



SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE LORD, YOUR GOD, IS IN YOUR MIDST,
A MIGHTY SAVIOR;
HE WILL REJOICE OVER YOU WITH GLADNESS,
AND RENEW YOU IN HIS LOVE.

—ZEPHANIAH 3:17

Week at a Glance

| | | | Intention | Requested By |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Monday, December 18 | Mass | 8:30 am | Anthony Kalisz Kevin Cooney Special Intention | Elaine Dunkel The Donahue Family |
| Tuesday, December 19 | Mass | 8:30 am | Tricia Krumholz | The SFX Sunshine Committee |
| Wednesday, December 20 | Mass | 8:30 am | Besse & Dick Parlon | Pam Oplawski |
| Thursday, December 21 | Rosary Mass | 8:15 am 8:30 am | | |
| Friday, December 22 | Mass | 8:30 am | John Zotti | Nancy Cozzi & Lou Freda |
| Saturday, December 23 | Mass Reconciliation Mass | 8:30 am 9:00 am 5:00 pm | JoAnn Schreve George J. Brixie | Pam Oplawski The John Byrnes Family |
| Sunday, December 24 4th Sunday of Advent | Mass Mass | 7:30 am 10:00 am | Church Church | |
| Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve | Mass Mass Mass Mass Mass | 3:00 pm 3:00 pm 5:00 pm 7:00 pm Midnight | Alexine Chapel Church (Livestreamed) Church Church Church | (Overflow in Joyce Hall) |

Presider's Schedule for December 16-17, 2023

5:00 pm Fr. Milek 7:30 am Fr. Milek 9:00 am Fr. Tkachuk 11:00 am Fr. Milek 5:00 pm Fr. Tkachuk

Please pray for . . .

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Baby Finley Adkins | Eleanor Love |
| John Baggio | Rick Mahoney |
| Dorothy Burnicks | Darren Masier |
| Dick Callahan | Lisa Massaro |
| Jay Carroll | Patrick Morgan |
| Chili Challender | Muriel Nerad |
| Marion Coogan | Gert Ogilvie |
| Laurie Coughlan | Jane O'Reilly |
| Blake Donegan | Larry Plansky |
| Barbara Doyle | Laureen Rabe |
| Matthew Doyle | Rob Roper |
| Nancy Duffy | Anna Rose |
| Lily Fielding | Sandra Smith |
| Tom Flynn | Santa Snieg |
| Kathy Gleason | Jerry Spearman, Sr. |
| Lilli Gregory | Rita Mae Spearman |
| Angela Hill | Gregg Stephenson |
| Bob Hill | John Stopka |
| Dave Hyland | Charlie Swafford |
| Rose Ilo | Richie Szatkowski |
| Jane Jacobsen | Olivia Tarsney |
| Tiffany Kahn | Bill Witowski |
| Richard Lavers | Erik Witz |

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:

Jennifer Buchta

Friend of John Lowrey

Nancy Cuppage

Mother of Pamela Adema

Jacquie Flood

Mother of Nancy, Kathi, Paul, Pat & Bob
Sister of Nancy Johnson



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



Pastor's Letter

I rejoice heartily in the Lord, in my God is the joy of my soul.
Isaiah 61:10

Rejoice!

What brings joy to your heart? Is it the songs of the “toddler choirs at Sunday morning Mass? Or the stillness of the neighborhood on a soft snowy evening? Is it the excitement of children when they speak of Santa’s visit and wonder how he will get in if you have no chimney? Is it finding just the right gift for someone special in your life? Or is it simply knowing that all you love are home safe?

The candle of the Third Sunday of Advent is different from the others. God loves us so deeply that God sent Jesus, the Son, to teach us how to love one another and to offer humankind a new beginning in our relationship with God. The rose candle of week three bids us to let gift of God’s love into our hearts and then let its joy go out to others. This is not a week to hold back, as if there were nothing to be joyful about until Christmas Day. The joy of Christmas never leaves us when we open our hearts to receive it.

My earliest Christmas memories are of a tree, appearing out of nowhere, fully decorated, on Christmas morning. It was one more present from Santa. After a few years, however, our parents informed us that Santa had left them a note. It said that he thought we were now old enough to share in the joy of decorating the tree, and that from now on dad would get the tree for us to begin. My Irish mother’s rule was that we could not begin to decorate the tree until we had lit the rose candle. So the lighting of this candle was a joyful moment for us children, even as dad tried to be patient in figuring out which of the colored bulbs needed to be replaced so that the entire string would light up. (If you’re too young to know what I am talking about, ask your elders.)

