



SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH
1st Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024

1st *Sunday*
OF ADVENT



BELONG • BELIEVE • BE LOVE

Week at a Glance

			Intention	Requested By
Monday, December 2	Mass	8:30 am	Helen Rizzo Jessica Barry Special Intention Stephen Sfondilias	The Templeton & Costello Families The Zahorik Family Patrick Daly
Tuesday, December 3	Mass	8:30 am	Carol Knudsen Edward John O'Shea, Jr.	The Tassi Family Jennifer Driscoll
Wednesday, December 4	Mass	8:30 am	Cookie Hofstetter William Goss	The Westerhoff Family Shirley Goss
Thursday, December 5	Rosary Mass	8:15 am 8:30 am	People of the Parish	
Friday, December 6	Mass	8:30 am	People of the Parish	
Saturday, December 7	Mass	8:30 am	Louie Marasovic	April Pesut
	No Reconciliation Mass	5:00 pm	Betty Lukanich	The Byrne Family
Sunday, December 8 2nd Sunday of Advent	Mass	7:30 am	Mary Tio	John R. Washbish
	Mass	9:00 am	Jerome Doruska	Jennifer Driscoll
	Mass	11:00 am	Jim Zogby	Gina Adinolfi
	Mass	5:00 pm	Annmarie Teresa Mason Thomas Murphy	The Byrne Family The St. Vincent de Paul Ministry

Presider's Schedule for November 30-December 1, 2024

5:00 pm Fr. Tkachuk

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	Tiffany Kahn
Vincent Austrebich	Brenda Kardatzke
Ed Barrett	Michelle Kram
Angela Bowman	Ayanna Kucera
Vivian Brickhouse	Eleanor Love
Kevin Brooks	Jill Miller
Blake Donegan	Patrick Morgan
Pat Eaton	Bill Mroz
Tom Flynn	Rosemary Nash
Bob Fredriksen	Ann Marie Nidos
Baby Lupe Baker Garcia	Laureen Rabe
Lilli Gregory	Aldona Ruppert
Vincenzo Guzzo	Sheila Slonskis
Junie Haase	Michael Smith
Mateo Herhold	Lorine Solimeno
Sr. Marci Hermesdorf	Gregg Stephenson
Angela Hill	John Stopka
Jessi Rita Hoffman	Olivia Tarsney

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.



Weddings

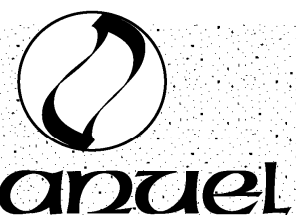
Angelina Timm & Ian Rodnick
Megan Koerner & Nick Saleh
Abby Wiiken & Kevin Maluso



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







Pastor's Letter

"Be vigilant at all times and pray."
Luke 21:36

This year, Advent begins with **a call to vigilance**. This is not the vigilance of a sentry who warns of an approaching enemy. Rather, Advent vigilance is a *conscious decision to watch for the presence of God* in every waking moment of each and every day. We go out as a communion of hope rather than a people of fear. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus as one like us, we attune our senses to the *present coming* of Jesus into our lives. Jesus first came two thousand years ago as a child in a manger; and he will come in glory at the end of time and space as we know it. We live amid the "in between" comings of Jesus into the events of today and into our individual and communal lives.

Advent invites us to *be awake and alert* to the presence of God in our *daily* thoughts and activities. We light the candles of a wreath to remember God's light shining into the deepening darkness of early winter. We hang lights and ornaments and greenery to proclaim the joy of God's presence *here and now*. We think of people who are special to us, and we write cards and choose presents to express our gratitude for the ways in which they make God present to us. We sing carols that tell of the wonder of God's love, of angels sweetly singing on high, of a night of heavenly peace, and of the call to come and behold the king of angels lying in a manger.

