



SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

The Epiphany of the Lord

January 4, 2026



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. - Mt 2:10-11a

BELONG • BELIEVE • BE LOVE

Week at a Glance

			Intention	Requested By
Monday, January 5	Mass	8:30 am	Special Intention	
Tuesday, January 6	Mass	8:30 am	Donna Wasz	The Westerhoff Family
Wednesday, January 7	Mass	8:30 am	Joan Labak	Jeff & Shirley Augustyn
Thursday, January 8	Rosary Mass	8:15 am 8:30 am	David Mulhern Peter Daly	Marge Branecki Patrick Daly
Friday, January 9	Mass	8:30 am	Dick Hofstetter Lesley Harvey Frank Edelmann	The Westerhoff Family Barbara & Michael Harvey Barbara Edelmann & Daughters
Saturday, January 10	Mass Reconciliation Mass	8:30 am 9:00 am 5:00 pm	People of the Parish Ed Patyk	 Joe Discipio
Sunday, January 11 The Baptism of the Lord	Mass Mass Mass Mass	7:30 am 9:00 am 11:00 am 5:00 pm	People of the Parish Steven Kent Eileen West Evelyn Freeman	The Braasch Family Patsy Brown & Chuck Shifley The Cooley Family

Presider's Schedule for January 3-4, 2026

5:00 pm Fr. Milek

7:30 am Fr. Chrzan

9:00 am Fr. Milek

11:00 am Fr. Ilo

5:00 pm Fr. Chrzan

Please pray for . . .

John Baggio	Amy Miller
Poppy Booth	Brandon Moffett
George Braasch	Patrick Morgan
Vivian Brickhouse	Bill Mroz
Joe Canepa	Ann Marie Nidos
John Clinch	Jim O'Brien
Blake Donegan	Connie O'Dette
Craig Eaton	Cathy O'Leary
Nathan Emkow	Mark Reilly
Lupe Baker Garcia	Richard Reveles
Allen Godlewski	Amy Robinson
Vincenzo Guzzo	John Shramek
Junie Haase	Rita Mae Spearman
Angela Hill	Gregg Stephenson
Jessi Rita Hoffman	John Stopka
Richard Holbach	Sophie Stratton
Michelle Jackson	Catie Sullivan
Patricia Jones	Olivia Tarsney
Nora Lou Kampe	Joe Vargas
Terri Bergen Klein	Baby Emma Wallace
Ella Mae Kuzel	Liz Wilk
Eleanor Love	Frank Zolfo, Jr.
Baby Grace Mangano	
Robert McMahon	

To add a name to the prayer list who are sick, please call the rectory at 708-352-0168. 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:

Greg Molinari
Son of Lois

Joseph Rosa
Father of Samara Condon
Grandfather of Carter Condon

Weddings

Lilian Herrmann & Jeffrey Swanson



Make a gift to the
Regular Sunday Offertory
with this QR Code.
Thank you for your
support!



Pastor's Letter

The prophet Isaiah gives us words that we know by heart: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." We hear these words every Christmas, but the Gospel of Luke invites us to hear them again - slowly, reflectively, and personally. Luke tells us that when the Savior of the world entered time and history, God did not come as an invincible ruler or a mighty commander - but as a baby. Vulnerable. Small. Needing to be held, and laid in a manger because there was no room anywhere else. And that detail matters, because God chose to come to us not in a way that would overwhelm us, but in a way that asks something of us.

I remember one of the first Baptisms I celebrated as a newly ordained priest. The mother invited me to hold the newborn baby and I remember how nervous I felt. Babies are fragile - you're not quite sure where to put your hands. You know you're supposed to support the baby's head, but you worry about doing it wrong. And yet, the child's mother trusted me. She smiled and showed me how to hold the baby, and placed that tiny new life into my arms. It was an ordinary moment - babies are born every day - but it was also a glimpse of the miraculous. Tiny hands. Tiny feet. A little bundle of life that somehow carries wonder, delight and awe. And during this Christmas season, I wonder if God is asking us the very same question which the mother once asked me: Would you like to hold the baby?

