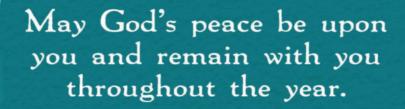


SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH The Holy Family December 31, 2023

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

-2 Cor 5:17 (ESV)



Week at a Glance

			Intention	Requested By
Monday, January 1 Mary the Mother of God New Year's Day	Mass	10:00 am	Ed Burke	The MacAskill Family
Tuesday, January 2	Mass	8:30 am	Dick & Cookie Hofstetter	The Westerhoff Family
Wednesday, January 3	Mass	8:30 am	Olivia Denson	Liz Shaw
Thursday, January 4	Rosary Mass	8:15 am 8:30 am	People of the Parish	
Friday, January 5	Mass	8:30 am	Petra Prado	Judy Giannelli
Saturday, January 6	Mass Reconciliation	8:30 am 9:00 am	Louie Marasovic	April Pesut
	Mass	5:00 pm	Ed Patyk	Joe Discipio
Sunday, January 7 The Epiphany of the Lord	Mass Mass Mass	7:30 am 9:00 am 11:00 am	Pat Callahan Ruth & Anthony Bell Jim Martin Jock Brown	Dave Grimes The Braasch Family The Martin Family The Martin Family
	Mass	5:00 pm	People of the Parish	•

Presider's Schedule for December 30-31, 2023

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

Please pray for . . .

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

Norine ByrneMother of Tom

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



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

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 included 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!



Pastor's Letter

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

Luke 2:40

Family

I have always felt that the Feast of the Holy Family arrives at the perfect time. Not because our hearts have been softened by the image of Mary and Joseph and the Child Jesus in the manger, as beautiful and holy as that may be. But because we probably have experienced the frustrations and tensions and imperfections of being family. I am open to the possibility that there are those among who have been celebrating a picture-perfect Christmas week. Nonetheless, being together for so much time and dealing with the expectations, tasks, and interpersonal tensions that are expressed or suppressed can leave many of us feeling less like the family of Bethlehem and more like the Griswolds.

Today, scripture reminds us that, on the day they presented their firstborn child in the Temple, Mary was warned by a devout elder that her heart would be pierced, and her child contradicted and opposed. With that news, the family returned to Nazareth, where the family needed to establish a new household, and Joseph had to rebuild his trade. And while their child would be sinless, he would nonetheless be a child who needed to be taught and guided like any other child. He would go through the "terrible twos" and the struggles of adolescence. He would make mistakes and would need to be taught right from wrong. (Remember, we are told that, when a young teen, he decided to hang back on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, leaving his parents to search for him in a panic over several days.) He would need to learn his prayers and the history and traditions of his religion and proclaim lines from the Torah like any of his peers.

So, what makes this family holy, and what does that teach us? Joseph, Mary, and Jesus were committed to loving God above all else and loving one another as they loved themselves. They encouraged one another in coming to know and to live out God's desires for them, and, when necessary, corrected one another with loving kindness. They reached out to help those in need and saw themselves as connected to others.

<u>All</u> of this is possible for <u>all</u> of us. We may not live it as well as they did. But we can strive to set expectations for one another and set an example for those who know us. We can let this family be made of flesh and bones rather than of card stock or marble. We can refuse to think that their holiness is beyond our reach. We can invite God into our homes and our extended families to bring healing where there is injury, forgiveness where there is hurt, understanding where there is diversity of perspective, and patience with ourselves and one another.

What better Christmas gift could we give to one another.

Christmas Peace,

7. Bill



Finding My Faith Story: A Half-Day Retreat

January 27, 2024 from 9:00am - 12:30pm in Unity Hall (optional lunch to follow)

Using the four-door method of narrative spirituality, this retreat helps people find and tell their faith story by giving participants the spiritual tools to identify each of the following four elements in their own life story:

- · a main character
- · who encounters a compelling problem to solve
- · identifies the power or talent needed to solve it, and
- takes action with this power to address the problem

Seeing our life story in these spiritual terms equips us to live the story in which we take action to use our own unique powers and talents to address the need that most touches our heart.