Advent invites us, in a special way, to set aside *time to be still* amid all the many activities of the season. We are called to have the *ears of the shepherds* who heard the song of angels in the night while others were sleeping. We are called to open to the *wonder of the magi* who set out on a long journey to discover the meaning of an awesome star in the heavens. We are invited into the presence of God who acts in unexpected ways. Our God chose to become a vulnerable infant who grew up to become our teacher, our healer, and our Savior. Next Saturday, we come together with believers in our two neighboring parishes for a communal celebration of God's loving mercy. **What unexpected ways does God desire to enter into our hearts and lives amid the stillness?**

Advent also brings **the feast of our patron, St. Francis Xavier**. Francis set out from his native Spain almost five hundred years ago to fulfill a mission that St. Ignatius himself could not fulfill as the founder of a new community of religious men. Francis sailed to Japan, India, and areas near China to proclaim the message of Jesus and to set the world on fire. He lived the life of a missionary disciple, and he calls us, under his patronage, to proclaim the good news through *our own words and deeds*.

The Friday before our patron's feast is **Service Day**, a special day for the students at St. Francis Xavier Elementary School. This Friday, our children will travel throughout the Chicago area and engage in service projects related to their grade's specific service focus. Some will prepare food packages to feed the hungry or care packages for veterans who are ill. Others will sing to the elderly, go bowling with the other abled, or spend time with children in communities with limited resources. The Service Day tradition has become core to the identity and mission of our parish school. Each year our children amaze me with the experiences they share at the end of the day.

Next Sunday, plan to arrive early and hungry for the Third Annual Yule Flip Pancake Breakfast in Joyce Hall. You will be served pancakes and sausage by members of our Knights of Columbus group and by students in our School of Religious Education. The gym will hold a variety of activities for children and the opportunity for a visit with Santa. I hope to see you there!

Advent Peace,

J. Bill

Reflection For the 1st Sunday of Advent

Liturgy Planning Team #1 - Marge Branecki, Jude Dumfeh,
Tricia Jacobs, Ed & Michelle Mirecki

We don't like to wait. In our fast-paced, fast food culture, we usually want what we want, when we want it. However, it is important for us to learn how to wait well. This will determine our joy and peace in many aspects of our lives. The Advent Season helps us nurture patience and vigilance as we wait with expectation for the coming of our Lord anew into our hearts.

With the many demands on our lives, it can be easy for our hearts to become "drowsy" from being caught up in "the anxieties of daily life". Material needs and wants, people's approval, and the pursuit of wealth and security, can cause us to lose sight of what is truly important. At some point we will all encounter life's challenges and "tribulations", that can catch us "by surprise like a trap", bringing us to our knees.

We may be "shaken" in the face of turmoil, but we will not be in dismay, because our "redemption is at hand". We will wait with expectation, pray without ceasing, and be "vigilant at all times" as we await our Lord this Advent season. He is abounding "in love" and always faithful!

ADVENT COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION SERVICE

St. John of the Cross Parish will host the Advent Communal Reconciliation Service on Saturday, December 7, beginning at 9:30 AM. Parishioners from St. Cletus and St. Francis Xavier Parishes are invited to participate in this service, which will be the only communal service during the season of Advent. Since both Fr. Bill and Fr. Rich will be assisting at that celebration, there will be no private Reconciliation at St. Francis Xavier following the 8:30 morning Mass on December 7. Take advantage of this opportunity to prepare your heart to celebrate the Birth of Jesus.

Welcome

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

Daniel & Erin Bedell
Robin Florence
Sr. Maribeth Howell, OP
Seth & Emily McGiness
Daniel Moynihan & Jennifer Hong
Nancy Ragaishis
Gabor & Katarzyna Talan
Mason & Jinny Taylor



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.

OPLATKI

The Christmas Wafer (also known as "Oplatki") is available at the Rectory.