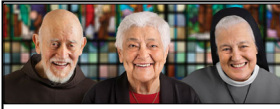
Because that is the heart of Christmas. The Word becomes flesh and is placed into our hands. The One through whom all things were made comes to us - vulnerable and small. The angels announce something glorious, but the sign they give to the shepherds is simple: "You will find a baby." This child is God's gift to us - God's love made visible, touchable, entirely human. And in holding Him, God intends to teach us what we are meant to be. This child will sand down the rough edges of our pride, soften our hard certainties, and teach us how to love and to receive one another as gifts. This is how peace begins - not through power, but through tenderness.

Here is the truth: before we can hold the Christ Child, we must first put some things down. Like the shepherds who left their fields, we are being asked to leave behind the things that weigh us down. God says to us today: put down your distractions and your noise. Close your laptop, and shut off your phone. Take off your headphones. Put down your books and magazines.

Put down your prejudices, your weapons and your defenses. Put down your anger, your bitterness, and your fear of other people. Put down your clever put-downs, and your contempt for people who are different from you. Put down your certainty that things cannot change, that you have no difference to make in the world. Put down your cynicism, your rehearsed opinions, and your wariness of strangers - whom the Gospel of Matthew commands us to welcome, as we would welcome Christ himself. Put down your low opinion of yourself. Put down your constant worry about what other people think of you. Put down the belief that you are not worthy to be called a beloved child of God.

Today, dear friends, God invites us to unclench our fists and to open our hands - hands shaped like they are when we receive the Eucharist. Empty. Ready. Trusting. The shepherds came and saw, and held, and worshiped. And we are here for the same reason. God trusts us enough to place the Christ Child into our care. And so, with wonder and humility, we answer - yes. Yes, we will hold the baby. And in doing so, we will discover the Good News of great joy which is meant for all people, everywhere.

Merry Christmas,
Fr. John



Retirement Fund For Religious

The Second Collection will take place on January 10-11. This collection supports a lifetime of service. Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education and care for those in need—usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care and medications. Please support them by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference for nearly 25,000 senior men and women religious. Please give generously.

To donate, [click here](#), visit our parish website, or place your donation in an envelope marked "Retirement Fund for Religious" or use the QR Code. Thank you for your generosity.



Welcome

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

Luke & Laura Baldwin
Phillip & Tiffany Casica
Michael & Bridget Domanico
Bryan Dow
Omar & Samantha Espinoza
Daniel Gage & Elizabeth Jekli
Kevin Martinez & Marleya Carrillo
Foster & Maura Mullen
Peg Riordan
Dominick & Katherine Santuro
Johnathan & Alisha Weidel



Attention high school junior & seniors

Kairos 46 Retreat
February 19th-22nd
St. Mary retreat house

Scan the QR code to register or you can sign up on our parish website under Youth Ministry → Retreats.

Registration closes 1/31

Have questions? Please email
Chrissy (Calagna@sfxlg.org)



Join our Young Adult Ministry (YAM)

Groupme! Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to get updates on upcoming events and connect with other young adults.



HEARTS ON FIRE

THE 120: YOUTH GROUP

LIVES ON MISSION



HIGH SCHOOL TEENS & PARENTS

The 120 exists to lead young hearts into a transformative encounter with Jesus Christ, rooted in prayer, community, and mission. This high school youth group (9th-12th) is inspired by the early Church. We gather to grow in faith, be filled with the Holy Spirit, and be sent out as bold witnesses to the Gospel by:

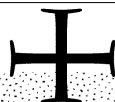
- Coming together as a community in social events
- Dedicating time to serve the community
- Taking on leadership roles
- Leading each other through prayer
- Supporting each other in faith and friendship



WANT TO
JOIN THE 120?

