

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 16, 2018



There is one
to come
mightier than
I and he will
baptize you
in the Spirit
and in fire

Mass Intentions For The Week

Monday, December 17	7:45 am 9:00 am	Herbert & Mary Schrack Mary Kay Gibbons	The Schrack Family The Richie & Patty Collins Family
Tuesday, December 18	7:45 am 9:00 am	Lillian Cunningham Amy Nelson	The Marshall Family Jim & Joan Potsch
Wednesday, December 19	7:45 am 9:00 am	St. Francis Xavier Parishioners Ginger Gies	The McGovern Family
Thursday, December 20	7:45 am 9:00 am	Word & Communion Service Dick & Besse Parlon Bill Valli	Pam Oplawski Mary F. Russell
Friday, December 21 Saint Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church	7:45 am 9:00 am	Dorothy McGoldrick Helen Nigida Giulia & Dino Ursetta Word & Communion Service	Mary Charleza Jeff & Shirley Augustyn The Frustaci Family
Saturday, December 22	9:00 am 9:30 am 4:15 pm 5:00 pm	Brendan Williams Gerard Grace Sacrament of Reconciliation Sacrament of Reconciliation Billy Wielgos	The Longino Family Marian & Phil Hannigan The Wielgos Family
Sunday, December 23	7:30 am 9:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm 6:00 pm	Poor Souls in Purgatory Deceased Members of the McCormick & Urycki Families Tatiana Mendaz People of the Parish People of the Parish	Bernard & Pat Urycki The Cobena Family

Please Pray For...

Tony Banda	Jerry Kolman
Keeley Barr	Virginia Kottaridis
Jim Boardman	Edward Kudia
Leonard Bruce	Betty Kuhl
Jay Carroll	Marion Lucas
Tom Challos	Elaine Michalek
Sam Cibula	Emmett Miller
Terry Conwell	Patrick Morgan
Anthony Dina	Mike Morrison
Gregory Dold	Amanda O'Brien
Blake Donegan	Jane O'Reilly
Fr. Dave Dowdle	Ryan Patyk
Pat Eaton	Donna Pekarek
William Egbert	Carissa Pessetti
Lauren Ellsworth	James Pridmore
Baby Morison Fennessy	Baby Madison Raupp
Lily Fielding	Anna Rose
Baby Collins Fitzpatrick	Marilyn Rutkowski
Lilli Gregory	Anthony Scafide
Wilson Gregory	Matthew Schiek
Patricia Hassler	Greyson Stanley
Martha Heraty	Sarah Stanley
Linda Hillsman	Kate Frugoli Sullivan
Rose Ilo	Marty Thuerk
Mary J.	Anne Titzer
Jane Jacobson	Michael Ungari
Theresa Kandall	Amanda Valerugo
Mike Kelly	Gregory Van Gorp
Benny Kilman	Josita Witte

Prayers are requested for our relatives and friends who are sick. To add a name to the prayer list, please call the rectory at 708-352-0168.

Names of the sick are listed for two months in the bulletin. If there is a recurrence of illness, names can be listed again. 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:

Kathleen Flynn
Mother of Katherine, James, Robert & Denis

Weddings



Carolyn Cooper & John Wons



Rejoice
Your God is near!

Pastor's Notes

Be glad and exult with all your heart.
Zephaniah 3:14

We light the third candle, the rose-colored Candle of Joy. The celebration of Christ's birth is near at hand. John the Baptist calls us to allow God's grace to transform our hearts and minds as we prepare a place for the Christ Child to be born anew within and among us. What final preparations do I need to prepare my heart, mind, and soul? John the Baptist suggests that transformation often requires no more the striving to be our best selves: sharing what we have with those in greater need; being honest in our dealings with one another; and treating one another with kindness and respect. What one change in my life will lead me to be more fully who I am and allow God's joy to dwell there.

December 16 begins the novena, or nine days, that lead to Christmas Day. Many cultures mark these days with special celebrations. Our Filipino sisters and brothers rise before dawn each day for the Mass of Simbang Gabi (moved to the evenings in this country); they light star lanterns and place them in the windows to welcome the Christ Child into their home. In Mexico and some other Latin American countries, neighbors travel from house to house for nine evenings, led by Mary and Joseph who seek welcome, or "Posada." Each night a different house welcomes in the pilgrims for a celebration in which a piñata is broken open. The piñata originally took the form of a seven-pointed star, representing the seven deadly sins. When the power of sin is conquered by Christ, sweetness, often in the form of small candies, bursts forth for all to enjoy. What tradition does your family celebrate; or might your household develop one of your own to prepare your hearts and your home to welcome Christ?

This week we join with the other two parishes in our Renew My Church grouping for **two area celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation**. Fr. Bill and I will join our brother priests at St. Cletus Parish at 7:00PM on Monday evening, and at St. John of the Cross Parish at 7:00PM on Tuesday evening. Consider participating in one of these area celebrations of God's mercy and love.