Perhaps one way to connect with the joy of this season is to bring to mind and heart memories of Christmases past: that special toy that was our constant companion; the ornament from an early Christmas or that has been passed on over generations; a Christmas when everyone was able to be together; or the last Christmas we spent with someone close to us. We remember, but not to think as if the good times are behind us; we remember to look ahead in hope to what may surprise, delight, or tough our hearts in the week ahead.

Of course, Christmas is not a time of rejoicing for everyone among us. Christmas holds a wide range of emotions, some easy to remember and some difficult to recall. We might be aware of those who are no longer with us around the tree. Tensions within the family may make it difficult for us to come together in one place at the same time; or families may have to travel to see some relatives while unable to be with others. We need to be sensitive to those around us for whom this Christmas may be a time of mixed blessings and offer them gentle comfort and hope for days to come.

This week I honor one more Christmas tradition. I will accompany a friend to Goodman Theatre’s production of “A Christmas Carol” and be touched once more by a man whose heart is revived by the memories of what has been, the realization of what is, and the possibilities of what may yet be. **Choose joy and hope this week!** God is with us.

Advent Peace,

J. Bill

Reflection For the 3rd Sunday of Advent

Liturgy Planning Team #3—George Rutkowski, David Sherman,
Barbara Kalnes, Charles Brewick, and Gertrude Nalumansi

We are called to be witnesses to Christ The Light. By Baptism we become members of the family of Christ, the true Light of the world. Our mission as brothers and sisters of Christ and members of the Church is to reflect Christ’s Light to others. It is especially important during the Advent season that we reflect upon and radiate Christ’s unconditional love and forgiveness everywhere. Many people feel lonely or marginalized. They are waiting for us to reflect the Light of Christ into their worlds and to turn their lives into experiences of joy. The joy of Jesus, the joy of Christmas, can only be ours to the extent that we bring joy into the lives of others.



YOUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING



Your Christmas donation is instrumental to the
parish's ongoing mission!
Our Christmas goal is \$154,000 (7.5% of our budgeted revenue).

Ways to Give:

1. Father Bill's Christmas letter includes an envelope for your offering
2. To make your online gift:
 - Click [here](#)
 - Text JOYFUL to 708-340-6630
 - Use the QR code inside the front cover of this bulletin

God bless you for your support!



St. Francis Xavier 4th Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve Mass Schedule

4th Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23rd 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 24th 7:30 am and 10:00 am

(New Sunday morning schedule this year)

Christmas Eve in Church

3:00 pm* and 5:00 pm

Christmas Eve at Alexine Chapel

3:00 pm

Christmas Eve in Church

7:00 pm

Midnight Mass in Church

preceded by Christmas Carols at 11:00 pm

*Livestreamed

Joyce Hall will be open to accommodate overflow.

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

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25th 9:00 am and 11:00 am

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 30th 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 31st 7:30 am,
9:00 am and 11:00 am

New Year's Eve 5:00 pm

New Year's Day January 1st 10:00 am

Please check the website www.sfxlg.org
for livestream mass times.



GIVING TREE!

Online monetary donations will be
collected through **Today December 17**
via Give Central.

Click here or you can scan the
QR code to make a donation.



The Giving Tree will support
St. Agatha's on the west side of Chicago,
Food Pantry families and migrant families.
Thank you for continuing
to spread Christmas Cheer!

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

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.

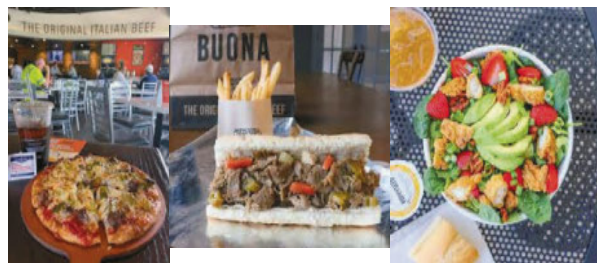
The spiritual lesson in this age-old custom is that
the unity of the family is grounded in God's love for
us. May you experience unity and love through this
simple celebration.

Calling all Shepherds and Angels:



Our 3PM and 5PM Christmas Eve Masses on Sunday, December 24th are especially for families with children. We ask that all children who are interested dress up as an angel or a shepherd to be a part of the Gospel Reading. Angels can wear white clothing or wings and a halo. Shepherds can wear a robe and tie a towel over their heads. You don't need to go purchase a costume, so just be creative and use materials you have in your homes. During the Gospel your children will be called forward to participate in the dramatization of the Gospel. We hope to see all of you at Mass.

BUONA Benefit Night



**20% of sales will benefit
SFX Religious Education**

BUONA COUNTRYSIDE
20 W PLAINFIELD RD, IL 60525
708-236-0379
DECEMBER 17TH, 2023

Upon checkout, please mention your organization. Email fundraising@buona.com to plan your Buona Benefit Night! Not valid with online, app, phone orders, catering orders, or Gift Card purchases. Promoting on Buona's premises is prohibited.