CHECK OUT THE PARISH
WEBSITE AND CLICK THE YOUTH
MINISTRY TAB FOR MORE
INFORMATION.

YOU CAN ALSO EMAIL CHRISSY
(OUR YOUTH MINISTER):
CALAGNA@SFXLG.ORG



Place the LORD at the
center of your families' lives

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Come and Paint

These reunion sessions bring participants to a greater self-awareness through painting.

Participation open to previous "Come and Paint" or "Paint Your Soul" retreat participants. Facilitators: Mary Helen Crispo and Gillian Romano. Meets Monthly: First Saturdays: 9:30am-12:00pm. Cost \$10 per session. Virtual Only.

Prayerful Pause

No matter where we are in the world, we are ONE Community and we need each other. Drop in and connect meaningfully with others via Zoom. Every week at 9:00am on Mondays and Wednesdays, and every Thursday at 4:30pm.

Meets weekly:

Mondays, 9:00-9:15am

Wednesdays, 9:00-9:15am

Thursdays, 4:30-5:00pm

Free-Will Donations encouraged

Virtual Only

Zoom Link: [Click Here](#)

Meeting ID: 448 814 3358 Passcode: gift

Learn more & register:

<https://csjthewell.org/programs/>



**Toddler Moms'
Monthly Prayer Party
First Wednesday
of the Month at 8:00pm!**

Location rotates between homes. Email Claire Jakubisin claire.jakubisin@gmail.com or join the Toddling Together Group on the parish Hallow page to stay up-to-date on the location.



We're Looking For A Few Good Men

Alpha men! TMIY men! Men's Club men!
OCIA men! Former college-fraternity men!

Do you have any interest in assisting the elderly, the disabled, the poor, and supporting the cause of life?

Then, man oh man, this is your invitation to join the Knights of Columbus (www.KofCLaGrange.org). The energies of our parish's younger men (18 years old and up) are especially needed. It only takes all of us.

We're a fraternal Order that is the granddaddy of all Catholic men's ministries. Our Order is first in support of those, above, with the most in need. "Vivat Jesus!" has been our Latin motto since our 1882 founding because Jesus is central to our mission. Your home council has been leading good works in the greater LaGrange community since 1973. We could do much, much more with you involved, and we're inviting you to join us. It's easy. Simply send a text message to (our rush-chairman of sorts) Brian Lisek at 630-939-2626 to get started. Today. Tomorrow. To Knight!

SFX Men's Club

Get involved in the parish – we need your help!
Monthly meetings on the 1st Tuesday of the month!

Next meeting is Tuesday, January 6

Contact Matt Hubert mthubert@gmail.com
or Jack Horrigan jfhorrigan@gmail.com
for more information.



SAVE THE DATE 2026 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 22-26

We are pleased to report that our partnership with Grace Lutheran for Vacation Bible School was again a great success in 2025.

We are excited that our partnership with Grace will continue in 2026. This year's theme is "Rainforest Falls". The dates for the summer 2026 VBS are June 22-26. The program runs each day from 9am-Noon. VBS is open to children aged 4 to 4th graders. 5th and 6th graders can participate as members of a service crew that spends the week organizing a variety of service projects including a morning at the SFX food pantry.

The success of VBS relies on teen and parent volunteers. Hours spent volunteering can be used for required service hours. We will provide more details about these opportunities when registration opens.

VBS is an amazing, faith based program that provides many benefits for children and volunteers. We hope you can participate! Registration details will be provided early next year.

Any questions please contact: Phil Zadeik at pjzadeik@gmail.com or Karl Olson at Olson.karl@gmail.com.



YOUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Your Christmas donation is instrumental to the parish's ongoing mission!
Our Christmas goal is \$177,000 (9% of our budgeted offertory).

Ways to Give:

1. Father John's Christmas letter includes an envelope for your offering
2. To make your online gift:
 - [Click here](#)
 - Use the QR code at right.

God bless you for your support!