This week's bulletin also includes two articles on special challenges that confront some among us. There are those for whom an experience of God's joy may require both effort and support as we move through the next few weeks. This is especially true for households experiencing death, addiction or other serious illness, a job loss, or family separation. Please take some time to become more aware of how you can care for yourself and/or provide support to another as we each respond to God's invitation to prepare to celebrate Christmas in the circumstances of this year.

Thank you to our youth, our food pantry volunteers, and all whose stewardship of time and talent reach out to those in special need at this time of the year. God bless all of you who are contributing food and gifts through your stewardship of treasure. *Be glad and exult with all your heart.*

Advent Peace,

Fr. Bill

Scripture Reflection

Reflection for the Third Sunday of Advent
Liturgy Planning Team #1

Marge Branecki, Jude Dumfeh, Maureen Lang, Ed & Michelle Mirecki, Lisa Durham Young

Many of us in our everyday lives are too over scheduled to think about asking a question such as the one that the crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" We rush from one thing to the next. Choices seem nonexistent. We want to get through our day, being on time for work or school, preparing lunches and meals for ourselves and family, answering emails, and sending text messages. We go to bed, sleep a few hours, and then the next day start the routine over again.

On this third Sunday of Advent, the gospel calls us to take some time to reflect on our lives and relationships, and prioritize in a different way how we spend our time. John the Baptist challenged the people by telling them to far exceed their present way of acting toward others. When we are rushed, or don't put others first, or don't have God as the center of our lives, it becomes easy to do only what is minimally required. John is saying that minimum is not enough.

"What should we do?" During this advent season we are called to reorganize our lives so Christ is at the center, and like John our lives are about others. Like John, we are to give our all so that others can live better and love more deeply. Yes - God is in our midst let us rejoice, and let our kindness be known to all.

SAFE AND SOBER HOLIDAYS

Did you know that 10-13% of all the 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, including ours, 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 or behavioral 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.

J. 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, you have 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: 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; don't try 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. But many people will 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 rent 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 brings many back to the reality that God is good and there are many things for which to be thankful. Others 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 get rid of the rest.
- 6. Keep in touch with the children.** Children crave routine 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.** Not unless it's been years, the kids are older, and you really do get along fairly 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 would be to get a present for mom or dad without any help. Some things should never change . . . like encouraging kids 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 if you remain open to God through the crosses of life there *will* be resurrection and salvation. *This* is the hope we have in these holidays.

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

FACILITY MANAGER POSITION

With the retirement of one of our maintenance staff, SFX is now looking to restructure the maintenance department. The position of Facility Manager has been posted on the Archdiocesan website at:
<http://legacy.archchicago.org/Employment/Parishes.aspx>.

Please contact Jennifer Zeisloft, Business Manager, at the rectory (or jzeisloft@sfxlg.org) for further information or to apply. The posting will be open until December 18.

Christmas Flower Donation

If you would like to donate to the Christmas Flowers in Memory and/or Honor of a Loved One, please take an envelope that can be found at the entrances of the church. We will publish the names in the New Year.

Thank you for making our worship space prayerful and lovely for this liturgical season.

The Christmas Wafer

The Christmas Wafer (also known as "Oplatki") is available in the Rectory during office hours Monday through Thursday 9:00 am-8:30 pm, Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm; Saturday 9:00 am-5:00 pm and on Sunday between 9:00 am-1:00 pm.



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.



Want peace and joy during the Advent Season?
Come join us for Eucharistic Adoration!
December 20 at 6:00-7:00pm

WHAT: During Adoration, sometimes referred to as a Holy Hour (but can be of any duration), the Blessed Sacrament is exposed on the altar for individual, silent Adoration. As Catholics, we proclaim the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, not only during the Mass but in the preserved Hosts. St. John Paul II offered that "our communal worship at Mass must go together with our personal worship of Jesus in Eucharistic adoration in order that our love may be complete."

HOW: Adorers are invited to pray a rosary or other devotions, meditate on Scripture or meditate on devotional books. Adorers may also choose to just simply sit and 'be' with Jesus. If you are interested, prayer and reflection suggestions are available as starting points.

WHO: Jesus waits for us, each of us, in the Eucharist. He waits when we are joyful, thankful, frustrated, or tired. All are welcome, including children. **Families are most welcome.** Jesus specifically calls children to Himself, "Let the children come to me." Especially during this Advent Season, children can focus on the true celebration of the season: the coming of the Infant Jesus and His continued presence. Children's activities, books, and meditations on the rosary, adoration, sacraments are available for even our youngest adorers.

WHY: As we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth, it's important to remember, He is still present with us in the Eucharist. As St. Teresa of Calcutta reminds us: The Holy Eucharist is the continuation of Christ's incarnation on earth. The mystery of the Eucharist gives us the joy of having Christmas every day. When we come to the Blessed Sacrament we come to Bethlehem, a name which means "house of bread." Jesus chose to be born in Bethlehem because He would dwell with us forever as the "Living Bread" come down from heaven. When the shepherds and Magi came to adore Him, they brought Him so much joy with their humble visit to Bethlehem that their visit has been praised and retold down through the centuries. ...[Y]our humble visit to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament brings Him so much joy that it will be retold for all eternity and bring the world closer to His promise of peace on earth.