@BuonaBeef

@BuonaBeef

BuonaRestaurants

We're hiring! Visit Buona.com/Careers



Save The Date

Kairos 42
February 22-25, 2024

We will open Kairos 42 registration on January 9 at 9:00AM. We have limited spots.

2024 Summer Mission Trip
June 9-14, 2024 in Louisville, KY

Rising Sophomores through Graduating Seniors join us for a life-changing week of service, faith and fun. St. Francis, St. Cletus and St. John of the Cross Parishes are partnering for another Summer Mission trip to Love, Serve and Connect with Catholic Heart Workcamp in Louisville, Kentucky. We will join other teens from across the country as we serve community members painting, gardening, building, and volunteering with social service agencies. Teens will earn 30 hours of service for our Summer Mission Trip. Registration opens this Wednesday, December 20 at 9:00AM. Please check out our website for more information and to access the registration link on December 20. We anticipate these spots will go quickly; we require a \$150 non-refundable deposit to secure your spot.

Attention St. Francis Xavier Classes of 2016 and 2019!

The St. Francis Xavier School Advisory Board invites SFX graduates from the classes of 2016 and 2019 for pizza at Lucca's Pizzeria & Ristorante on Wednesday, December 27 from 6:00-9:00 pm.

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.

SAFE AND SOBER HOLIDAYS

Did you know that 10-13% of all people in any community live with the disease of alcoholism or other chemical dependence? This includes 10-13% of our parish community. Each person who lives with a chemically dependent person also has a disease that negatively affects the lives of at least four other persons. 40% of the members of any community know someone, or are concerned about someone, or are angry at someone who lives with this progressive and potentially fatal disease.

If you care about someone who has a drinking or other drug problem, I encourage you to get help for yourself. Go to ALANON if you are affected by someone's chemical dependency. Go to FAMILIES ANONYMOUS if you are the relative or friend of a young person with drug problems. Go to ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS if you are the adult son or daughter of someone with an alcohol or other drug problem. *Get help for yourself before* you attempt to intervene in the life of someone who is addicted. This is the best gift you can give to someone who is dependent on alcohol or another drug.

Here are some healthy guidelines for holiday drinking and entertaining.

Fr. Bill

HOLIDAY DRINKING GUIDELINES

1. Drink only if you can. If you have been told not to drink, or if you take medication that does not mix with alcohol, don't drink.

Just one drink can hurt you.

2. Don't drink more than one drink per hour. If you can drink more than this without feeling any effect, it may be a symptom of the disease of alcoholism.

A high tolerance for alcohol is a sign of disease – not a good thing.

3. Don't drink if you "don't drink." Don't take a beverage to avoid hurting your host or hostess.

Not drinking is okay.

4. Alcohol mixes better with the gasoline in a car than with the driver. If you plan on having a "really good time?" then plan on not driving.

Drunk drivers can kill people.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING GUIDELINES

1. Never tell a guest, "Aw, c'mon. One drink won't hurt you. It's Christmas!"

The calendar has no effect on the effects of alcohol.

2. Don't serve more than one drink per hour to any guest. Minimize the time before serving food.

Don't poison your guests.

3. Don't give a guest who "doesn't drink" a hard time. Don't argue when someone says, "No thanks."

Provide non-alcoholic refreshments and let your guests choose.

4. Hot coffee or cold towels only make a person more awake. If a guest is drunk, do not let them drive. Get them a ride or cab or let them sleep it off.

Drunk drivers can kill people.

Surviving the Holidays

Some family situations can make the holidays difficult. For example,

- there's no money
- the kids are at the other parent's house
- a loved one has died this past year

These top ten tips for "Surviving the Holidays" can help you exchange the dread, anxiety, or loneliness for a time of inner peace and hope.

1. Have realistic expectations.

This year WILL be different; resist trying to make it the same as other years.

2. Know you can stay home this year.

This year you may feel like staying at home, which is a normal part of grief and healing. Many people may insist—maybe even push—to get you out. Be honest with yourself. If you are overwhelmed and need the security of solace, give yourself permission to stay in. If you go to the party and are ambushed by extreme emotions, give yourself permission to thank the host and leave early.

3. Do something special for yourself.

Plan a time close to Christmas day to go to a good movie, do a little window shopping, drop into church for a prayer, or enjoy a special treat. It doesn't have to be lavish. If you'd rather stay home, then download a favorite movie, cook a favorite meal, and cozy up in a way that comforts you.

4. Do something for someone else.

One of the best ways to come out of our misery is to help someone else. Volunteering restores many to the reality that God is good and there are many things for which to be thankful. Some focus their attention on Christmas presents for the children.

