

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



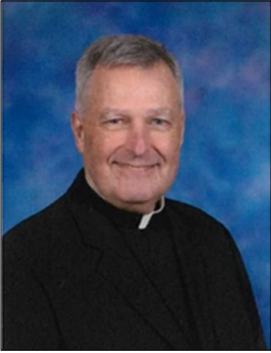
# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



— 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

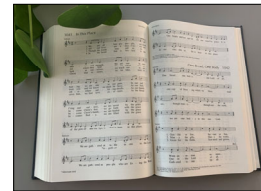
# Stewardship

**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 **10<sup>th</sup> 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

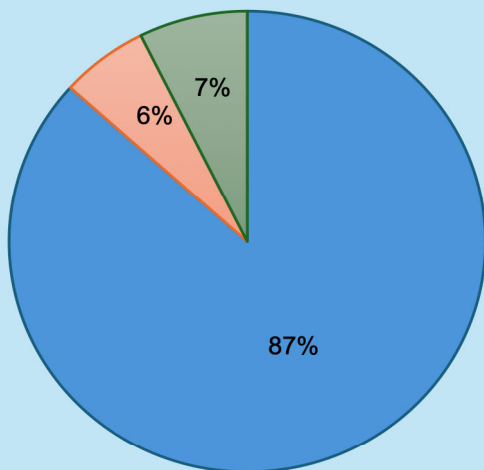
# Finance Report

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

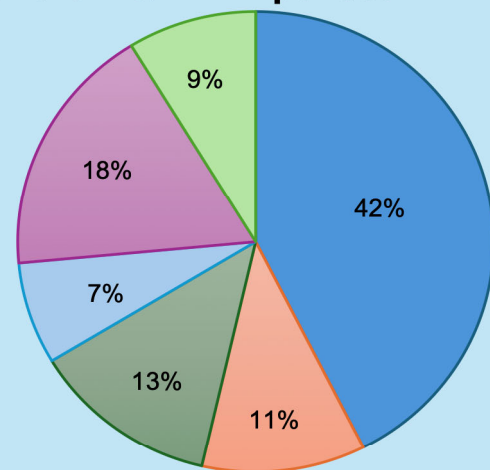
	Actual 6/30/23	Actual 6/30/24	Budget 6/30/25
<b>Operating Church &amp; Religious Education Revenue</b>			
Sunday, Holy Days, Christmas & Easter	1,761,074	1,820,622	1,965,000
Other Operating Income and Interest Income	87,014	125,016	62,000
Religious Education Tuition, Fees, and Fundraising	134,059	154,920	153,550
<b>Total Church &amp; Religious Education Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,982,147</b>	<b>\$2,100,558</b>	<b>\$2,180,550</b>
<b>Operating Church &amp; Religious Education Expenses</b>			
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
<b>Total Church &amp; Religious Education Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,083,709</b>	<b>\$2,187,778</b>	<b>\$2,180,550</b>
<b>Net Church &amp; RE Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$101,562)</b>	<b>(\$87,220)</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**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