Retreat cost is \$10/person. Click here to register!

Any questions, please contact Maggie McMahon at mmcmahon@sfxlg.org.

HOLIDAY DRINKING GUIDELINES

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

Just one drink can hurt you.

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

A high tolerance for alcohol is a sign of disease – <u>not</u> a good thing.

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

Not drinking is okay.

 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

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

The calendar has <u>no</u> effect on the effects of alcohol.

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

Don't poison your guests.

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.

 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.



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS for 2024-2025

CONTACT US TODAY! ENROLLMENT@SFXLG.ORG

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.



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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 14th 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!

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.





Save the Date!

Knights of Columbus LaGrange Local Council 6483 Blood Drive

You are invited to donate at the blood drive below:

St. Francis Xavier Church-Gym

Sunday, January 21, 2024—9:00 am-1:00 pm

145 North Waiola Avenue

(Ogden Avenue and Waiola Avenue in LaGrange)

To make an appointment visit http://tinyurl.com/3bh9k8m3 or call 1-800-7TO-GIVE or scan the QR Code with your smart phone's camera.





Versiti is the blood provider for 83 local hospitals Giving warms the heart! Donate and keep warm this winter with a limited-edition Versiti beanie, while supplies last.

Helpful tip: Make sure to eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.





SFX MEN'S CLUB

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

Next meeting is Tuesday, January 2

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



Knights of Columbus LaGrange Council 6483

Catholic men 18 years and older are invited to our monthly meetings held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm in Unity Hall at St. Francis Xavier Parish. Our social is held on the third Wednesday of the month.

For more information, please contact Mark Azzi at 708-732-5287.

Catholic Women's Club

The St. Francis Xavier CWC (Catholic Women's Club) is seeking volunteers to support 2022/2023 efforts including service projects, event planning (including Ladies Day Out) and more.

Join the fun and reach out to either Lauren Desmond <u>lauren.e.desmond@gmail.com</u> or Erin Thunander <u>erin.thunander@gmail.com</u> if you'd like to get involved.

IN THE BEGINNING
WAS THE WORD
AND THE WORD
WAS WITH GOD
AND THE WORD WAS GOD

SCRIPTURE STUDY 2024 Sr. Marianne Race, CSJ

Unity Hall 9:30-11:00 am Thursdays January 11-March 7, 2024

The Gospel of John Biblical Notions of Heaven

Register with Sr. Marianne Race mrace@csjoseph.org 708-363-6728

Engage Community For January

Our next outing: Tuesday, January 9 at 1:00 pm to the Elmhurst Historical Museum (120 East Park Avenue, Elmhurst) for their exhibit: Lost Chicagoland Department Stores.

Take a nostalgic trip back to the heyday of Chicago area department stores like Marshall Field's, Sears, Carson Pirie Scott, and more. Learn about the eclectic history of these iconic retailers through an array of artifacts, images, video, and memorabilia. Exhibit collaborator, historian, and author Leslie Goddard will share many fascinating stories and items from popular city and suburban department stores of the past.

For questions or to RSVP, please email Jane at janeLGPark@gmail.com

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

Family Outreach Ministry

The St. Francis Xavier Family Outreach Ministry would like to invite you to join us this year to help prepare and serve a hot meal to our neighbors in need at the First Congregational Church's Saturday Meals Program. The dates for the 2024 school year are: January 20, March 16 and May 18. There are two time slots to choose, or come for the whole time: 9:00-11:30am: Food prep and cooking or 11:30am-1:00pm: Food serving and clean up. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old or 13 years if accompanied by an adult.

To register <u>click here</u> or contact Rachel Peterson at <u>petersonrtw@sbcglobal.net</u>.





SUMMER 2024 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IMPORTANT NEWS AND SAVE THE DATE!

The Parish Pastoral Council is excited to announce that SFX will be partnering with Grace Lutheran for a Vacation Bible School Program. The Summer 2024 VBS will run the week of June 24th (Monday-Friday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm) so mark your calendars now as you plan your summer activities.