5. Keep it simple.

Having a Christmas tree may cheer up some; but for others it will be too depressing. Sending Christmas cards can be very therapeutic; but for some it is a time-consuming and unnecessary expense. Re-examine *everything* you used to do during the holidays; keep what works and let go of the rest.

6. Keep in touch with the children.

Children crave routines and rituals, which give them a sense of security—especially holiday customs. Keep as many of the holiday routines that *they* best love. Ask what *their* favorites are and help them focus on the fun.

7. Don't celebrate with your ex.

Unless it's been years, the kids are older, *and* you really do get along well. It sounds good that you should all be able to get along at the holidays—but it's most often a myth. In most cases it confuses everyone, especially the children.

8. Help the children buy a present for their other parent.

Imagine how difficult it can be to get a present for mom or dad without any help. Some things should never change: like encouraging children to love, honor, and respect both parents.

9. Draw close to God.

This holiday is about the answer to every person's prayer: God come to us in the flesh. Let Mary's kind eyes fall upon you and Joseph's strong gaze give you hope.

10. Go to Christmas Mass and rejoice in your heart.

On Christmas day your emotions may be extremely tender; the tears may flow, and the cries of your heart may mix with the strains of "Silent Night." But come. Come as you are. Know that you are loved. Know that there is hope. Know that there *will* be resurrection and salvation. *This* is the hope of these holidays.

O come, let us adore our God made flesh in Jesus.

Giving Treasure - Frequently Asked Questions

Considering which method of giving is right for you? Curious about ways in which St. Francis parishioners give? Check out the FAQ below.

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

Online 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%. For example, an annual donation of \$1,000 via bank account provides support of \$995, compared to \$965 from credit card. We are happy to report that the largest percentage of last year's Sunday offertory funds (32%) came from this method of giving. To give in this method, scan the QR code below or [Click Here](#).

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

Yes – now you can! This is 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. Currently, about 22% of our annual Sunday offertory is received from this method. To give in this method, scan the QR code below or [Click Here](#).

Can I continue using my offertory envelopes?

Absolutely. We continue to receive 30% of our Sunday offertory in this way. We are looking at ways to reduce the cost of printing and mailing, and there may be future changes to the number of envelopes and frequency of mailing.

How important is my Christmas or Easter donation?

Very important! These two special donations totaled 10% (\$215,000) of our funding last year. While all parishioners receive the envelopes with Fr. Bill's Christmas and Easter reflections, you can alternatively set up online giving right now using the QR code below or [Clicking Here](#).

Are there any other methods to give to offertory?

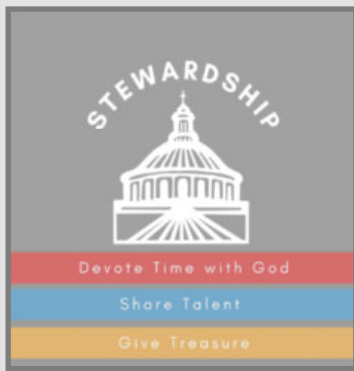
Donations of appreciated stock, IRA distributions, and donor advised funds are just a few ways in which donors give so generously. Contact Jennifer Zeisloft, Director of Stewardship and Development (jzeisloft@sfxlg.org or 708/352-0168), if you have questions about these giving methods.

*“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms...If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.”
– 1 Peter 4:10-11*

Make a donation with this QR code.

Thank you for your support to SFX Parish!





Your Gift, God's Hands

Offertory Report

Total Sunday Collections:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| This Year through November 2023: | \$ 606,514 |
| Last Year through November 2022: | \$ 582,434 |
| Annual Offertory Budget: (includes \$154,000 Christmas Budget) | \$1,846,000 |

This month, we highlight the extraordinary efforts to beautify our worship space during Advent and Christmas. Our Facilities Department teamed up with the Art & Environment Committee to prepare our church for liturgies from the first Sunday of Advent through the Epiphany on January 6 and 7. While some traditions continue (the Advent wreath, creche, Christmas trees), this year we have new "behind the scenes" technology which enlightens in either blue or pink behind the altar. This new lighting no longer stands on the floor of the narrow aisleway (safer!) and it operates with LED bulbs (economical and eco-friendly!) and an I-pad. In addition, take a look at the outdoor lighting along Spring Avenue, which also was newly installed to light up the grounds and façade of the church.

Each December, our church is a welcome beacon of hope and community when hundreds return to LaGrange to celebrate Christmas with family. As Celine Heraty, the leader of our Arts and Environment Committee, says: "Creating warm and welcoming worship spaces allows our parish families to experience the Liturgy in a beautiful and prayerful setting that includes all elements of design. Lighting and color are key to achieving this goal and St. Francis has always been a leader using background lighting to create an ambiance for each liturgical season."

