

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

The Holy Mother of God

January 1, 2023



When the fullness
of time had come
GOD sent
his **SON**
born of a woman
born under the law
to ransom those
under the law

Solemnity of Mary
The Holy Mother of God

Week at a Glance

			Intention	Requested By
Monday, January 2	Morning Mass	8:30 am	Catherine & Richard Hofstetter Dorothy Duranty John Rohan Stefano Scambiaterra	The Westerhoff Family Clare & Ernie Froemel The Blouin & Sherwood Families The Scambiaterra Family
Tuesday, January 3	Morning Mass	8:30 am	John Wiegand	The Bovard Family
Wednesday, January 4	Morning Mass	8:30 am	Peg & Bill Gallagher	The Enderle Family
Thursday, January 5	Rosary	8:15 am		
Friday, January 6	Morning Mass	8:30 am	Lorraine Chizewski	The Rogowski Family
Saturday, January 7	Mass	8:30 am	Anthony Bell	The Braasch Family
	Reconciliation	9:00 am		
	Mass	5:00 pm	Becca Mueller Jennifer McFadden Gregory	The Mueller Family Erin Kinahan
Sunday, January 8 The Epiphany of the Lord	Mass	7:30 am	Alexander Marthaler	Gretchen Rubin & Robert Potter
	Mass	9:00 am	Nancy Campbell	The Braasch Family
	Mass	11:00 am	Sam Cuba	The Hannigan Family
	Mass	5:00 pm	Carol Scatena	Janet Bobb

Presider's Schedule for December 31, 2022-January 1, 2023

5:00 pm Fr. Tkachuk
 7:30 am Fr. Milek
 9:00 am Fr. Tkachuk
 11:00 am Fr. Milek
 5:00 pm No Mass

Please pray for . . .

Ashley Augustyniak Harold Bach Linda Bieniek Sally Burson Michael Cannon Jay Carroll Chili Challenger Joan Cushing Jackie DeThorne Blake Donegan Victoria Donile Barbara Doyle Matthew Doyle Lily Fielding Lilli Gregory Wilson Gregory Baby Poppy Harwood Angela Hill John Hronec Rose Ilo Mary J. Jane Jacobsen Theresa Kandall Mark Kiley Lisa Massaro Jodi McMahan Linda McMahan	Mary Jo McMahon Patrick Morgan Mike Morrison Atsuyio Nakamura Gert Ogilvie Jane O'Reilly Ed Patyk Ryan Patyk Donna Pekarek Beth Pfluger Geri Pfluger Madison Raupp Anna Rose John Rutkowski Rita Scalcon Joseph Shortino Santa Snieg Rita Mae Spearman Barbara Stewart Michael Stewart John Stopka John Strougal Olivia Tarsney Theresa Toher Quinn Whalen Liz Wilk
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To add a name to the prayer list for friends and relatives 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:

Marcie Aceto
Sister of James Connors

John Rutkowski
Catechist

Veronica Zurowski
Grandmother of Peter & Olivia Zurowski

Rectory Holiday Hours

The rectory will close at 12:00 Noon on Friday, December 30 and reopen on Tuesday, January 3 at 8:30 am.



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

Pastor's Letter

They made known the message, and all were amazed.
Luke 2:17,18

How do we proclaim the presence and action of God in our lives to others? That is the core of our call to be **missionary disciples** – not just disciples of Jesus, but those **who make known** the ways in which our relationship with Jesus shapes our thoughts, words, and actions. To those of us who have been on this earth for a while, this may seem contrary to how we were taught to live our faith. Isn't our faith something to be kept private rather than to be proclaimed on street corners? Do we not gain more in God's eyes by keeping our relationship with Jesus to ourselves?

Today's scriptures offer two responses to the grace of God. The shepherds leave the stable with hearts filled with wonder and joy. They hurry into the town to proclaim to others what they have heard and seen and to invite others to see for themselves. They are **missionary disciples, sent by God to proclaim the message** to all who will listen and inviting others to discover the miracle of God's love for themselves. Mary remains in the stable, taking into her heart all the wonder and love that has come from God through her willingness to give birth to the Christ Child. She, too, is a **missionary disciple who embraces her newborn infant and guides him** until God calls him to his own mission. She takes him into her heart and proclaims the greatness of God who works in and through us in marvelous ways.