WHEN: The next opportunity for Eucharistic Adoration will be **Thursday, December 20**. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from 6:00-7:00 pm. Please come when you are able for as long as your schedule allows. If you have any questions, please contact Katie Kanzer at k.f.kanzer@gmail.com or Jen Jagodzinski at jenjag12@yahoo.com.

O, Come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!



Something New this Christmas Our Family Tree in Unity Hall



Please help us fill our tree with Star Ornaments ...

Our theme this year will be "BELIEVE! All Is Possible With God!"

We are asking our Parish Families to bring a "STAR" ornament to hang on the tree this 1st year of our Family Tree tradition. (We are recommending "non-breakable" ornaments.)

The these will change from year to year allowing our tree to "grow" with our Parish.
The Tree will be in Unity Hall on December 8th.

You can add your ornament at any time during this Christmas Season.

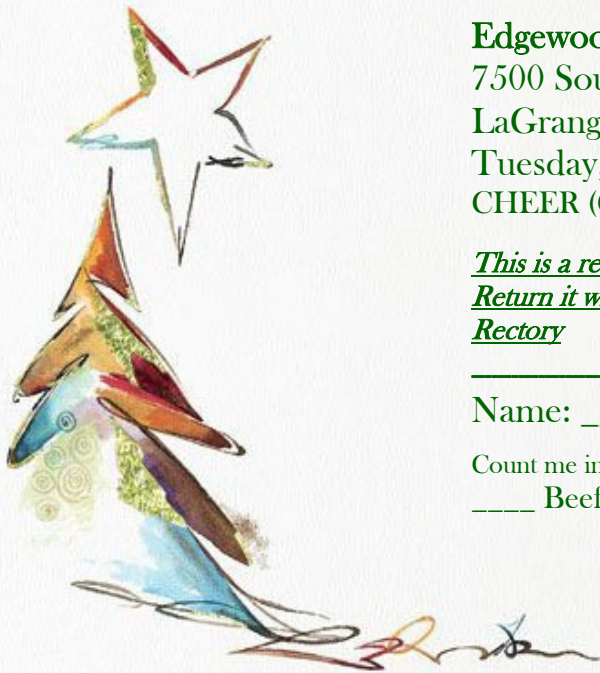


We will be taking down the Family Tree the week of January 6th, 2019 and you are invited to take your ornament home at this time.

Questions Contact: Celine Heraty - A&E - celine.heraty@cbexchange.com

Retired Men's Group

Christmas Luncheon



Edgewood Valley Country Club
7500 South Willow Springs Road
LaGrange
Tuesday, December 18, 2018 @ 12:15pm
CHEER (Cash bar @ 11:30) CHEER

This is a reservation event; secure yours by completing the form below
Return it with your \$35 remittance by Monday, December 17, 2016 to the
Rectory

Name: _____

Count me in; my menu choice is:

___ Beef ___ Chicken ___ Fish

Missy Westerhoff
St Francis Xavier Rectory
124 N Spring Ave.
La Grange, IL 60525
708-352-0168



The St. Francis Xavier Catholic Women's Club
2019 Ladies Pre-Lent Event
Saturday, March 2, 2019 from 11:00 am-3:00 pm
La Grange Country Club

Open House style, come and go as your schedule permits.
Passed Hors d'oeuvres and Food Stations
Cash Bar~Live Music~Bingo~Vendors

Register online at www.prelevent.com

Proverbs 31:31

"Honor her for
all that her hands
have done, and
let her work bring
her praise
at the city gate."



who

Two & Fall Three year olds!
A parent or an adult caregiver must be present.
Open to SFX school families, parishioners,
and community members.

what

Lil Falcon Fun: Play, sing, meet new friends!
A casual, play-based program that would provide an
opportunity to meet, socialize, and play together. Each
class will include fun with literacy, music and movement.
Younger siblings are welcome!

when

Monday mornings from 9:00-9:45 am
Twice a Month
January 14 & 28; February 11 & 25; March 11 & 25;
April 8 & 29 and May 6 & 20

where

SFX Early Childhood Building
21 N. Catherine, LaGrange
Room 25 (second floor)

why

Provide families an opportunity
to engage and develop a sense of community.

how

Register online at:
<https://goo.gl/forms/S7DIAehHMYTAcUt73>
Session fee is \$50/duel at the first class.
(Space is limited. Checks payable to SFX)

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Our Saturday evening 5:00pm Mass offers the opportunity for children in Grades Kindergarten-Fourth to experience hearing and reflecting on the Word of the Lord in a way that is an empowering experience. Children in these grades are invited to follow their Reflector of the Word to a prayer space away from the gathered assembly to hear the Scriptures in words they can understand.