The word "Bethlehem" means "the house of bread." The breaking of the bread is a sign of charity, unity and friendship. Religious family customs bring the truths of faith into the home. One of these beautiful Christmas Eve customs is the Christmas Wafer. The thin wafer bearing the Christmas characters is broken by the head of the family and distributed to each member. With a simple prayer for God's grace and the welfare of all members of the family, those present as well as those who are absent, the head of the house breaks the wafer and distributes it, one piece to each person at the table. While doing so, each member of the family is kissed and wished a joyful feast. Members then greet one another in the same way.

The spiritual lesson in this age-old custom is that the unity of the family is grounded in God's love for us. May you experience unity and love through this simple celebration.

St. Francis Xavier Parish presents:

YULE FLIP PANCAKE BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH IN JOYCE HALL

8:00 AM - 12:30 (LAST SEATING AT 12:15)



MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW FOR THE YULE FLIP PANCAKE BREAKFAST! PLEASE PAY DIRECTLY AT GIVE CENTRAL THROUGH THE QR CODE BELOW.



Regular Admission: \$12

Children 12 & Under: \$5

Seniors 65 & Older: \$10

Any questions contact the Rectory at 708-352-0618

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

IN THE GYM FROM 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Enjoy Visits with Santa

Create a Keepsake Christmas Ornament

Make Cozy Blankets and Cheery Christmas Cards for our Food Pantry Families

THERE IS A SEPARATE FEE FOR THE FOLLOWING SANTA'S WORKSHOP ACTIVITIES

(PAYMENT IS HANDLED IN THE GYM)

Paint-Your-Own Mini Canvas with Bottle & Bottega \$10 Each

Christmas Cookie Decorating \$3 per Cookie

Make-and-Take a Mini Holiday Tree \$8 Each

** please note there are no advanced reservations for Santa's Workshop Activities

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

Catholic Women's Club

St. Francis Xavier - CWC



Knights of
Columbus®



GIVING TREE **Our Tradition Continues!**

Tags for both gift cards and specific items will be available at all the masses December 7 and 8. We ask that gifts and gift cards be returned to Unity Hall by noon on December 15.

Online monetary donations will be collected through
December 15 via Give Central.

[Click here](#) or you can scan the QR code to make a donation.

The Giving Tree will support
St. Simon of Cyrene (formerly St. Agatha's)
Food Pantry families and migrant and refugee families.

Thank you for continuing to spread Christmas Cheer!



Any questions, call 708-352-0168 or email Merry Freeman at mfreeman@sfxlg.org.



YOUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Your Christmas donation is instrumental to the
parish's ongoing mission!
Our Christmas goal is \$170,000 (9% of our budgeted offertory).

Ways to Give:

1. Father Bill'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!

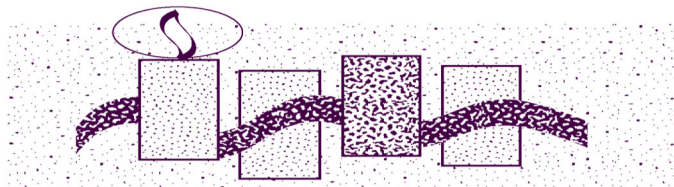
Make a gift to the
Christmas Offertory with
this QR Code.
Thank you for your support!



Advent Supplies Available



Little Blue Books, Advent Wreath Candles, and other seasonal Advent supplies are available at the table in the back of the church! Free will donations welcome.



St. Francis Xavier Senior Women's Group

Let's Wait
**An Advent Reflection With
Maribeth Howel, OP**

**Thursday, December 12
9:00-11:00am
Unity Hall**

No RSVP Needed

**Please join us as we come together
to listen, to reflect, and to share
why this season
is so significant to us.**



Christmas Eve Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve
Tuesday, December 24th
St. Francis Xavier Church
3:00 p.m.* and 5:00 p.m.

Alexine Chapel
3:00 p.m.

St. Francis Xavier Church
7:00 p.m.

**Midnight Mass in Church
preceded by Christmas Carols**
at 11:00 p.m.

*Livestreamed
Joyce Hall will be open to
accommodate overflow.

