

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH
4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas
December 24 & 25, 2017



The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth to a virgin named Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace!

The Lord is
with you.



Behold, you will
conceive in your womb
and bear a son,
and you shall
name him **JESUS**



Mass Intentions For The Week

Monday, December 25 Christmas Day	9:00 am 10:30 am 12:00 pm	Mass in Church Mass in Church Mass in Church	
Tuesday, December 26 Saint Stephen, The First Martyr	7:45 am 9:00 am	John Siffermann Rosemary Sherman	The Cody Family Rebecca & Aiden Rivan
Wednesday, December 27 Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist	7:45 am 9:00 am	Rose Tkachuk Donald & Mary Blyth 63rd Wedding Anniversary for Jackie & Tom Morsch	Family The Blyth Family
Thursday, December 28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	7:45 am 9:00 am	Word & Communion Service Word & Communion Service	
Friday, December 29	7:45 am 9:00 am	William Ritchie John Swanson Word & Communion Service	The Kevin O'Brien Family Carolyn & Terry Mahoney
Saturday, December 30	9:00 am 9:30 am 3:00 pm 4:15 pm	William Tkachuk Margo Stillely Evelyn & Dale Tanner Sacrament of Reconciliation Wedding—Marissa Mackenzie & Anthony Weihofen Sacrament of Reconciliation	Family Kathy Franco The Tanner Family

Please Pray For...

Tony Banda	Emmett Miller
Keeley Barr	Mike Morrison
George Braasch	Fr. Jim O'Connor
Richard Chaput	Arnie Oppenheim
Carol Domecki	Jane O'Reilly
Blake Donegan	Ryan Patyk
Fr. Dave Dowdle	Donna Pekarek
Pat Eaton	Carissa Pessetti
Bill Elliott	James Pridmore
Lily Fielding	Baby Madison Raupp
Baby Collins Fitzpatrick	Anna Rose
Lilli Gregory	Marilyn Rutkowski
Wilson Gregory	Matthew Schiek
Frank Grippo	Greyson Edward Stanley
Linda Hillsman	Kate Frugoli Sullivan
Diane Hughes	Jerry Tazic
Rose Ilo	Marty Thuerk
Jane Jacobson	Anne Titzer
Mike Kelly	Michael Ungari
Benny Kilman	Amanda Valerugo
Jerry Kolman	Gregory Van Gorp
Virginia Kottaridis	
Molly Anne McKenna	

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:

Ginger Gies

Mother of Maureen, Michael,
Matthew, Mark & Catherine

Mary Gibbons

Mother of Kevin

JoAnn Holcomb

John Breen

Brother of Jim Kempfer

Weddings



Marissa Mackenzie & Anthony Weihofen

Please Note Word & Communion Services

On Thursday, December 28 there will be NO masses. Both times of 7:45 and 9:00 am will be Word & Communion Services. Thank you for your understanding.

Pastor's Notes

"The angel said, 'Behold!'"

Luke 1:31, 36; 2:10

Advent ends as Christmas begins. An angel first calls Mary, and later the shepherds, to *behold* the wonders of God's love. *Behold* is a word of much emotion and power. *Behold* invites us to pause, to open all our senses, to take in and reflect upon what is before us. Twice in the invitation to Eucharist, we are invited to "*Behold* the Lamb of God. *Behold* him who takes away the sin of the world." We are asked to take in the mystery and wonder of Christ who is present to us in the Bread and Wine of the Eucharist; who desires to become one with us in body and spirit.

What do you *behold* as God leads us into a new season of Christmas? Are you willing and able to set aside some time to *behold* the wonders of God's love in the infant Jesus? This tiny child is the gift above all other gifts. God chooses to live a human life to teach us of the divine within us and to restore our humanity to its full dignity and worth. Angels continue to invite us to proclaim the greatness of the Lord and to rejoice in God, our Savior. God's messengers continue to speak to us in our dreams, bringing clarity to the path into which God invites us. It is not a matter of God's presence or interest in our affairs. It is a matter of our openness to *behold* God in the most ordinary moments of the day, and in the quiet hours of the night.

Welcome to all who this day fill our parish home with comfort and joy, and who carry the blessings that you *behold* to all you will meet in these days. And welcome back to our Mass schedule, Fr. John! However frequent your presence may be; however strong your connection to God and the Church at this moment in your life; however many faces around you that you recognize this day; may you *always* find here a home where you belong. May you experience among us the wonders of God's love. May Emmanuel, God-with-us, transform the world through us as we go forth from here.