Children's Liturgy of the Word takes place in church whenever the children's choirs lead us in song/prayer. The Scriptures we hear will then be taken from the Children's Lectionary and the homily will be given in a way that children are able to relate a little more readily. The children in Grades K thru 4 will go to their prayer space on the Saturdays that the choirs are not singing.

Here is the tentative schedule with the children's choirs:

January 5 & 26;
February 9 & 23;
March 2; April 6

Children in Grades K-4 will be invited to join their Reflector in a prayer space away from the adults and to hear the Word of the Lord in words they can better understand on the following Saturdays (subject to change):

December 22,
January 12 & 19; February 2 & 16;
March 9, 16, 23, & 30; and April 27

You can call 708-352-0168 and direct your calls to:
Terri Simeoni, RE Coordinator
or
Allen Sterwalt, Director of Music

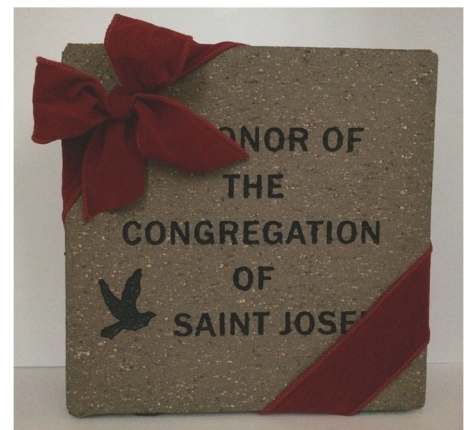
Parish School Job Opening

**Half-time PreK4 Teacher Assistant needed Monday-Friday from 7:45am-12:45 pm.
Please contact Principal Sharon Garcia at sgarcia@sfxlg.org or 708-352-2175.**

NEED A CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA? HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR ENGRAVED BRICK PAVER?

Visit our parish website (www.sfxlg.org)
to order online or print out an order form.
Our next installation will be in Summer 2019!

Price of Small Bricks (4" x 8") = \$175
Price of Large Bricks (8" x 8") = \$300



Religious Education Class Dates

Sundays

December 16	Class
	Pajama Day
December 23	No Class
December 30	No Class
January 6	At Home Lesson

* * * * *

Wednesdays

December 19	Class
	Pajama Day
December 26	No Class
January 2	No Class
January 9	At Home Lesson

The Giving Tree

Please Return Your Gifts This Weekend December 15-16 Before The Start of the Noon Mass on Sunday. St. Agatha's Parish Will Be Enjoying Their Christmas Celebration This Afternoon.



Thank You For Your Donation and Generous Support!

SFX Family Outreach Ministry

Looking for a way for your family to ring in the new year in service to others? Join the Family Outreach Ministry at Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) and help pack meals for the hungry. We've got 40 spots reserved on Saturday, December 29 from 11:30 am-11:30 pm at the FMSC facility in Aurora. At FMSC the two-hour session begins with an orientation. From there, the meals are packed by hand for the worlds hungriest children and some moments of prayer and reflection end the session. This service opportunity has a minimum age requirement of 5 years old and there is a 1-1 adult to child ratio for children in grades K-2. Contact Rachel Peterson to sign up petersonrtw@sbcglobal.net.



What's going on in Youth Ministry???

Giving Tree

Gifts must be returned before NOON on Sunday, December 16th. Please bring them to the church and drop off in the stable on the altar.

THANK YOU to all who helped make this outreach project possible, through donations and volunteering!

Freshman/Sophomore Retreat

Looking for a weekend of snow tubing, outdoor laser tag, small groups, short witness talks, and connection with fellow Freshmen and Sophomores? The 2019 Freshman/Sophomore Retreat (previously known as Fretus or Fretus Identity) will be Friday January 4th-Sunday January 6th. Registration forms can be found on the Youth Ministry Retreat page. *The deadline to sign up is December 21st!* Contact Olivia Zurowski at 708-352-0168 or ozurowski@sfxlg.org for more information.

2019 Summer Mission Trip

The 2019 Summer Mission Trip location has been determined: Springfield, KY! St. Francis has 30 (25 teens, 5 adults) spots reserved with Young Neighbors in Action for the June 23-28, 2019 trip to Springfield, KY. The registration form can be found on the Youth Ministry website. Contact Olivia Zurowski for more information.



Box Tops For Education Collection



Please help in earning cash for our school. We would like your help in collecting Box Tops For Education. There will be a drop box located at the back of church in the vestibule. Please place Box Tops that you have collected inside. Thank you for your help!

Advent Week 3

Prayer as you Light the Advent Wreath

Loving God, your Son, Jesus Christ, is the Light of the World. Bless our family as we light this wreath and enter into the season of Advent. May its candles remind us to share Christ's light through our words and deeds.



- *Our Family Prays*, RCL Publishing, copyright 2015.
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Stewardship...

is our willingness to acknowledge the blessings of our lives, and reflect upon ways to continue sharing time, talent, and treasure, as we joyfully prepare for the coming of Christ anew in our hearts. Thank you for considering these options for sharing time (with God and others), talent, and treasure.

