Retreat

Show table



Legend

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Quarterly
- Once or Twice a Year
- Never
- Group Daily, Weekly & Monthly

Frequency: Invited another to religious life

Show table



Frequency: Invited man to priesthood

Show table



Demographics

Lists the demographic data about parishioners who have taken the DMI

2023

Surveys received: 271

Ethnicity/Race

Show table

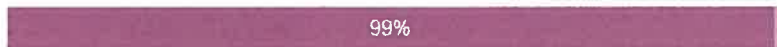


Legend

- Black or African-American
- Asian-American
- Caucasian
- Hispanic/Latino
- Other

Spiritual identity

Show table



Legend

- I am Catholic
- I was Catholic once, but no longer consider myself Catholic
- I am not Catholic

Survey Language

Show table



Legend

- English

Demographics

Age

Show table



Legend

- Under 18
- 18 - 25
- 26 - 35
- 36 - 45
- 46 - 55
- 56 - 65
- 66 - 75
- Over 75

Sex

Show table



Legend

- Male
- Female

Marital status

Show table



Legend

- Single
- Married
- Divorced
- Widowed

Children

School Age Children

Legend

Show table



Legend
■ Yes
■ No

Education Choice

Show table

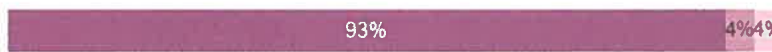


Legend
■ I send all my children to Catholic school
■ I send all my children to Public school
■ I choose separately for each child

Parish Membership

Primary place of worship

Show table



Legend
■ Yes
■ Yes, but only for part of the year (seasonally)
■ No

Membership Duration

Show table



Legend
■ 20+
■ 11 - 20
■ 6 - 10
■ 3 - 5
■ 1 - 2
■ <1

Financial

Household income

Show table



Legend
■ 0 - \$24,999
■ \$25,000 - \$49,999
■ \$50,000 - \$99,999
■ \$100,000 - \$149,999
■ \$150,000 - \$199,999
■ \$200,000 - \$249,999
■ Greater than \$250,000
■ I prefer not to respond

Household contributions

Show table



Legend
■ \$0 - \$99
■ \$100 - \$499
■ \$500 - \$999
■ \$1,000 - \$2,499
■ \$2,500 - \$4,999
■ \$5,000 - \$9,999
■ \$10,000 - \$24,999
■ Greater than \$25,000
■ I prefer not to respond

Approach to financial giving

Show table



Legend
■ I do not support the parish financially at this time
■ I usually give when the collection basket comes around or in response to specific appeals

- I determine a total dollar amount to give to my parish each year
- I give a percentage of my income to my parish

Giving Percentage

Show table



Legend

- None
- < 10%
- 10%
- > 10%

Key Drivers

Questions that are statistically significant with respect to a parishioner's likelihood to recommend the parish, say the parish is helping them grow spiritually, and frequency with which they are sharing their faith

x 2023

(Optional) Filter the responses to this question by a particular demographic by selecting a question and associated response below

Select a question

Select a response

What drives a parishioner to recommend their parish to a friend and to indicate the parish is helping them grow spiritually?

Recommend Pastor

Show table



Legend

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Community: Welcoming

Show table



Growth via: Preaching

Show table



Growth via: Mass

Show table



Conversations: God's work in my life

Show table



Growth via: Forming as a Disciple

Show table



Community: Information availability

Show table



What drives a parishioner to share a personal witness story?

Belief: Scripture is word of God

Show table



Legend

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree

Conversations:
Confidence in teachings

Show table



Disagree
 Strongly Disagree
 I Do Not Know

Conversations: Sharing
personal story

Show table



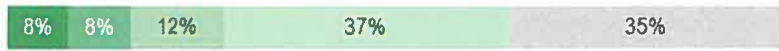
Conversations: Sharing
story of Jesus

Show table



Frequency: Invited
someone to Mass

Show table



Legend

Daily
 Weekly
 Monthly
 Quarterly
 Once or Twice a Year
 Never
 Group Daily, Weekly & Monthly