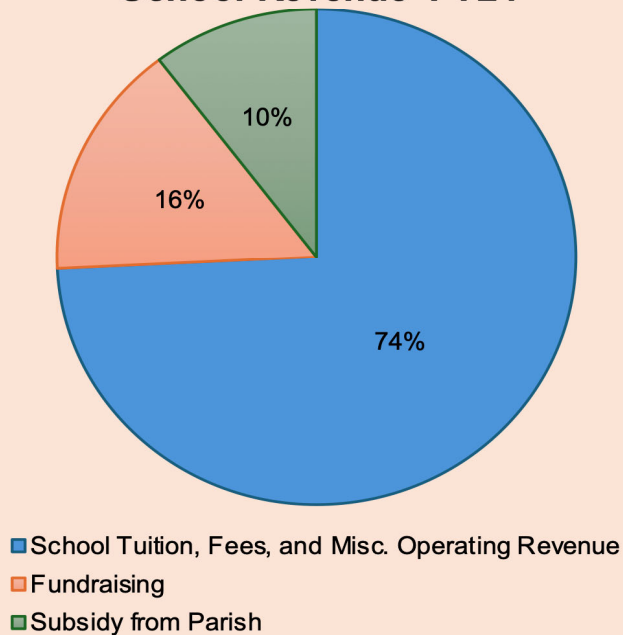
# Finance Report

## School

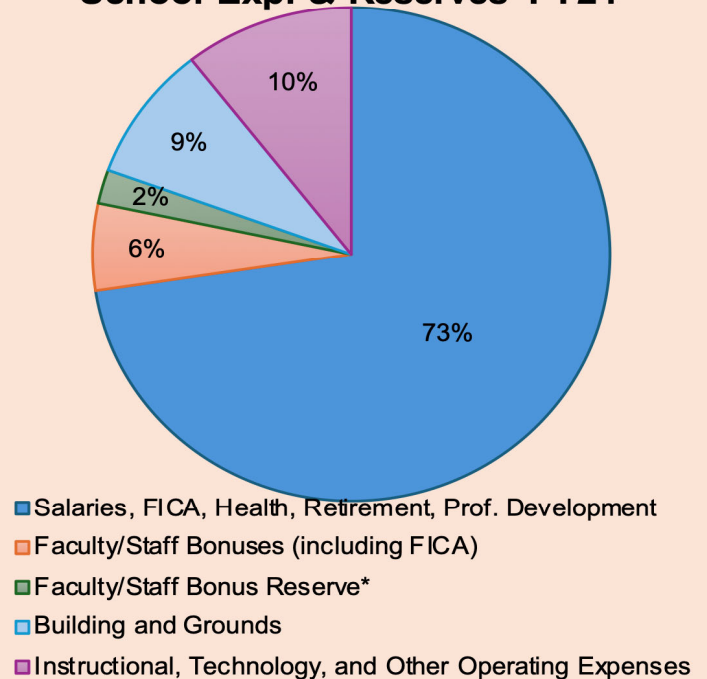
	Actual 6/30/23	Actual 6/30/24	Budget 6/30/25
<b>School Revenue</b>			
School Tuition, Fees, and Misc. Operating Revenue	2,427,682	2,774,887	2,896,192
Fundraising	262,900	575,780	563,000
Subsidy from Parish	394,540	387,696	351,738
<b>Total School Revenue</b>	<b>\$3,085,122</b>	<b>\$3,738,363</b>	<b>\$3,810,930</b>
<b>School Expenses</b>			
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
<b>Total School Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,085,122</b>	<b>\$3,738,363</b>	<b>\$3,810,930</b>

\* 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 Exp. & Reserves FY24**



## 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	
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>				
Cash and Savings on Deposit	1,462,994	1,430,263	1,787,858	
Current Cash Liabilities	545,359	535,406	761,078	
<b>Net Cash Position</b>	<b>\$ 917,635</b>	<b>\$ 894,858</b>	<b>\$ 1,026,779</b>	
<b>Restricted Funds for Long Term Initiatives</b>				
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
<b>Restricted Funds on Deposit</b>	<b>\$ 2,049,359</b>	<b>\$ 1,924,988</b>	<b>\$ 1,664,160</b>	

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 <a href="http://www.sfxlg.org">www.sfxlg.org</a> )	63,446
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$298,320</b>



## 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.

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



### 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@sfxlq.org](mailto:jzeisloft@sfxlq.org) to learn more and if you have questions about these giving methods.