Prayer & Reflection

Continue 6 minutes a day in prayer with the *Little Blue Book*. Consider discussing the content with friends, relatives, neighbors, anyone with whom you enjoy spending time.

The Little
Blue Book
2018-2019

Reconciliation Services

This Advent we celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation with our neighboring parishes:

St. Cletus: Mon, Dec. 17, 7 pm,

St. John of the Cross:

Tues, Dec. 18, also at 7 pm.

St. Francis Xavier: Individual reconciliation is available on Saturdays, after the 9 am mass and at 4:15 pm.

Eucharistic Adoration

Thursday, Dec. 20, 6-7 pm in church
(3rd Thursday of every month, 7 pm)

Congregation of St. Joseph Event at the Well:

Pat Bergen, CSJ: *Something Wonderful and New is Happening*, Tues, Dec. 18, 9:30-11 am; repeated Dec. 18, 7-8:30 pm.

Family Outreach Ministry

Ring in the New Year with a service project at Feed My Starving Children facility in Aurora, Sat., Dec. 29, a two-hour block of time between 11:30 am and 11:30 pm. We will be packing meals for the hungry. Minimum age requirement of 5 years old, and there is a 1-1 adult to child ratio for children in grades K-2. Contact Rachel Peterson for details and to register: petersonrtw@sbcglobal.net.

Choose a Ministry & Get Involved!

Visit sfxlg.org for the *Ministry Resource Guide* and to complete the *Ministry Interest Form*.

Daily Mass

Mon-Wed, 7:45 & 9 am;
Thurs & Sat, 9 am. Fri., 7:45 am.

Communion Service:

Thurs, 7:45 am & Fri., 9 am

Individual Prayer

The church is open daily for prayer, 7:30 am to 2 pm.



Advent Events Calendar 2018

Throughout Advent

Continue daily prayer with *The Little Blue Book*

Dec. 16

Return your wrapped gift for **The Giving Tree** before the noon Mass today.

Dec. 17 & 18

Reconciliation Services

- St. Cletus: Mon, Dec. 17, 7 pm

- St. John of the Cross:
Tues, Dec. 18, 7 pm

- St. Francis Xavier:
Individual Reconciliation is offered on Saturdays after 9 am Mass & at 4:15 pm.

Dec. 20

Eucharistic Adoration,
6-7 pm, Church

Dec. 21

Day School— 7th Graders
present **Advent Prayer Service**,
10 am, Gym

Dec. 21

Drop off day for baked goods for
incarcerated men, 9 am—5 pm.
Details in bulletin.

Dec. 24

Christmas Eve Masses—

In SFX Church
3 pm, 5 pm, 7 pm

**In Congregation of
St. Joseph Mother-
house Chapel**

3 pm & 5 pm

Midnight Mass in Church —
Caroling begins at 11:30 pm

Dec. 25

Christmas Day Masses— in SFX Church:

9:00 am, 10:30 am & Noon



Dec. 29

Family Outreach Ministry

Service project at Feed My Starving Children facility in Aurora, a two-hour block of time between 11:30 am & 11:30 pm. Contact Rachel Peterson for details and to register: petersonrtw@sbcglobal.net.

Jan. 1, 2019

Solemnity of Mary

Mass at 5 pm, Dec. 31, and
10 am on Jan. 1

Congregation of St. Joseph — Events hosted at the Well Spirituality Center

Dec. 18: Something Wonderful and New is Happening, Pat Bergen, CSJ

Join us during this final week of Advent to attend, reflect and respond to the newness emerging in ourselves and our culture. Offered twice on Tues., Dec. 18: 9:30-11 am & 7-8:30 pm. *Free to parishioners.*

The Well Spirituality Center, Register at: 708-482-5048,
www.csjthewell.org, 1515 Ogden Ave, La Grange Park