Frequency: Invited
someone to parish
activity

Show table



Frequency: Pastoral
counseling/spiritual
direction

Show table



Effectiveness of Parish Support

Questions related to how well the parish supports parishioners personally and spiritually

x 2023

(Optional) Filter the responses to this question by a particular demographic by selecting a question and associated response below

Select a question

Select a response

Conversations: Care for community

Show table



Legend

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Connecting me with Catholic Community

Community:

Opportunities to serve

Show table



Legend

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Community: Follow up on involvement

Show table



Community: Support in time of need

Show table



Community: Information availability

Show table



Community: Online Communication

Show table



Fostering my Spiritual Growth

Parish helps spiritual growth

Show table



Legend

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree

Growth via: Prayer life
 Show table



Growth via: Mass
 Show table



Growth via: Music deepens participation
 Show table



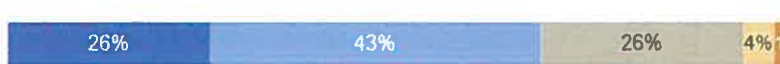
Growth via: Small-group
 Show table



Growth via: Preaching
 Show table



Growth via: Retreats/workshops
 Show table



Growth via: Teaching to read Bible
 Show table



Growth via: Sacramental prep
 Show table



Growth via: Forming as a Disciple
 Show table



Equipping me to talk about Faith

Conversations: Providing events
 Show table



Conversations: Confidence in teachings
 Show table



Legend

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Supporting and Educating children in the Catholic Faith

Support for child discipleship
 Show table



Legend

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree

Recommend parish school

Show table



Recommend parish religious education

Show table



Spiritual Practices

Questions related to the faith practices of your people

x 2023

(Optional) Filter the responses to this question by a particular demographic by selecting a question and associated response below

Select a question

Select a response

Pace of spiritual growth

Show table



Legend

- In a period of rapid spiritual growth
- Growing at a steady, continued pace
- Growing in my faith, but would like to grow more than I am
- Content staying right where I am spiritually
- Stalled in my spiritual growth
- In a period of spiritual decline

Catholic Journey

Show table



Legend

- My relationship with Jesus Christ is the most important relationship in my life
- I have personally encountered Jesus Christ and am growing as a disciple
- I practice my Catholic faith, but do not know Jesus personally like a friend
- I consider myself Catholic, though faith is not a significant part of my life

Frequency: Bible study/prayer group

Show table



Legend

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Quarterly
- Once or Twice a Year
- Never
- Group Daily, Weekly & Monthly

Frequency: Individual prayer time

Show table



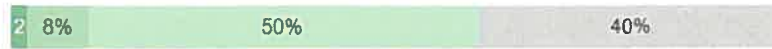
Frequency: Mass attendance

Show table



Frequency: Confession

Show table



Frequency: Pastoral counseling/spiritual direction

Show table



Frequency: Class/workshop

Show table



Frequency: Social event

Show table



Frequency: Retreat

Show table



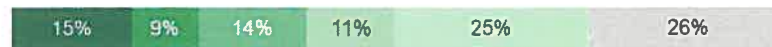
Frequency: Eucharistic adoration

Show table



Frequency: Catholic devotions

Show table





STAFF LIST

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

Staff List

Pastoral Ministry

Pastor **Rev. William Tkachuk** wtkachuk@sfxlg.org
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Weekend Sacramental Minister **Rev. Stan Ilo**
Weekend Sacramental Minister **Rev. Phil Cyscon**

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Facilities Manager **Antonio Franceschi** afranceschi@sfxlg.org



MASS ATTENDANCE COUNTS

Report for St. Francis Xavier Church

As of 10/30/2024, 2:16:54 PM

Total	Weekend	Saturday 05:00PM English	Sunday 07:30AM English	Sunday 09:00AM English	Sunday 11:00AM English	Sunday 05:00PM English
1202	1	319	74	275	309	225
1037	2	218	126	250	223	220
1141	3	184	109	320	318	210
1344	4	183	125	315	305	416
Total:		4724				
Average:		1181.00				