## 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 Communions

2022-2023 117  
2023-2024 132

### Marriages

2022-2023 25  
2023-2024 34

### Newly Registered Families

2022-2023 104  
2023-2024 145

## Week at a Glance

			Intention	Requested By
Monday, October 14	Mass	8:30 am	Herbert & Mary Schrack	
Tuesday, October 15	Mass	8:30 am	Tom Mulvenna	The Cunningham Family
Wednesday, October 16	Mass	8:30 am	Maryalice Carl	Mary Anne Daniels
Thursday, October 17	Rosary Mass Adoration	8:15 am 8:30 am 6:00 pm	Pamela Stack	The Cooley Family
Friday, October 18	Mass	8:30 am	Maureen Dorn	The Veesser Family
Saturday, October 19	Mass Reconciliation Mass	8:30 am 9:00 am 5:00 pm	Patrick J. Corcoran  Jeanne Lusson	Therese O'Sullivan  The Hannigan Family
Sunday, October 20	Mass	7:30 am	Maureen Catherine Dorn	Patsy Brown & Chuck Shifley
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Mass	9:00 am	Carl Ferraro, Sr.	Megan & Joe Holt
	Mass	11:00 am	Helen Wargo	The Sangiacomo & Martens Family
	Mass	5:00 pm	Rose Stoiber Terry Metzger	The Cooley Family The Watson Family

### Presider's Schedule for October 12-13, 2024

5:00 pm Fr. Milek

7:30 am Fr. Tkachuk

9:00 am Fr. Milek

11:00 am Fr. Tkachuk

5:00 pm Fr. Milek

### Please pray for . . .

Melissa Aravalo	Brenda Kardatzke
Orlando Ares	Leslie Koenig
Ed Barrett	Michelle Kram
Angela Bowman	Ayanna Kucera
Vivian Brickhouse	Eleanor Love
Kevin Brooks	Patrick Morgan
Aiden Curtis	Bill Mroz
Blake Donegan	Ann Marie Nidos
Pat Eaton	Heather Riggins
Tom Flynn	Joe Scanlon
Bob Fredriksen	Darshana Shah
Sasha Garber	June Sheehan
Baby Lupe Baker Garcia	Michael Smith
Lilli Gregory	Gregg Stephenson
Vincenzo Guzzo	John Stopka
Junie Haase	Linda Sullivan
Sr. Marci Hermesdorf	Amanda Szila
Angela Hill	Olivia Tarsney
Jessi Rita Hoffman	

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:

**Jackie Abbs**

Cousin of Lucile Nichol

**Robert Rodak**

Husband of Margaret  
Father of Sarah Johnson and Katie Freeman

### Weddings

Maggie Reilly & Ryan Marske  
Kelly Collins & Christopher Ellsworth  
Molly Piech & Sean McMahon



### Indigenous Peoples' Day/Columbus Day

In observance of the Indigenous Peoples' Day/Columbus Day holiday, the office will be closed starting on Friday, October 11 at 4:30 pm through Monday, October 14. We will reopen on Tuesday, October 15 at 8:30 am.

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



# St. Francis Xavier Personnel

## Pastoral Ministry

Pastor  
Associate Pastor  
Deacon  
Deacon  
Pastoral Associate  
Director of Community Outreach  
Weekend Sacramental Minister

Rev. William Tkachuk  
Rev. Richard Milek  
Andrew Allison  
Phil Gianatasio  
Margaret McMahon  
Mary Freeman  
Rev. Stan Ilo

wtkachuk@sfxlg.org  
rmilek@sfxlg.org  
aallison@sfxlg.org  
pgianatasio@sfxlg.org  
mmcMahon@sfxlg.org  
mfreeman@sfxlg.org

## Education Ministry

Parish School Principal  
Assistant Principal  
Administrative Assistant  
Front Office Coordinator  
Director of Marketing & Enrollment  
Office Operations/Events Manager  
Tuition Accounts  
Director of Religious Education  
Religious Education Administrative Assistant

Jimmy Bajner  
Janice Carr  
Jeanne Grimes  
Joni O'Halloran  
Erin Smith  
Brooke Cermak  
Jane Bandyk  
Elis Guidice  
Cindy Johnson

jbajner@sfxlg.org  
jcarr@sfxlg.org  
jgrimes@sfxlg.org  
johalloran@sfxlg.org  
esmith@sfxlg.org  
bcermak@sfxlg.org  
jbandyk@sfxlg.org  
eguidice@sfxlg.org  
cjohnson@sfxlg.org

## Music Ministry

Director

Allen Sterwalt

asterwalt@sfxlg.org

## Parish Office Staff

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

Peter Brown  
Jennifer Zeisloft  
Jane Bandyk  
Maureen Pipal  
Melissa Westerhoff  
Debra Soule  
Antonio Franceschi

pbrown@sfxlg.org  
jzeisloft@sfxlg.org  
jbandyk@sfxlg.org  
mpipal@sfxlg.org  
mwesterhoff@sfxlg.org  
dsoule@sfxlg.org  
afranceschi@sfxlg.org

## Contact Information

Parish Office 124 N. Spring.....708-352-0168  
St. Francis Xavier Day School .....708-352-2175  
School of Religious Education .....708-352-4555  
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](mailto: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.