REJOICE

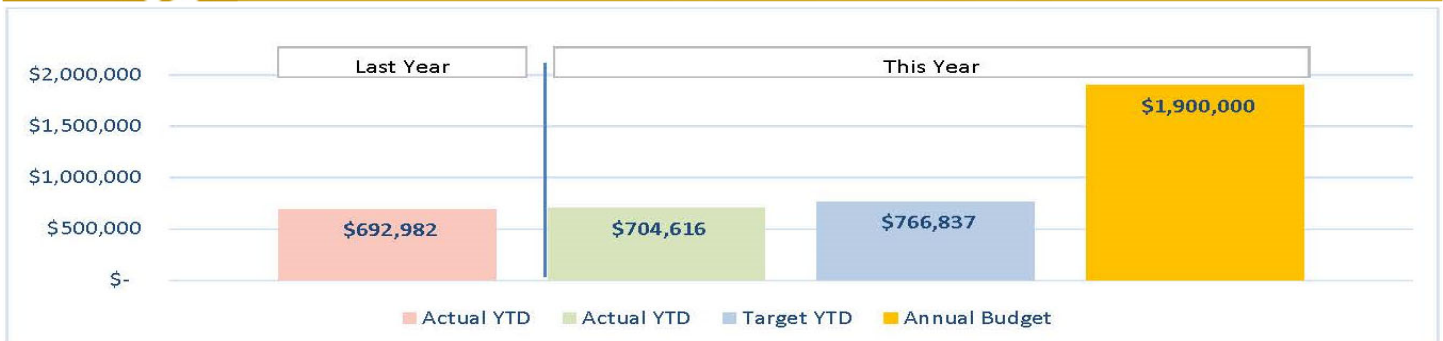
Daughter Jerusalem

Be glad with all your heart

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

YOUR PARISH FINANCE REPORT

AS OF December 10, 2018



Prior Month's Offerings:	EFT/Credit Card	+	Basket	=	November Total
November 2018	\$ 61,611		\$ 64,848		\$ 126,459
November 2017	\$ 46,567		\$ 72,386		\$ 118,953

God bless you for your generosity to St. Francis Xavier Parish!

Tax Reform and Charitable Giving

Last December, Congress approved the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which led to the most far-reaching changes to the tax code in more than 30 years. Taxpayer ability to take itemized deductions is subject to certain limitations. As a result of this tax code change, SFX has seen an increase in donations from donor-advised funds in the past few months as parishioners adjust their giving strategies.

Other strategies that could help taxpayers maximize the benefits of the new tax laws on charitable giving include:

- If you are age 70½ or older, consider making a tax-free gift to SFX through an IRA charitable rollover.
- If you have experienced gains in the financial markets this year, consider donating appreciated securities to avoid paying capital gain taxes.

SFX does not provide tax, legal or accounting advice. Please consult your attorney or tax advisor to evaluate your tax deductibility limits and benefits for any of these options.





Something Wonderful and New is Happening on Tuesday, December 18 from 9:30–11:00 am and repeated at 7:00–8:30 pm. *Please note: the program date has been modified from the original schedule.* With Facilitator Pat Bergen, CSJ we know it is difficult to perceive, but something wonderful is happening in our time; a newness is emerging in ourselves and our culture. Are you seeing, hearing and experiencing it? During this final week of Advent, prepare to proclaim to the world that the unseen God of Love is making a new breakthrough in our time. Free for members of co-sponsoring parishes SFX and SJC.

The Well Spirituality Center,
1515 Ogden Avenue
LaGrange Park
To register:
www.csjthewell.org or call 708-482-5048



Seasons of Hope

The loss of a loved one is a time of deep sorrow in our lives and grief is expressed in many ways.

SEASONS OF HOPE is a faith-based, healing program for those who have suffered such a loss.

To begin healing does not mean forgetting — our loved ones will be remembered forever. We can however, deepen our spirituality and faith by reflecting and sharing while being guided toward a path of healing. Our hope is strengthened in the sure knowledge that one day we will be reunited with our loved ones.

Participants meet in a small group setting guided by leaders who care and can relate to the depth of your sorrow as they too have experienced the loss of a loved one.

SEASONS OF HOPE is co-sponsored by St. Francis Xavier and St. John of the Cross. The upcoming winter season will be at SFX.

Six Saturday mornings at 9:45 a.m.
January 12, 19, 26 - February 2, 9, 16

To register, call our office 708-352-0168
or do so at www.sfxlg.org

U.S. Climate Report Warns of Dire Environmental and Economic Outlook



A major scientific report issued by 13 federal agencies on Friday presents the starkest warnings to date of the consequences of climate change for the United States, predicting that if significant steps are not taken to rein in global warming, the damage will knock as much as 10 percent off the size of the American economy by century's end. The report's findings are directly at odds with President Trump's agenda of environmental deregulation, which he asserts will spur economic growth. All told, the report says, climate change could slash up to a tenth of gross domestic product by 2100, more than double the losses of the Great Recession a decade ago. The report puts the most precise price tags to date on the cost to the U.S. economy from projected climate impacts: \$141 billion from heat-related deaths, \$118 billion from sea-level rise, and \$32 billion from infrastructure damage by the end of the century, among others.

For those who are already vulnerable, who will be most affected by these economic consequences of inaction in the face of climate change, we offer our prayers, Lord. Give strength to the powerful so that they might stand alongside people whose voices have been silenced or marginalized. Give leaders ears to hear, Lord.

Source: Office of Social Justice Christian Reformed Church in North America

Butter 'Em Up and Sock it to 'Em!



The Congregation of St. Joseph is asking for your assistance to provide for two food pantries (St. Francis Xavier and St. James Parish) with two very important items this Christmas. Peanut butter is a great item because it doesn't spoil easily, is nutritious, goes a long way, and people of all ages love it. New, warm socks are a great gift during the wintertime.