Make a gift to the Christmas Offertory with this QR Code.
Thank you for your support!



Family Outreach Ministry

Ring in the new year with SERVICE! Join St. Francis Xavier Family Outreach Ministry as we prepare and serve a hot meal to our neighbors in need at the First Congressional Church's Saturday Meals Program. Our next service date is Jan 3, 2026 and there are two time slots from which to choose:

9:00-11:00 AM: Food prep and cooking~11:00 AM-1:00 PM: Food serving & clean up.

Volunteers must be at least 16 years old or 13 years old if accompanied by an adult.

Questions? More information can be found on our Sign-Up Genius Link: [Click Here.](#)

SFX PINK RIBBON COMMUNITY

Connect with Breast Cancer Survivors at SFX for fellowship & support.

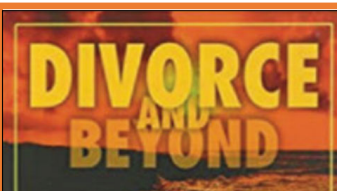


Your Parish Counselor

If you've been feeling the pull toward deeper understanding or noticing places within yourself that feel uncertain or tender, you're not alone. Counseling can offer a gentle space to explore these parts with curiosity and care.

I'm Benjamin Horen, currently completing my Doctorate in Clinical Psychology at the Chicago School. With a background in teaching and health and fitness coaching, I integrate both psychological and physical perspectives to support holistic growth. I work with individuals facing anxiety, depression, trauma, insecurities, and self-doubt—always meeting you where you are.

If you're ready to explore, grow, or simply understand yourself more fully, I'd be honored to walk alongside you. Whenever you feel ready, the door is open. For appointments, call 630-923-8380.



Divorce and Beyond 2026 Winter Series

St. Francis Xavier will offer those who are divorced and those experiencing divorce six weekly no-cost evening support sessions starting February 2026. For more information or to pre-register, contact Maggie McMahon, mmcmahon@sfxlq.org, or use the following QR code.





SFX CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB

LADIES DAY OUT

SAVE THE DATE!

Enjoy an afternoon of food,
friends, music, raffles, and bingo—
perfect for reconnecting, relaxing,
and celebrating our community and
the feminine spirit of
St. Francis Xavier Parish.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

3-6pm

La Grange Country Club

Watch for details soon!

SAVE THE DATE



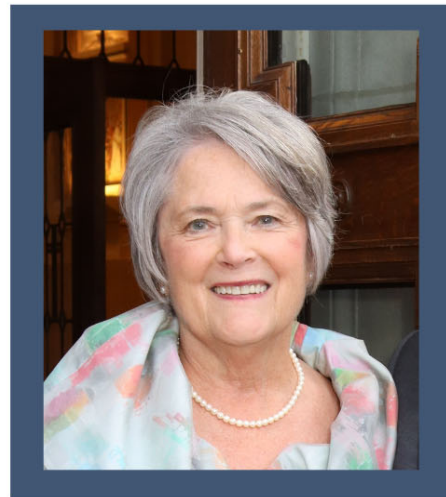
APRIL 18, 2026
MARRIOTT BURR RIDGE
6:30-11:30PM

Ignite 2026 serves to celebrate the legacy of the St. Francis Xavier School and our enduring family of faith, while helping to raise the vital funds needed to help bridge the \$2,000 gap between the cost of tuition and the actual cost to educate a student at SFX. In addition, Ignite raises the vital funds needed to provide well-earned teacher bonuses to our incredible teachers and staff.

Ignite brings together nearly 400 parents, alumni, parishioners and friends for an evening that includes entertainment, a live and silent auction, a premium bar with heavy hors d'oeuvres and more!



**IGNITE MEDAL
AWARD HONOREE:**
PATSY BROWN



We are excited to announce the honoree for Ignite 2026! This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to his or her community, profession and to St. Francis Xavier School and Parish.