## 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](mailto: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 parish counselor, Bennett Ferguson, from the Claret Center. He can be reached by phone at 312-880-7606.

## Transition Prayer

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.



THE ST. FRANCIS XAVIER MUSIC MINISTRY  
PRESENTS A...

## CLARINET *RECITAL*



Allen Sterwalt, *clarinet*

Mark Bilyeu, *piano*

...with Claire Jakubisin, *voice*

**19** SATURDAY

OCTOBER 2024

7:00 PM

### FREE ADMISSION!

Free-will offering baskets  
will be placed at the doors  
in support of the SFX Music  
Ministry. Thank you!



**Saturday, November 2**

**RACE!**

Opportunities for the whole family!  
Run & Walk & Stroller 5K  
Kids Fun Runs  
(100m and 1/2 mile)  
[SFXFalcon5K.com](http://SFXFalcon5K.com)

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### Month of October: Annual Women's Care Center Baby Bottle Donation Drive:

Envelopes available at church doors. Please drop off at Rectory or in collection baskets. Online donations can be made at <https://supportwomenscarecenter.org/donate>. Choose the Chicago/LaGrange location. Their mission is to help pregnant women choose life for their babies, have healthier pregnancies, and become better parents...with support from cradle to kindergarten. 93% of moms choose life for their babies...*because of you!*



**Sept 25–November 3: 40 Days for Life:** Help save lives through the power of prayer. For more information and sign up, go to [www.40daysforlife.com/downersgrove](http://www.40daysforlife.com/downersgrove).

## Veterans Day Mass and Reception



The 5th grade students at St. Francis Xavier School would like to invite any Veterans and Active Duty Service Members, and their families, to a mass honoring their service to our country. The mass will be held at 8:30am on Monday, November 11 with a reception immediately following in Unity Hall. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by November 4 to Emily Bersnak at [grade5service@sfxlg.org](mailto:grade5service@sfxlg.org) or call 630-738-1369. We hope to see you there!



**SFX Men's Club  
Pig Roast  
Save the Date!**  
**Friday, November 8**  
More details to follow  
[www.sfxpigroast.com](http://www.sfxpigroast.com)

Contact Matt Hubert at  
[mthubert@gmail.com](mailto:mthubert@gmail.com) for info.





## Kairos 43 Retreat

Hosted by  
St. John of the Cross Parish  
November 14-17, 2024  
Offered for current  
High School Juniors and Seniors

Registration for the retreat opened on September 27th on the SJC website [www.stjohnofthecross.org](http://www.stjohnofthecross.org), and will close on October 25th. Please contact MaryClaire Zurowski with any questions at [mczurowski31@gmail.com](mailto:mczurowski31@gmail.com).

## New Parishioner Prayer Service and Social

Let's gather for a prayer service in church on  
**Wednesday, October 23 at 6:30pm**  
for a special Newcomer Blessing.

Afterwards, if you are able to stay, we hope you will join us for socializing in Unity Hall. Alpine subs, salad, fruit and cookies will be served.

Whether you are new to the parish, have joined us for previous Welcome Events, or have been parishioners for awhile, we hope to see you there!

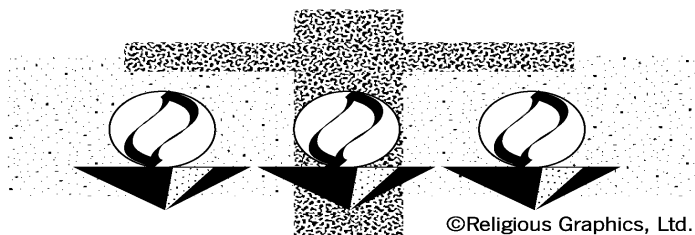
Who is invited?