Registration for VBS will open at the end of January. More details about how and where to register as well as volunteer opportunities will be provided early next year. In addition to parent volunteers we will be looking for teen volunteers, a great way to get service hours.

For those of you not familiar with Vacation Bible School, the program is a faith based, one week long (mornings only) filled with fun indoor and outdoor activities. It is open for pre-K through 5th grade children. 6th through 8th graders can participate in a "service crew" which spends the week doing service projects in the community.

The PPC is very excited about providing the opportunity to the SFX community. Watch the bulletin and the SFX Facebook page for more details. You can reach out to Phil Zadeik at pjzadeik@gmail.com for further information about VBS and volunteer opportunities at this time. Thanks and have a Merry Christmas!



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LADIES DAY OUT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10 THE ELM 3:00 - 6:00 PM

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY: FIDDLE STICKS

Are You Registered As Parishioners? Do We Have A Record of Your Children?

We invite all to register as parishioners. If you are not receiving periodic mailings from the parish, you are not in our database. A registration form can be picked up at the back of the Church or filled out on our website, www.sfxlg.org.

To help with our planning, we also ask that you let us know about your children, so that they can also be included in the database. Sometimes children are baptized elsewhere or families move into the parish after their children have been baptized. Consequently, we don't know about them until it is time to register for the Day School or for Religious Education. Again, the registration form available at the back of the Church or on the website can be used for this purpose.

Thank you for helping us keep our information as up -to-date as possible!

Bring your friends for: social time, dinner, a video, and small group (where you can share your thoughts or just listen.)

All are welcome. Bring your atheist friend from school, bring your Lutheran buddy, bring that new kid on your sports team. Seriously, any teen is welcome.

Sundays at 6pm, Jan 21- Apr 7 Unity Hall, St Francis Xavier

(with St John of the Cross & St Cletus Youth Ministry)

Click here or scan QR code to RSVP (and vote for food!) for Jan 21

THERE IS A —— PLACE FOR YOU.





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 opened on December 20 at 9:00AM Click Here. 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 nonrefundable deposit to secure your spot.

Youth Ministry...in the meantime

After a series of interviews over the past seven months, we have not been able to offer someone the staff position of Coordinator of Youth Ministry. This leaves us without current leadership for several important ministries to our high school teens, especially:

- Planning and directing our bi-monthly program for teens on the evening of the first Sunday of the month (we alternate with St. John of the Cross).
- the ongoing coordination of the SFX Church League teams.
- our Kairos Retreat team (in collaboration with St. John of the Cross).
- our team for the summer mission trip.

Your stewardship of talent in any of the above programs would be a great gift to our teens. We can provide staff guidance and resources. If you are interested in ministering to our teens in any of these ministries, please contact Fr. Bill (wtkachuk@sfxlg.org).



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

- Sgt. FC Bryan Pickens, U.S. Army Green Beret 10th Special Forces Group 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 Sqt. 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

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

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Music Ministry

Director

Parish Office Staff

Director of Operations Director of Stewardship and Development

Parish Accountant Pastor's Secretary Parish Secretary Staff Secretary Facilities Manager

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

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

TBA

700 252 0160

Allen Sterwalt

Peter Brown Jennifer Zeisloft Jane Bandyk Maureen Pipal Melissa Westerhoff Debra Soulje Antonio Franceschi wtkachuk@sfxlg.org rmilek@sfxlg.org aallison@sfxlg.org pgianatasio@sfxlg.org mmcmahon@sfxlg.org mfreeman@sfxlq.org

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

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

Contact Information Dariah Offica 124 N. Carina

Parish Office 124 N. Spring	100-352-0100
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	
Parish Web Site	
	0 0

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

Satu	rday morning	 	 	 	.9:00	0-10:00	am
	Reconciliation						
pray	er 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

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.

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.



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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.

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For a tour contact Ron Molitor at 708.482.1279 • rmolitor@csjinitiatives.org • www.csjinitiatives.org/la-grange-park/

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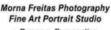
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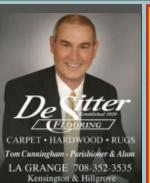
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