This year, the recipient of our annual Ignite Medal Award will be Patsy Brown. Patsy, the founder of the SFX Enrichment Program in the 1990's and former School Advisory Board member, continues to be a bright light in the parish. Her commitment and dedication have promoted the mission of St. Francis Xavier School through word, action, and deed; like Saint Francis Xavier himself, she continues to set the world on fire!

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



The Vicar for Deacons

Have you ever considered the call to be a Deacon of the Catholic Church?

Join us at **7 p.m.** on
January 19, 2026 at:
Office of the Diaconate
816 Marengo
Forest Park, IL 60130



We will provide an overview of the **Deacon Formation Program**, the **application process** and **information on the ministry of a deacon**. Men, single or married, are invited to attend. Wives are strongly encouraged to accompany their husbands. For more information and to register for this session, contact the Office of the Diaconate at **708.366.8900**.

"Whom shall I send? Who will go for us? 'Here I am, send me!'" –Isaiah 6:8

*It's the most
wonderful time to
volunteer!*



This holiday season, give the gift of learning!

Volunteer with **Project CARE** and help adults improve their English language skills.

Your time and kindness can make a meaningful difference this season.



Tutor Requirements:

Must be 18 or older | GED/High School diploma required
Minimum 1 hour per week | Training provided by us |
Minimum 6-month commitment



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Please Pray For...all those Serving Overseas in the Military including:

- **LCPL Gregory Allen, USMC**—nephew of Barbara Triggs & Anthony Anscombe
- **Kevin Peterson, U.S. Army Infantry**—son of Jon Peterson
- **Major Marcos Melendez, USMC**—nephew of Jon Peterson
- **Major Michelle Melendez, USMC**—niece of Jon Peterson
- **Capt. Nolan Kemna, USMC**—nephew of John & Linda Hill
- **Lt. Col. Jeremy Hutchins, USAF**—brother-in-law of Valerie & Michael Schierl
- **Capt. Colt Marcyan, USMC**—nephew of Noel Cusack
- **Private Jerry Delgado, U.S. Army**—friend of Liz Wilk
- **Chris Johnson, USCG**—nephew of Judi Kudlacz and grandson of Jerry Johnson
- **Dominic James Greco, U.S. Navy**—nephew of Rita Pantoni
- **Airman Jeffrey Niemiec, USAF**—nephew of Nancy & Harry Devereux
- **Sgt. Rob Parisi, U.S. Army 7ATC**—son of Chuck Parisi, Brother of Caitlin & Jack and Grandson of Robert J. Lynch
- **Capt. Jack Albertini, USMC**—son of Bob & Susan Albertini
- **Micah Peralta, DC3 U.S. Navy**—daughter of Mila Esleta
- **Private Julian Vela, U.S. Army**—friend of Joe, Cari, Maddie & Mike Ramaglia
- **Specialist Esteban Vela, U.S. Army**—friend of Joe, Cari, Maddie & Mike Ramaglia
- **Lt. Matthew Edinger, DO, U.S. Navy**—son of John Edinger & Maria Nidos
- **ETNC Andrew Cihak, U.S. Navy**—grandson of John & Marilyn Lux

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

St. Francis Xavier Personnel

Pastoral Ministry

Pastor
Associate Pastor
Deacon
Deacon
Pastoral Associate
Weekend Sacramental Clergy

Rev. John Chrzan
Rev. Richard Milek
Andrew Allison
Phil Gianatasio
Margaret McMahon
Rev. Stan Ilo
Rev. Phil Cyscon
Rev. Tom McCarthy, OSA

jchrzan@sfxlg.org
rmilek@sfxlg.org
aallison@sfxlg.org
pgianatasio@sfxlg.org
mmcmahon@sfxlg.org

Liturgical Music Ministry

Director
Associate Musician
Associate Musician

Allen Sterwalt
Ann Maney
Bob Voves

asterwalt@sfxlg.org

Community Outreach Ministry

Director

Mary Freeman

mfreeman@sfxlg.org

Parish Office Administration

Director of Operations
Director of Stewardship and Development
Finance Manager
Parish Secretary/Receptionist
Staff Secretary/Bulletin Editor
Facilities Manager