Christmas Day Feast of the Holy Family New Year's Mass Schedule

Christmas Day
Wednesday, December 25th
9:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.

Feast of the Holy Family
Monday, December 30th
5:00 p.m.

New Year's Eve
Tuesday, December 31st
5:00 p.m.

New Year's Day
Wednesday, January 1st
10:00 a.m.

St. Francis Xavier Parish
BELONG · BELIEVE · BE LOVE

Thank You

Thank you for your generous gift of \$390 to the Women's Care Center. You are the backbone of this mission. Because of you, Women's Care Center now serves thousands of women every year. It's unbelievable and hard to imagine. But it always starts with one. One woman at a time and one person like you who helps her. For that reason, I'd like to share a story of just one woman you helped. Her name is Stephanie.

Stephanie says, "I found Women's Care Center when I was pregnant with my second child. My husband and I were out of work and had lost our insurance. I initially went for just one ultrasound, but found so many resources. Even though our family situation has changed, and things are more stable, my love for Women's Care Center continues, so I keep coming back." To you, she says, "I just want to say thank you to the donors. I'm tearful expressing the depths of my gratitude. Women's Care Center has been a really big part of my life. At certain moments I don't think we would have made it through without you."

You are the reason Women's Care Center can be there for each and every mom like Stephanie, both before and after her baby is born. With classes and the Crib Club, you help clothe, diaper, guide and give resources, teach and support mothers. You create a nurturing parents and build loving families.

With my prayers and gratitude,
Katherine Kelly
Executive Outreach Director

Kitchen Angels



The Kitchen Angels are a group of parishioners who help people by bringing meals to their homes. The Kitchen Angels have been in existence for many years yet many of our parishioners are not aware of this outreach ministry.

If you know of a person or a family who could use some meals, or if you are interested in becoming a Kitchen Angel, please contact **Susie Lehuta** at 708-354-6380 or lehutams@gmail.com.

Church Pipe Organ Opportunity

Dear Parishioners,

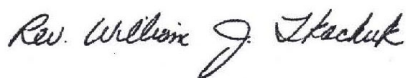
We are excited to share a unique opportunity to complete our beloved pipe organ at St. Francis Xavier. As many of you know, our pipe organ is a work in progress. Previous fundraising efforts funded most of the initial installation. Between 2003 and 2022, we received donations that allowed us to install all but one of the components in the original design for the organ. These components were not included in the initial installation due to the need to allocate capital funds to replace the boiler that heats the entire campus. We are sharing this history openly with our community to ensure transparency in our history and our future plans.

The final component to complete the organ is the Trompette Royale, a distinguished addition to the Great 8' register. This component will amplify our music ministry and provide an inspiring sound experience for our community. The total cost to finish the organ, including all preparations and installation, is \$122,000.

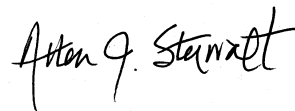
If we are able to raise at least \$100,000 in commitments from our parish family, we can sign a contract to install the Trompette Royale and complete our organ in its full glory. Note that we are asking only for a commitment at this stage; please do not send any funds until we confirm sufficient support to proceed.

Those interested in committing to this meaningful project should email us at organ@sfxlg.org. Once we determine that we have enough pledges, we will provide further information to finalize the funding and begin work. The installation process, led by Berghaus Pipe Organ Builders, includes new electro-pneumatic chests, winding, a reservoir, and a blower. The Trompette Royale will be housed in the original organ chamber, and enhancements, including advanced expression controls, will allow for a nuanced, beautiful sound quality across all registers.

Thank you for considering this important request. With your support, we can enrich our worship experience for generations to come.



Pastor



Director of Music



Prepare for the
coming of the LORD



NEW FAMILY ENROLLMENT BEGINS DECEMBER 4

WE PRAY

Our goal is to help our students live a life of generous service, motivated by a love of Jesus and others. We strive to instill and nurture the belief that God is found everywhere, especially in one another.