- Parishioners who have recently joined the parish
- Those who have considered joining officially and have not yet
- Individuals who have been members of the Parish and would like to join us
- Families with children of all ages
- ALL ARE WELCOME!

Depending on your schedule, please join us for the prayer service at 6:30pm or the social, which will begin about 7:00pm, or BOTH!

If you are able, **please RSVP** to let us know you will be there. Please attend even if you do not RSVP.

RSVP and Questions: Call or text Laura Duelm at 708-309-9079 or email [lauraduelm@gmail.com](mailto:lauraduelm@gmail.com).



## Religious Education News



**Our Registration for the In Person Program is now closed, but registrations for our 1-8 Online Program is still open until November 30<sup>th</sup>.**

Families are strongly encouraged to also attend Mass at least twice a month and will receive a separate weekly Google form to complete for "car ride" home liturgy discussions in our Weekly Parent Newsletter.

**Please don't delay in registering your children today!**

Visit our website for complete information on registration, tuition and calendar:

<https://www.sfxlg.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/Religious%20Education>

## Church League Basketball



**Registration Opened  
on Sunday, October 1, 2024!**

**High School Guys League Fee \$150**  
[Click here](#) to register and pay online.

**High School Girls League Fee \$100**  
[Click here](#) to register and pay online.



## Edythe Ministry Fall Garden Days

The Edythe Ministry is preparing for Autumn! Our beautiful garden beds will be tidied up from 9:00-11:00am on Saturday, October 19 and mulched on Saturday, November 2, also from 9:00-11:00am. Any and all are welcome on either date, no matter how much time or experience you may have. Donuts and cider will be served! Please contact Becca Voith at [beccacoox@gmail.com](mailto:beccacoox@gmail.com) to sign up. If you have specific questions, reach out to Cathy Skokna at [cmskokna@att.net](mailto:cmskokna@att.net).



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH  
AWARENESS - SERVICES - PREVENTION

## October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

### Know the indicators of an unhealthy or abusive relationship

Healthy relationships are not perfect, but healthy relationships

- make both people feel respected, supported and safe
- problems can be safely addressed
- and conflict and disagreement can lead to productive change

Cultivating and maintaining healthy relationships involves intentional effort, self-reflection, and a commitment to personal growth.

Healthy Relationship	Unhealthy Relationship
Respect	Disrespect
Trust	Jealousy
Honest	Betrayal
Individuality	Control
Equality	Manipulation
Encouragement	Belittling
Self-confidence	Intimidation
Non-Violent relationship	Physical violence

Being in a *healthy relationship* means...

...loving, respecting, and taking care of yourself and your partner...respecting individuality...doing things with friends and family and having activities independent of each other...discussing things, allowing for differences of opinion, and compromising equally...trusting your partner...listening to each other without judgment...taking responsibility for your actions and feelings...respecting each other's need and right for privacy...resolving conflicts in a peaceful and nonviolent way...sharing decisions about things affecting both partners...and learning more about each other. [www.dvrc-or.org/](http://www.dvrc-or.org/)



### 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
- **Phil Lukanich, U.S. Navy**—husband of Joanna and son of Mark & Martie Lukanich
- **Lt. M. Ryan Lukanich, U.S. Army**—son of Mark & Martie Lukanich
- **Staff Sgt. Scott Blunk**—husband of Brianne and son-in-law of Maureen Becker
- **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 & Nancy 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 and Kathi Parisi, brother of Caitlin & Jack and grandson of Robert J. Lynch
- **Lt. Brendan Short, U.S. Army Airborne**—nephew of Don & Rita Baumgart
- **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
- **Sean Kramer, U.S. Army**—friend of the Cooley Family
- **Lt. Matthew Edinger, DO, U.S. Navy**—son of John Edinger & Maria Nidos

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](mailto:bulletineditor@sfxlg.org).





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