How does God call each of us to proclaim the wonder of the coming of Christ into our world as one like us? Sometimes God may invite us to take the mystery of God's love into our hearts as did Mary and then to proclaim in quieter moments the wonder of God in our thanksgiving for what God has done for us. At other times, God may send us out as the shepherds, proclaiming with joy and enthusiasm how our encounter with Jesus has changed us and set us on a new path. The point is not simply to carry the message of God's love within, but **to share our experience of God's love with others**. The wonder of Christ's birth is more than something to be "visited" and then packed away for another year; nor is it intended only for our own hearts. The awesomeness of God's choice to live among us, to experience human life from birth through death, is a story to be shared in the story of the way it takes shape in each of our lives.

I have invited us all to focus on how we might be better stewards of our talents in our households, our parish, our community, and the world beyond our "borders." I begin the new year by expressing thanks to all who have given their talent in recent weeks to make the celebrations of Christmas both beautiful and joyous. To the **choirs** who spent hours in rehearsals; to the **art and environment** team who bring such beauty to our house of worship; to the **liturgy planners** who shaped our prayer; to the **lectors and children** who brought life to the scriptures; to the **ushers and greeters and ministers of communion** who served us as one family; to **sacristans and servers** who help our prayer to flow smoothly; to the **facilities and office support staff** whose often unseen efforts make a huge difference; to the **ministers of our Food Pantry and ministers of care** who reached out to those in need of your kindness; to **teens** who coordinated the Giving Tree; to **all of you who filled our worship space** with warmth and joy. Those of us who are blessed to serve you give thanks and marvel at what God continues to do through us all. **Happy New Year!**

Christmas Peace,

J. Bill

Save the Date!



"There's a glove somewhere that's been thrown down. The women have put up a sign and said, 'Please listen to us. May we be heard'..."

I pick up that gauntlet."

Pope Francis, 2019

ST. PHOEBE
Diakonos of the church

Join the conversation about women's leadership in the Catholic Church:

Wednesday, Jan 25 | 12:30 - 2:00pm in Unity Hall

Sunday, Jan 29 | 6:00 - 7:30pm in Unity Hall

Thursday, Feb 2 | 8:00 - 9:00pm on Zoom

Pope Francis has asked all Catholics around the world to engage in prayerful conversations about the movements of the Holy Spirit in the Church today. **Female leadership in the Church and the restoration of women to the diaconate has been a consistent theme and call throughout the global conversations.**

A team of SFX parishioners, with the support of parish staff, are working with an organization called *Discerning Deacons* to bring this transformative conversation to our parish and local community.

Let your voice be heard. All are welcome!

Contact Maggie McMahon at mmcmahon@sfxlg.org with questions or to join the listserv.

For more information on the Catholic Church's discernment of women and the diaconate, [click here](#).

"Honestly, I was skeptical when I first learned of this conversation. But after participating in the *Discerning Deacons* prayer services and seeking to understand their response to Pope Francis' synodal invitation, it's so clear to me that the Holy Spirit is present here, asking us to pray and listen well. It's not about activism, it's about opening our hearts and imaginations to God's will. Letting the Spirit lead the Church beyond what we can imagine for ourselves."

- Maggie McMahon, MDiv (Pastoral Associate, St. Francis Xavier)



Dear God, you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every day.

We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year. Teach us to be generous in stewardship. Guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else. We ask that you open doors needing to be opened and close the ones needing to be shut tight. Give us ability beyond what we feel able, let your gifts flow freely through us, so that you would be honored by our lives, and others would be drawn to you.

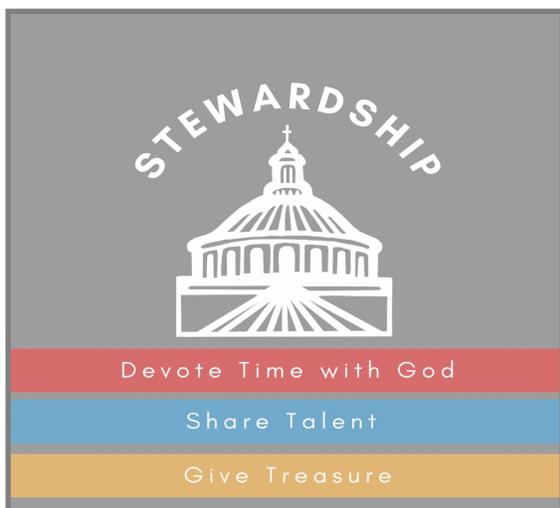
We pray that you would give us discernment and insight beyond our years, to understand your will, hear your voice, and know your ways. Amen.