Your Sunday and Christmas offertory donations have a profound impact on St. Francis Xavier, enabling the parish to provide essential services and ministries every day of the year. God bless You for your gifts to the parish as we gather in our church to celebrate the birth of the Messiah!





NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS *for* 2024-2025

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.

National Catholic Education Association Maxine Donahue Award recipient for service.

COME TO OUR OPEN HOUSE ON
JANUARY 28TH 10:00AM-12:30PM

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR:

- STRONG CORE CURRICULUM
- DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION
- INTEGRATED ARTS (ART, MUSIC, SPANISH, P.E. AND LRC
- ATHLETICS AND EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES
- ESTABLISHED & MEANINGFUL USE OF TECHNOLOGY

CONTACT US TODAY! ENROLLMENT@SFXLG.ORG



Toddler Moms' Monthly Prayer Night

Where: Check Facebook event for location of the month (SFX Toddling Together Group) (subject to change each month)

When: 8:00pm (every 2nd Thursday)

What: Get those littles (mostly) in bed and gather with other toddler moms for prayer and restoration! We meet on 2nd Thursdays of the month (location may vary, be sure to check Facebook or bulletin each month.)

Toddling Together Playtime & Social

Where: St. Francis Preschool Classroom

When: Sunday, January 14 at 10:00am

(between 9:00 & 11:00am masses, meet in Unity Hall to walk over together)

What: Gather with other families of littles to run off some energy and socialize pre/post mass.

Questions? Contact mmcmahon@sfxlg.org for more information.

Join our Facebook group: SFX Toddling Together!



Engage Community December

Our next get together:
**Thursday, December 28 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in
Unity Hall at SFX**

Have you received a gift that just isn't at home in your home? Now is your chance to give it to someone who might appreciate it. We're having a **White Elephant Party!**

Bring a wrapped gift and a sense of humor!
Refreshments will be potluck.

Please RSVP at the email below by December 26.

For questions or [to RSVP, please email Jane at janeLGPark@gmail.com](mailto:janeLGPark@gmail.com)

All are welcome. Engage is for adults; single, married, divorced, widowed, parishioners and visitors to foster Christian community through social and service events.

Your Parish Counselor



As we enter the winter months, the nights are getting longer. Generally, people find the shorter days to be more depressing. However, how long would we be able to enjoy Christmas lights without the night? Much like life, there can be glimpses of joy in times of struggle. Still, it may be difficult to focus on the light if surrounded by darkness. If you are looking for some assistance navigating these experiences, consider reaching out at 704-750-0686 or bc.shelly.claret@gmail.com.

BC Shelly, M.A., M.Div.
Parish Counselor Intern
St. Francis Xavier Parish
Phone: 704-750-0868
Email: bc.shelly.claret@gmail.com

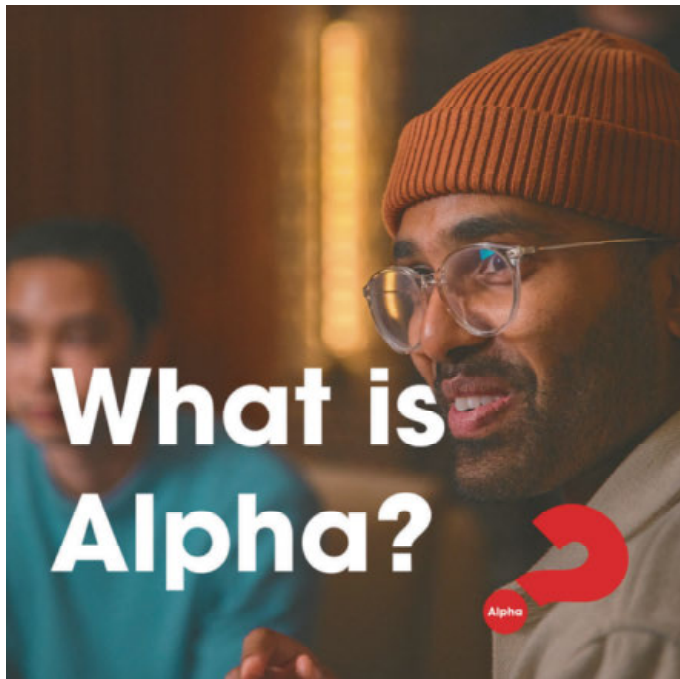
Christmas Concert & Candlelight Service *Follow the Star!*

Saturday, January 6, 2024 — 7:00 p.m.