Donations of peanut butter and socks will be accepted in the back of church December 15th through December 23rd. Donations will also be accepted at the Congregation of St. Joseph switchboard, 1515 West Ogden Avenue in LaGrange Park, from December 9th through December 20th. Thank you!



Any questions?
Contact sarahsmiles17@yahoo.com
or 708-296-1931.



REGISTRATION FORM

Have you been feeling like something is missing? Do you need a jump start in your faith journey? Do you need some time away with God? Join women just like you from our parish at the 2019 **WELCOME Women's Retreat!** Through stories, prayer, fellowship, and more you will find rest, be refreshed, and witness a new perspective on how God sees you and just how much you are loved. All women, no matter where you are on your spiritual journey, are **WELCOME!**

Women's WELCOME Retreat Weekend

Saturday, February 2 - Sunday, February 3, 2019

Carmelite Spiritual Center

8419 Bailey Road

Darien, IL

Please arrive between 8:00 - 8:30 am on Saturday; we will conclude around 3:00 pm on Sunday. For questions, please contact Therese Bryne at (708) 588.0845

Scholarships are available — please contact Father Bill Tkachuk

You may complete the registration and pay online (please see our Facebook link below), place the registration form/payment in the collection basket or drop off at the Rectory to the attention of Jane Bandyk along with payment (payable to St. Francis Xavier Parish).



Women's Retreat Weekend



February 2 - 3, 2019

_____ **Single Occupancy: \$140**

_____ **Double Occupancy: \$120; Room with:** _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Music preference: (please check): CD **OR** Digital Playlist
Emergency Contact

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Please list two people we may contact to ask to pray for you while on the **WELCOME** retreat (optional)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Please visit our Facebook page for more details
<https://www.facebook.com/WelcomeWomenSFX/>



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

- **Sgt. David Phillips**—brother of Rebecca Casiple
- **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. Christopher Ocasio, U.S. Army**—friend of the Berger Family
- **Technical Sgt. Rhonda Russell, USAF**—daughter of Deidre & John Russell and granddaughter of Mary F. Russell
- **Lt. 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
- **Sgt. Nolan Kemna, USMC**—nephew of John & Linda Hill
- **Capt. Maura Hoffman & Capt. Christopher Hoffman**—niece and nephew of Margie & Steve Hull and
cousins of Kate, Janie & Caroline Hull
- **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
- **Master Sgt. Andrew Lang**—son of Marge & Ray Lang
- **Staff Sgt. Scott Blunk**—husband of Brianne and son-in-law of Maureen Becker
- **Lt. Daniel McGue**—grandson of Jack & 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 William Baker, U.S. Army**—son of Meg & Barry Baker
- **Private Jerry Delgado, U.S. Army**—friend of Liz Wilk
- **Spec Timothy Lucas U.S. Army**—grandson of Marian, nephew of Rosemary and Sr. Kathleen Lucas,
and Kate & Beau Medlock
- **Deanna Ciaccia, U.S. Navy**—daughter of Julia & Anthony Ciaccia and granddaughter of Harold Held
- **Chris Johnson, USCG**—nephew of Judi Kudlacz and grandson of Jerry & Nancy Johnson
- **Michael Rodden, USAF & Christopher Osterhaus, USMC**—son and nephew of John & Vicki Rodden
- **Dominic James Greco, U.S. Navy**—nephew of Rita Pantoni
- **Robert Weiler, U.S. Navy**—brother of Rebecca Dionisio
- **Joseph Somers, U.S. Navy**—nephew of Maureen & Nick Burriesci
- **Major Meghan Cumpston, U.S. Army**—cousin of Lauren Schultz
- **Sgt. David T. Benson**—son of Linda & Charles Benson

**Please inform us of those serving in the Military Overseas...
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
Pastoral Associate
Weekend Sacramental Ministers
Weekend Sacramental Ministers

Rev. William Tkachuk
Rev. William Killeen
Mr. Andrew Allison
Dr. Kate DeVries
Rev. Stan Ilo
Rev. Keith Muccino, S.J.

wtkachuk@sfxlg.org
 bkilleen@sfxlg.org
 aallison@sfxlg.org
 kdevries@sfxlg.org

Education Ministry

Day School Principal
Assistant Principal
Assistant to Day School Principal
Day School Secretary (Main Campus)
Day School Secretary (East Campus)
Coordinator (East Campus)
Advancement Director
Tuition Accounts
Religious Education Coordinator/Sacrament Prep
Religious Education Office Staff
Religious Education Office Staff

Mrs. Sharon Garcia
Mrs. Janice Carr
Mrs. Mary Hoffman
Mrs. Peggy Evans
Mrs. Kathie Kinahan
Mrs. Margaret Houston
Mrs. Mary Tassi
Mrs. Jennifer Zeisloft
Ms. Terri Simeoni
Mrs. Cindy Johnson
Ms. Debra Soulje

sgarcia@sfxlg.org
 jcarr@sfxlg.org
 mhoffman@sfxlg.org
 pevans@sfxlg.org
 kkinahan@sfxlg.org
 mhouston@sfxlg.org
 mtassi@sfxlg.org
 jzeisloft@sfxlg.org
 tsimeoni@sfxlg.org
 cjohnson@sfxlg.org
 dsoulje@sfxlg.org