Peter Brown
Jennifer Zeisloft
Jane Bandyk
Melissa Westerhoff
Debra Soulje
Antonio Franceschi

pbrown@sfxlg.org
jzeisloft@sfxlg.org
jbandyk@sfxlg.org
mwesterhoff@sfxlg.org
dsoulje@sfxlg.org
afranceschi@sfxlg.org

School Education Administration

Parish School Principal
Assistant Principal
Administrative Assistant
Front Office Coordinator (Morning)
Front Office Coordinator (Afternoon)
Director of Marketing & Enrollment
Special Events and Development Manager
Business Operations/Virtus Coordinator
Tuition Accounts
Director of Religious Education
Religious Education Administrative Assistant
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Jimmy Bajner
Janice Carr
Jeanne Grimes
Joni O'Halloran
Betsy Sullivan
Erin Smith
Katie Adams
Brooke Cermak
Jane Bandyk
Elis Guidice
Cindy Johnson
Christina Alagna

jbajner@sfxlg.org
jcarr@sfxlg.org
jgrimes@sfxlg.org
johalloran@sfxlg.org
bsullivan@sfxlg.org
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kadams@sfxlg.org
bcermak@sfxlg.org
jbandyk@sfxlg.org
eguidice@sfxlg.org
cjohnson@sfxlg.org
calagna@sfxlg.org

Contact Information

Parish Office 124 N. Spring.....708-352-0168
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 Number.....708-352-4904
e-Mail.....sfxinlg@sfxlg.org
Main Day School e-Mail.....sfxmain@sfxlg.org
Main Religious Education e-Mail.....sfxreligioused@sfxlg.org
Parish Web Site.....www.sfxlg.org

Rectory Hours

Monday-Thursday.....8:30 am-7:00 pm
Friday.....8:30 am-4:30 pm
Saturday.....9:00 am-12:00 pm

Weekday Masses at St. Francis Xavier Church

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 8:30 am

Weekday Masses at Neighboring Churches

St. Cletus (Monday-Friday) 8:00 am
St. John of the Cross (Monday-Saturday) 9:00 am

Rosary at St. Francis Xavier Church

Thursday 8:15 am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every 3rd Thursday 6:00-7:00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday morning.....9:00-10:00 am
The Reconciliation room is located off the walkway behind the tabernacle prayer area.

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 10:00 to 11:30 am. The pantry serves clients who live in the 60525 and 60526 zip codes. Donation drop off Mondays 9:00 am-Noon at South door of rectory (Door #5).

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 to schedule your child's baptism or email Missy Westerhoff at sfxinlg@sfxlg.org to schedule a date.

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 and respectful. If you are curious about self-exploration, need help managing your mood and anxiety, long for a quiet and safe space, or feel the need to recalibrate, consider making an appointment, with our counselor, Benjamin Horen, from the Claret Center. Please call for an appointment at 630-923-8380.

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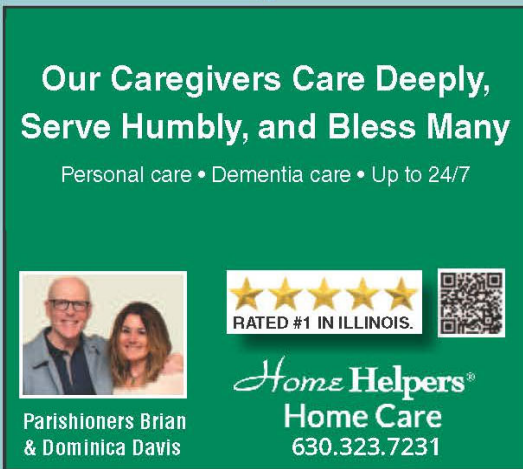
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