WE LEARN

TWO time U.S. Dept. of Education NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL and recipient of Chicago Archdiocese St. Thomas Aquinas Award.



WE SERVE

Our All-School Service Program exemplifies who we are as a school.

This year, we are holding our 15th annual Service Day!



CONTACT US TODAY! ENROLLMENT@SFXLG.ORG

Attention St. Francis Xavier Classes of 2017 and 2020!

The St. Francis Xavier School Advisory Board invites SFX graduates from the classes of 2017 and 2020 for pizza at Lucca's Pizzeria & Ristorante on Thursday, December 26, 2024 from 6:00-9:00pm.

Start your night with us—have a slice and say hello to classmates and Falcon Friends!

Lucca's is located at 108 West Burlington Avenue, LaGrange.

Questions, please email SchoolBoard@sfxlg.org.



Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

For our seniors over the age of 70½

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) allows individuals age 70½ or older to authorize their IRA administrator to make a direct, tax-free transfer of funds from their IRA to qualified charities, such as St. Francis Xavier Parish. This is a unique opportunity to make a significant impact while also benefiting from potential tax advantages through a QCD.

Here are some key benefits of making a QCD from your IRA:

1. **Reduce your taxable income:** The amount transferred directly to charity does not generate taxable income, which may reduce your annual income level. This may help lower your Medicare premiums and decrease the amount of Social Security subject to tax.
2. **Fulfill your RMD:** If you are 73 years old or older, your QCD can satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution.
3. **Simplicity:** The process is straightforward—just instruct your IRA custodian to make the gift directly to us.
4. **Make a Difference:** Your QCD will make an immediate impact on our mission to *belong, believe, and be love*.

As we reflect on the blessings of the past year, we invite you to consider making a QCD to St. Francis Xavier Parish. If you would like to ensure your contribution is received in the current tax year, it is best to initiate your QCD prior to December 10.

If you have any questions about how to make a QCD or need assistance with the process, please feel free to reach out to Jennifer Zeisloft, Director of Stewardship and Development at jzeisloft@sfxlg.org or 708-352-0168.



Crossroads SFX Teen Group

Attention all high school teens: Are you looking to grow stronger in your Faith? Are you looking for ways to navigate the challenges and complexities of your high school years? Do you wonder how our Faith fits into a world which often seems to dismiss or be disrespectful to our Faith? Please join a group of like-minded teens to explore these issues at Crossroads. We meet twice per month on Sunday nights to explore faith, build community, and share perspectives. We will also have some outreach/volunteer opportunities.

All meetings take place in Unity Hall after the 5pm mass, from 6:00-7:00pm and include dinner. This program is in its second year at SFX and we are excited about being able to support the faith journey of our teens. We welcome all high school students regardless of faith/parish, so bring your friends.

The remaining dates this year are: December 1 and December 15. More dates in the new year!

Please reach out to Laura and Greg Ozark with any questions:
greg.ozark@gmail.com or lauraozark@yahoo.com.

Nazareth Academy Entrance Exam Testing

Nazareth Academy invites 8th graders to Test at Nazareth Academy on **December 7**. Preference for admission and scholarships will be granted to students who test with Nazareth on that day. The exam begins at 8:00am and concludes at approximately 11:15am. **Pre-Registration is required.** More information and registration can be found at www.nazarethacademy.com.

Parents are invited to an optional Parent Gathering Q & A session from 8:15-9:15am that morning. Pre-registration at www.nazarethacademy.com is required to attend.

Nazareth Academy is located at 1209 West Ogden in LaGrange Park. Questions can be directed to Mrs. Kristen Stojetz at 708-397-8505.

An Evening of Prayer and Reflection

◆ *St. Francis and the Gift of Incarnation* ◆

*Hospitality
to follow*

December 4th, 2024

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

*Special Guest Speaker:
Friar Mario L. Serrano,
OFM Conv.*



St. Cletus Parish
600 W. 55th Street La Grange



SPRED CHRISTMAS LITURGY

Please join the St. Francis Xavier SPRED group on Sunday, December 8 at the 5:00 p.m. Mass for the SPRED Christmas liturgy. This Mass will incorporate some of the special ways our SPRED group celebrates liturgy. Come experience our unique way to celebrate God's love for us all.