Adapted from a prayer by Debbie McDaniel

As you consider a Christmas gift, please remember that your treasure in God's hands becomes a blessing in real form within the ministries of our parish.

You can make a gift via our website at SFXLG.org or via the QR code below.

Happy New Year!





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SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY JANUARY 29TH

10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

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The current members of the Parish Pastoral Council gathered for a meeting and Christmas celebration on December 12. Front row (left to right): Barb Kalnes, Carolyn Simone, Laura Duelm, Beth DiMarco, Elizabeth Cooley, Jody Wise. Back row (left to right): Alex Ruff, Marko Magajne, Phil Zadeik, Maggie McMahon (staff rep), Curt Aronson, Tony Pangan, Mike Hattie. Not present: Lindsey Mackenzie. You always can contact members of the PPC in person or at ppc@sfxlg.org.

FOLLOWING THE WORD OF GOD IN PRINT

There are two options for those who prefer to follow the readings in printed form or who have hearing issues that affect their ability to understand what is being proclaimed.

- Seasonal missalettes containing the Mass readings are available at the back of the church (please return them after Mass!)

OR

- Download the "iBreviary" app in your phone's app store. Select "pray" in the top left corner and then "readings." You can zoom in to increase text size with this option. *Note: if the app is showing the wrong date, go back to home and tap "today" in the top left corner to be sure the app has refreshed the date. Then select "pray" and "readings" again.*



CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD LEADERS NEEDED!

Do you want to share the Good News with some of our youngest parishioners?

We are looking for a minimum of 4 adults over the age of 18 to serve as catechists during our 5PM Saturday Masses to share the Sunday Readings and a small activity (which will all be provided) with our parishioners of the ages of 3 - 6.

If we are able to get 4 interested adults, you would only be responsible to lead once a month, and the time commitment is 15-20 minutes during Mass.

Please call Elis Guidice at 708-352-4555
or email at sfxreligious@sfxlg.org
if you are interested in joining this beautiful
ministry or want to find out more information.

Welcome

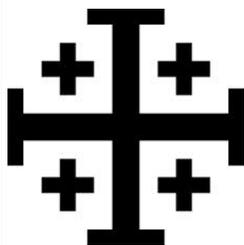
We welcome the following parishioners who have registered during the month of December:

Matthew & Anna Lisa Bonichi
Craig & Shirley Cinotto
John McGarry & Kylie Maloy
Sean & Christina Mathy
Christine Otruba
Edgar & Elizabeth Sanchez



Bringing Communion To You

We are aware that there are many parishioners who are not homebound due to a physical limitation, but who are not yet comfortable returning to weekend Mass for a variety of reasons. We hope you have been able to view our weekly livestreamed Mass via the parish Facebook page or the parish website. In addition, several ministers of care are now available to bring the Eucharist to you at your home. Frequency and day of the week may depend on the number of requests we receive. Please call the parish office 708-352-0168. Monday through Friday, 8:30-4:30, or Saturday morning, 9:00-Noon and we will forward the information to Scott McDonald, who coordinates our minister of care team.



Kairos K 40

Registration for our next Kairos, K40, is open. Kairos is a 4 day retreat for juniors and seniors in high school. K40 will be February 23rd to February 26th in Lemont, IL. The fee is \$300. Register here: <https://forms.gle/Mfk5J3ZeQP7fYgRH6>. The link can also be found on the parish website under the Youth Ministry tab.



Seasons of Hope

Grief Support Group

Beginning January 9, 2023

Mondays at 9:10 a.m.

following 8:30 mass, in Unity Hall at St. Francis Xavier

Seasons of Hope at St. Francis Xavier Parish will meet over a 6-week period to help participants walk through the grief process. Anyone mourning the loss of a loved one is welcome to attend. It is suggested that participants allow 3-6 months from the time of loss before attending. Attending Mass is *not a requirement for the group!*

Past Participants Say:

"The focus on prayer and scripture reminds me that God is within me."

"This group was just what I needed at this time."

"Meeting wonderful people because of difficult times is a blessing."

"Helpful and comforting for my healing."

[Click here](#) or call Maggie McMahon at 708-352-0168, ext. 338 for more information to register.

SFX CWC INVITES YOU TO THE ANNUAL *LADIES DAY OUT*

Saturday, February 4, 2023

sfxladiesdayout.com

Register today and consider
becoming an Angel Donor!



Twelve First Saturdays, Jan 7 through Dec • 8 - 9am (CT)

Facilitator: Pat Bergen, CSJ

The ability to imagine is one of the main characteristics of being human. If we can imagine something, it can come to be. This series will engage participants in exercising their imaginations and senses.