The St. Francis Xavier Music Ministry

*Celebration Ensemble, Gallery Choir,
Children's Choir & Instrumentalists*





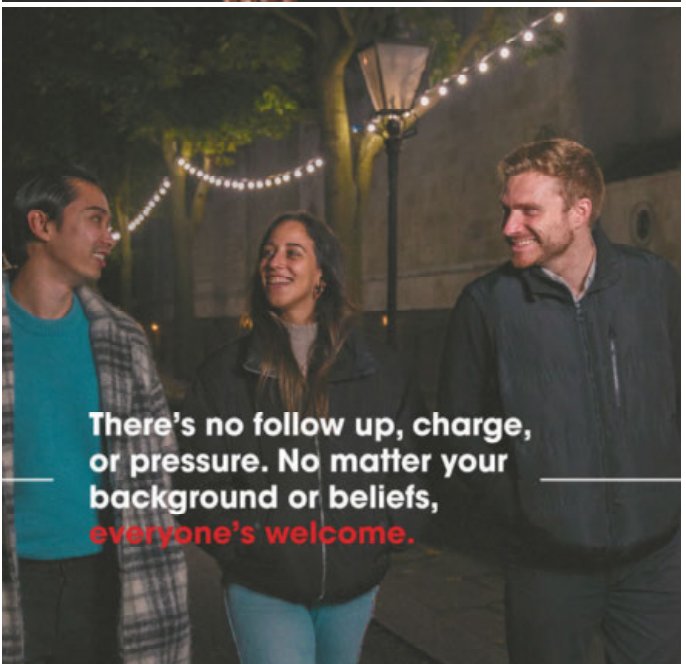
What is Alpha?



Alpha is a place to explore the Christian faith in an easy and friendly environment.



Each session starts with food and a short talk. Then there's plenty of time to share your thoughts.



There's no follow up, charge, or pressure. No matter your background or beliefs, everyone's welcome.

OUR QUESTIONS DRAW US CLOSER.

WHO WILL YOU INVITE?

DINNER & DISCUSSION

JAN 22, 630PM
UNITY HALL

SCAN OR EMAIL
MMCAHON@SFXLG.ORG FOR MORE





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

- **Staff Sgt. Bryan Pickens, U.S. Army Airborne Ranger 1-75th Ranger Battalion RGR REGT**—son of Rob & Bernadette Pickens and brother of Robert & Gabriel
- **Lt. Commander Jonathan Devitt Brown, U.S. Navy**—nephew of the Devitt Family
- **LCPL Gregory Allen, USMC**—nephew of Barbara Triggs & Anthony Anscombe
- **Kevin Peterson, U.S. Army Infantry**—son of Jon Peterson
- **Major Marcos Melendez, USMC**—nephew of Jon Peterson
- **Major Michelle Melendez, USMC** niece of Jon Peterson
- **Warrant Office 3 Nolan Kemna, USMC**—nephew of John & Linda Hill
- **Phil Lukanich, U.S. Navy**—husband and brother-in-law 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. Daniel McGue**—grandson of Sue Ryan
- **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
- **Major Meghan Cumpston, U.S. Army**—cousin of Lauren Schultz
- **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
- **Colonel Jessica Nichol, USAF**—daughter-in-law of Tom & Lucile Nichol
- **Capt. Jack Albertini, USMC**—son of Bob & Susan Albertini
- **Lt. Ryan Lavine, U.S. Army**—nephew of Kim & Vince Henehan
- **Chief Petty Officer Marko Mandac, U.S. Navy**—husband of Anna, son-in-law of David & Lynn Rogers

**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
School Office Coordinator
Parish School Secretary
Director of Marketing & Enrollment
Tuition Accounts
Director of Religious Education
Religious Education Administrative Assistant

Sharon Garcia
Janice Carr
Ashley Augustyniak
Peggy Evans
Erin Smith
Jane Bandyk
Elis Guidice
Cindy Johnson

sgarcia@sfxlg.org
jcarr@sfxlg.org
aagustyniak@sfxlg.org
pevans@sfxlg.org
esmith@sfxlg.org
jbandyk@sfxlg.org
eguidice@sfxlg.org
cjohnson@sfxlg.org

Youth Ministry

Coordinator

TBA

youthminister@sfxlg.org

Music Ministry

Director

Allen Sterwalt

asterwalt@sfxlg.org

Parish Office Staff

Director of Operations
Director of Stewardship and Development
Parish Accountant
Pastor's Secretary
Parish Secretary
Staff Secretary
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, Friday and Saturday 8:30 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.

Private Prayer at Neighboring Churches

St. Cletus (Monday - Friday).....9:00 am-12:00 pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesdays at St. Cletus 7:00-8:00 pm

St. John of the Cross (Monday - Saturday).....8:00 -10:00 am

Bulletin Deadline

The deadline for submitting all bulletin articles is 9:00 am on the Monday preceding the Sunday of publication. If a holiday falls on a Monday, articles are due by 12:00 Noon on the previous Thursday. Please email all articles to the bulletineditor@sfxlg.org.