Youth Ministry

Coordinator

Mrs. Olivia Zurowski

ozurowski@sfxlg.org

Music Ministry

Director

Mr. Allen Sterwalt

asterwalt@sfxlg.org

Parish Office Staff

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

Mrs. Jennifer Zeisloft
Ms. Jane Bandyk
Mrs. Maureen Pipal
Mrs. Melissa Westerhoff
Ms. Debra Soulje

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

Food Pantry/Community Outreach

Coordinator

Mrs. Mary Freeman

mfreeman@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-Thursday..... 8:30 am-8:30 pm
 Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm
 Saturday.....9:00 am-5:00 pm
 Sunday.....9:00 am-1:00 pm

Sabbath Liturgy

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am, 12:00 Noon and
 (6:00 pm September until first weekend of May)
 Holy Days of Obligation as scheduled in bulletin.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday morning.....After 9:00 am Mass
 Saturday afternoon.....4:15 pm
 The Reconciliation room is located off the walkway behind the
 tabernacle prayer area.

Liturgy Schedule

Monday through Wednesday7:45 and 9:00 am
 Thursday.....9:00 am
 Friday.....7:45 am
 Saturday.....9:00 am

Word Communion Services

Thursday.....7:45 am
 Friday.....9:00 am

Bulletin Deadline

The deadline for submitting all bulletin articles is 12:00 pm on the Friday 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 11:00 am. The pantry serves clients who live in the 60525 and 60526 zip codes.

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

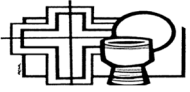
Please call the Parish Office for scheduled 1:30 pm Sunday Baptismal dates. Baptism Preparation Classes: 4th Thursday of every month at 7:30 pm. We encourage participation in this program before the baby's birth or adoption.

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.

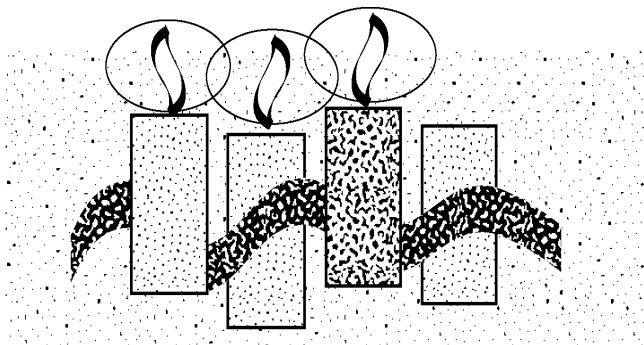
Parish Counselor

All counseling services are confidential, respectful, understanding, and take place in a safe environment. Counseling and psychotherapy services are available for individuals, couples, and families experiencing difficulty with anxiety, depression, grief, relationship conflicts, work stress or job loss problems, or feelings of being overwhelmed. For further information or to make an appointment, call our parish counselor, Nancy Kennedy, 708-325-8582 at the Claret Center or email nkennedy4@luc.edu.



Liturgical Ministers' Schedule—December 22-23, 2018

Mass Time	Presider	Lectors/ Commentators	Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers	Cantors	Greeters
5:00 PM	Fr. Killeen	L. MacKenzie E. Kudia J. Hayford	C. Cooke J. Denson K. Kanzer F. Kudia D. Mulvenna K. Preussner C. Witt L. Young Open	D. Collins A. Edwards E. Cushing	K. Kelly	R. MacEntee
7:30 AM	Fr. Killeen	M. Hermesdorf T. Marthaler J. Kelly	S. Hayes K. McInerney J. Morsch R. Nutt P. Olson	T. Dudek	G. Adams	J. Morsch T. Morsch
9:00 AM	Fr. Tkachuk	J. Dillon P. Zadeik R. Cook	R. Barker L. Krepps L. Nichol M. Lukanich D. Nighswander B. Olson P. O'Malley R. Pratali	N. Olson E. Sifferman	C. Kline Gallery Choir	J. Burson
10:30 AM	Fr. Killeen	A. Sullivan J. Nowak M. Justak	B. Boyd N. Cummings M. P. Flaherty M. Joscelyn A. Krol O. Lastres S. Martin L. Ovník G. Rutkowski	B. McGovern H. Labrador	B. Mayo Celebration Ensemble	M. Joscelyn
12:00 PM	Fr. Tkachuk	C. Anderson T. Downey E. McGovern	K. Borawski A. Chimento K. Johnson N. L. Kampe M. O'Malley	A. McCarty	K. DeVries	D. Foss
6:00 PM	Fr. Tkachuk	Quest Teen	Quest Teens		Spirit Choir	



Readings For The Week of December 16, 2018

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
 Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17
 Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25
 Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25
 Thursday: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38
 Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45
 Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56
 Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45