Thank You

The Edythe Ministry would like to thank the six volunteers for their wonderful work cleaning up the grounds on Saturday, October 19. Special thanks to the 12 teens from Nazareth for their service hours on Sunday, October 20. Their energy and enthusiasm was much appreciated. Also, on Saturday, November 2, thank you to the 11 volunteers for your hard work spreading mulch to beautify the grounds and to do it with joy and laughter. To Jenifer and her fifth grade CCD class for planting the bulbs around the Parish. To all the volunteers and the generous contributions. Thank you so much and know what a difference you have made here at St. Francis. See you in the spring.

Cathy Skokna
708-253- 3164
The Edythe ministry

SPRED

SPRED (Special Religious Development) welcomes children and adults with developmental disabilities and leads them toward a deeper awareness of God in their lives, an awareness of themselves as persons of dignity who are deeply loved by God, and an awareness of their integral relationship to the parish community and the entire Church. This is accomplished by meaningful one-on-one relationships within a small faith community.

We currently have openings in our Saturday morning group for adults (ages 22+). If you know of any adults who would benefit from participating in the SPRED program, please contact Maureen Windmoeller at 708-250-1049.





Prepare your heart for Jesus this Advent with daily prayer on **Hallow**

"My morning meditation and prayer time have increased substantially since I heard about and joined Hallow during Advent. My faith has deepened in ways that words just cannot describe. I am blessed and so grateful!"

"This Advent challenge pierced my heart. My heart wasn't open enough to Christ before, but now it's like a spark of light came into it."

"I am so much more aware of God's presence in my everyday life because of Hallow's Advent Challenge."



Your parish has partnered with Hallow. Join us in prayer this Advent!

Scan the QR code to sign up
hallow.com/parish

DAILY PRAYERS

Start your day with the Daily Gospel, Rosary, imaginative prayer or one of over 10,000 sessions, including daily meditations, homilies, reflections, and Bible studies.

FAMILY CONTENT & KIDS CHALLENGE

Pray as a family with weekly Mass Prep, Saints Alive, Kids Holy Hour and guide your little ones through the season with our Advent challenge for children.

BIBLE STORIES & SLEEP CONTENT

Close your day with Christ with Night Prayer, an Examen, or a Rosary with guests like Bishop Barron, Mark Wahlberg, and Jonathan Roumie.

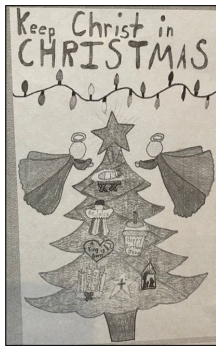


“Keep Christ In Christmas” Poster Contest



The LaGrange Council 6483 Knights of Columbus is inviting the students of St. Francis Xavier Day School and Religious Education Program from First Grade through Eighth Grade to participate in the organizations international “Keep Christ In Christmas” poster contest.

The contest will be conducted locally with winning entries advancing to District, State, National and International levels. The winning entries will serve as a basis for a series of new Christmas posters that encourage deeper understanding of the holiday. Entry forms will be available through school. Posters must be submitted to St. Francis Xavier Day School and Religious Education Program by **Friday, December 6th**.



Knights of Columbus LaGrange Council 6483



Charity is at the heart of our faith and the work of the Knights of Columbus. If you're a Catholic man from age 18 to 78 with a calling for service by focusing on others, live a life of faith in action. Jesus calls us to bear fruit. Become a Knight. **YOUNG LEADERS WANTED.** We've got good work to do in our community. Text or call Brian Lisek at 630-939-2626 to learn how you can help us serve those with the most need. 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, December 3

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



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
- **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 TATC**—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.**

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 Soulje
Antonio Franceschi

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

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

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