Domestic Violence Resources

Family Shelter Services—24 hr. counseling 630-469-5650
LaGrange Police Emergency Assistance 911 or 708-579-2354

Food Pantry

The St. Francis Food Pantry is open every Tuesday from 9:30 to 11:30 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, BC Shelly, from the Claret Center. He can be reached by phone 704-750-0686 or email bc.shelly.claret@gmail.com.

SSTi store systems technology

Point of Sale Equipment
708-588-1773
Parishioner
www.storesystech.com



DUPLEX ELECTRIC

708-387-9400

Expert Troubleshooting
Electrical Rehab/Repair

Greg Fiffis - Parishioner
www.duplexelectricservice.com

**Ed the Plumber
Ed the Carpenter**

708.652.1444

Best Work • Best Rates
PARISHIONER DISCOUNT



The Heraty Christensen Group

Celine Heraty & Jean Christensen
Real Estate Brokers | Professional Stagers
SFX Arts & Environment Committee
In Our Church & in Our Client's Homes,
We Take Pride in Creating Beautiful Spaces.

YourSuccessOurGoal.com

@properties



Call Us For a Complimentary Consultation!
Celine: 708.261.5742 | Jean: 708.218.3904

**Hitzeman Funeral Home Family & Staff
wishes you a very blessed Holiday season!**

**HITZEMAN FUNERAL HOME
& CREMATION SERVICES**
HONORING THE LIVES OF LOVED ONES SINCE 1904

One Family Owned and Operated
708-485-2000
9445 W. 31st Street • Brookfield, IL 60513
www.HitzemanFuneral.com



*Conboy's Westchester
Funeral Home*

10501 W. Cermak Rd.
Westchester, IL
708-562-5900

**HERITAGE
ROOFING**

Free Roof Inspection

708-253-2561

www.HeritageRoofers.net

State Licensed,
Bonded & Fully Insured



We Take Service Personally

Contact us today for a customized, reliable
waste management, recycling, or dumpster quote.

630-261-0400

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Place Your Ad Here
and Support Our Parish!

**CONTACT ME
Jeff Hansen**

**jhansen@4LPi.com
(800) 950-9952 x2683**



**INFINITY
SEWER & DRAIN**

Emergency Plumbers

773-424-0363

INFINITY247.COM

• Parishioner Discount •



The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph
are inviting lay individuals to live with them at **Joseph House**,
1515 W Ogden Avenue in La Grange Park.
Assisted living apartments now available.

For a tour contact Ron Molitor at

708.482.1279 • rmolitor@csjinitiatives.org • www.csjinitiatives.org/la-grange-park/

JACKSON SQUARE

ANTIQUES | VINTAGE | HOME DECOR | FURNITURE

Now offering consignment!
112 E Burlington Ave, La Grange
www.jsqmall.com • (708) 352-4120



**Morna Freitas Photography
Fine Art Portrait Studio**

- Dance • Gymnastics
- Performing Arts • Headshots
- Graduates • Families



630-686-2021 | mornafreitasphotography.com

Say Good-bye to Clogged Gutters!



**\$99
Installation***

**Receive a \$100 Visa gift card with
your FREE in-home estimate**

*Participants who attend an estimate to determine system placement and receive a \$100 Visa gift card. Total value is \$100. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings Inc. LeafGuard is a registered trademark, and LeafGuard is a registered service mark. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If required or involved with a life partner, both collaborating parties must attend. Complete participation required. Participants must have a photo ID and be able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of LeafGuard or affiliated companies or affiliates, their immediate family members, previous participants in a LeafGuard in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former company customers. Gift may not be transferred, resold, or substituted except that company may substitute a gift of equal or greater value if a \$100 Visa gift card is not available. Gift will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail within 60 days of receipt of the participant form. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored and is subject to change without notice prior to expiration. Offer not available in all areas. See www.leafguard.com for details.

Call today for your FREE estimate and in-home demonstration

CALL NOW 708-462-6373

*Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we'll clean your gutters for free.



• LeafGuard® is **guaranteed never to clog** or we'll clean it for **FREE**!

- Seamless, one-piece system keeps out leaves, pine needles, and debris
- Eliminates the risk of falling off a ladder to clean clogged gutters
- Durable, all-weather tested system not a flimsy attachment

ENGLERT LeafGuard
Get it. And forget it.®



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

St. Francis Xavier, La Grange, IL

B 4C 01-4054


VA VAUPELL
AUTO REPAIR

We grew up, live, and work here so we are dedicated to bettering our community.