We are going to strengthen the field for love in the world by imagining

the world through one of the goals of Laudato Si' each month. You will need the Ministry of the Arts 2023 Calendar from the Congregation of St. Joseph. Please email Christy Salazar at csalazar@csjoseph.org to obtain a free calendar (either in print or PDF form). Cost: \$65/series. On Zoom only.

Brian Thomas Swimme: Cosmogenesis

Wednesday, Jan 18 • 6:30 - 8pm (CT)

Facilitator: Brian Thomas Swimme

Are you familiar with the Universe Story? Has it changed you? The discovery that the universe has been expanding from its fiery beginning fourteen billion years ago and has developed into stars, galaxies, life, and human consciousness is one of the most significant of human history. Don't miss scientist Brian Swimme for a first-hand account of how the new cosmology blew his mind. Cost: \$30. Watch on Zoom at The Well, or from home.



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

- **Commander Robert O'Donnell**—son of Agnes O'Donnell
- **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, Major Marcos Melendez, USMC and Major Michelle Melendez, USMC**—
son, nephew and niece of Jon Peterson
- **Staff Sgt. Nolan Kemna, USMC**—nephew of John & Linda Hill
- **Phil Lukanich, U.S. Navy & Lt. M. Ryan Lukanich, U.S. Army**—husband and brother-in-law of Joanna and
sons 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
- **Commander Brian Riegler, U.S. Navy**—husband of Elizabeth and father of Kaylee, Mackenzie, Grace & Liam
- **Capt. Colt Marcyan, USMC**—nephew of Noel Cusack
- **Capt. Trent McMullen, USAF**—son-in-law of Tom & Maureen Hunt
- **Private Jerry Delgado, U.S. Army**—friend of Liz Wilk
- **Spec Timothy Lucas U.S. Army**—nephew of Rosemary and Sr. Kathleen Lucas, and Kate & Beau Medlock
- **Chris Johnson, USCG**—nephew of Judi Kudlacz and grandson of Jerry & Nancy Johnson
- **Dominic James Greco, U.S. Navy**—nephew of Rita Pantoni
- **Robert Weiler, U.S. Navy**—brother of Rebecca Dionisio
- **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
- **1st Lieutenant Mitchell Ciszewski, USMC**—son of Bob & Pat Ciszewski
- **Colonel Jessica Nichol, USAF**—daughter-in-law of Tom & Lucile Nichol
- **Capt. Jack Albertini, USMC**—son of Bob & Susan Albertini

**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
Retired Weekend Sacramental Minister
Retired Weekday Sacramental Minister
Weekend Sacramental Minister

Rev. William Tkachuk
Rev. Richard Milek
Mr. Andrew Allison
Mr. Phil Gianatasio
Mrs. Margaret McMahon
Mrs. Mary Freeman
Rev. William Killeen
Rev. Ed Barrett
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
Advancement Director
Tuition Accounts
Director of Religious Education
Religious Education Administrative Assistant

Sharon Garcia
Janice Carr
Ashley Augustyniak
Peggy Evans
Mary Tassi
Jennifer Zeisloft
Elis Guidice
Cindy Johnson

sgarcia@sfxlg.org
jcarr@sfxlg.org
aagustyniak@sfxlg.org
pevans@sfxlg.org
mtassi@sfxlg.org
jzeisloft@sfxlg.org
eguidice@sfxlg.org
cjohnson@sfxlg.org

Youth Ministry

Coordinator

Jenette Teran

jteran@sfxlg.org

Music Ministry

Director

Allen Sterwalt

asterwalt@sfxlg.org

Parish Office Staff

Director of Stewardship and Operations
Parish Accountant
Pastor's Secretary
Parish Secretary
Staff Secretary
Facilities Manager

Jennifer Zeisloft
Jane Bandyk
Maureen Pipal
Melissa Westerhoff
Debra Soulje
Antonio Franceschi

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

Contact Information

Parish Office 124 N. Spring708-352-0168
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 Number708-352-4904
e-Mailsfxinlg@sfxlg.org
Main Day School e-Mail.....sfxmain@sfxlg.org
Main Religious Education e-Mail.....sfxreligiused@sfxlg.org
Parish Web Sitewww.sfxlg.org

Rectory Hours

Monday-Friday.....8:30 am-5:00 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

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 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

At this time, our counseling sessions will be virtual/online.

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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