3 Year/36,000 Mile Warranty

708.352.8800
LA GRANGE PARK

SavWay
Fine Wines & Spirits since 1933



3821 S. York Road, Oak Brook
630-325-6550
www.savwaywines.com

Quality Work - Reasonable Prices

DEMMIS PLUMBING & SEWER



Ask for a **PARISHIONER DISCOUNT**

Lic# 055-844828

708.420.0806 EMERGENCY SERVICE
www.demmisplumbing.com



Jim Donahue
State Farm® Insurance Agent
SFX Parishioner
Auto, Homeowners, Condo, Renters, Personal Articles, Business, Life, & Pet
www.jimdonahue.com

Donahue Insurance Agency Inc.
1005 E. 31st St.
La Grange Park, IL 60523
708-354-1616
State Farm

The Lehman Group



Selling homes in St. Francis Parish for 45 years!

Patricia Lehman
708-507-0162

COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

219 W. Hillgrove, LaGrange, IL 60525



Innovative COUNSELING PARTNERS

Se Habla Español

Depression • Anxiety
Child & Family Therapy
Grief/Trauma Counseling
Marriage Counseling

773-312-3612

Offices in Oak Park, North Riverside, Hinsdale, Crystal Lake, Libertyville, & 2 Chgo locations
www.InnovativeCounselingPartners.com

WAGNER & KLEIN GROUP

MASONRY & BRICK WORK
TILE WORK
KITCHEN & BATH
REMODELING
WATERPROOFING
AFFORDABLE PRICES

708-737-2549
708-717-2974
wagnerkleingroup@gmail.com




CORRIGAN FINANCIAL SERVICES INC.

Specialist in Creating Tax Advantaged Retirement Income Solutions

Mike Corrigan 708-482-3800
Parishioner

913 Hillgrove LaGrange, IL.
mike@corriganfs.com

Working with Families & Business Owners Since 1980



Experience matters
Joe Thorne
St. Francis Parishioner
708-205-9028

Areas: La Grange, La Grange Park, Western Springs, Brookfield, La Grange Highlands, and surrounding areas

@properties



Tired of those smelly, dirty trash cans?

- Trash Bin Cleaning
- Fleet Washing • Pressure Washing

708.438.5499
info@blastbincleaning.com
www.blastbincleaning.com

Base Fit Performance

Steve Gray/ Owner

- basefitperformance.com
- www.facebook.com/BaseFitPerformance
- www.instagram.com/base_illinois
- IG handle @base_illinois

BASE

Stronger. Fitter. Faster.
The Base Fit Performance Promise

catholicmatch® Illinois



CatholicMatch.com/IL

DERMATOLOGY
DR. MICHAEL O'DONOGHUE
BOARD CERTIFIED DERMATOLOGIST



1415 W. 47TH ST. LA GRANGE, IL
APPOINTMENTS CALL: 708-765-3111
WWW.ILLINOISDERM.COM

R.W.S.

WHERE YOUR LANDSCAPING DREAMS COME TRUE!

- LAWN MAINTENANCE
- LANDSCAPE DESIGN
- SNOW PLOWING & SALTING (COMMERCIAL)
- LANDSCAPE LIGHTING
- DRAINAGE WORK
- JUNK REMOVAL

QUALITY CARE | DISCOUNT PRICES
FREE ESTIMATES
CALL ROBBIE AND DONNIE

708-489-6333
rwslandscapinginc.com


MARTY DUNNE
Where Family, Faith, & Home Come Together



The Dunne Family

MARTY DUNNE
Real Estate Broker
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Chicago

www.bhhs.com **708.275.8270**
MARTYD@BHHSCHICAGO.COM



DeSitter FLOORING

CARPET • HARDWOOD • RUGS
Tom Cunningham • Parishioner & Alum
LA GRANGE 708-352-3535
Kensington & Hillgrove
DeSitterFlooring.com



Home Helpers

Parishioner:
Brian P. Davis, Owner
Dominica Davis, LCSW

Compassionate Home Care


- Personal Care
- Light Housekeeping
- Errands • Meals • Laundry
- Companionship

708.783.1220
State Licensed | Highly Rated
homehelpershomecare.com/hinsdale

Experience the Difference

Office Locations:
La Grange | 708.352.4500
Oak Park | 708.848.5900

THREE SOUTH WAIOLA AVE., LA GRANGE
ROBERT T. CORTE, D.D.S.
PARISH MEMBER



DENTAL CARE

www.cortedental.com **708-354-1003**



BATTISTONI • BEAM • POLIVKA
ORTHODONTICS

awesomebraces.com

Mark Kolecke Plumbing
A local LaGrange Company

Mark Kolecke • Licensed Insured Plumber
PL# 196-441 / SL# 055-043-012

Emergency Service
Camera Inspection • Hydro-Jetting
Sewer & Drain Rodding

(708) 743-8437
MKolecke@gmail.com
Web: www.koleckeplumbing.com

We Accept