A Blessed Christmas Season to you all and those you hold dear. Christmas blessings to all beyond these walls who look to us for hope and support.

Peace,

J. Bill

Scripture Reflections

**Reflection for the
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Liturgy Planning Team #3
David Sherman, Barb Kalnes,
Charlie Brewick, Gertrude Nalumansi
and George Rutkowski**

After one simple question of the angel, "how can this be?" Mary says those well-known words, "let it be done to me according to your word." Don't we always want to know more than just "how can this be?" Don't we want the how and why and where and when's of it all. Mary's simple question was answered and she asked no more. Maybe she was too speechless to ask more. Maybe she asked more questions but God only smiled. So often the answers that we seek to our many questions are not what we need to know at the time and probably, more than we can handle. Instead we are called to trust; to trust God's call even when it seems totally impossible, following what Mary did, pondering about it, praying about it, seeking support and confirmation in those around us as Mary did as she went off to Elizabeth. Like Mary we need to live with the questions that are not answered and trust in God's plan.

**Reflection for Christmas
Liturgy Planning Team #4
Shirley Augustyn, Marci Hermesdorf, OP
and Diane Walsh**

Throughout human history, people have walked in darkness. Darkness takes many forms: the darkness of war; of slavery and human trafficking; of oppression because of race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disabilities, age; the darkness of misunderstanding; of injustice and inequality, of sin in all its forms.

Like people of past ages, who longed for light to dispel the many darkness's they endured, we too need light—as individuals, as communities, as citizens of a fractured country and world, as inhabitants of a ravaged earth.

How wonderful that God has sent the Light of God's Presence to us—Jesus, our Savior, the Light who brings us hope! The hope that God's kingdom will come, the hope that, empowered by God's grace and by the example of the Savior, we can help to bring about the kingdom of justice, love, and peace.

On this feast of the Nativity, our hearts are full of gratitude that God has sent us the Only-Begotten Son, the Prince of Peace, to help us dispel darkness and to offer our world light and hope.

A CHRISTMAS WELCOME TO ALL!

We warmly welcome all who have come today to celebrate this glorious feast!

We welcome the stranger, the traveler and guest!

We welcome our students home from college for a good rest!

Welcome, parishioners who moved far away,
but now join us today as old friends and new guests!

Welcome, all who have not been active of late in their Catholic faith;
and hope they will find new hope and inspiration this Christmas
to come back again and again!

Welcome, faithful parishioners, loyal and true;
may the Lord bless you for all you do!

Welcome to all!

May our gathering this day gladden our hearts and deepen our bonds.

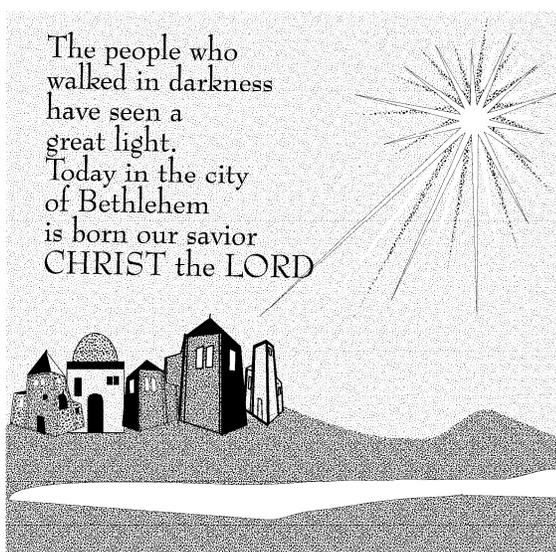
We, after all, are one People of God – redeemed by the Light.

May we walk by the Light, and live by the Light – together in love!



Christmas Masses at the CSJ Motherhouse Chapel

The main entrance of the Motherhouse is under construction, please use the new East Entrance (directly across from the entrance to Nazareth High School) to enter the Chapel for the 3:00 and 5:00 pm Christmas Eve masses.



St. Francis Xavier Christmas Mass Schedule 2017

Sunday, December 24

7:30 am, 9:00 am and 10:30 am

NO NOON MASS

Christmas Eve

3:00 pm and 5:00 pm in Church
are Masses for which

Tickets have been distributed

Christmas Eve

3:00 pm and 5:00 pm

Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Chapel
*Tickets are only required and have been
distributed for 3:00 pm Mass*

Christmas Eve in Church

7:00 pm

*Midnight Mass in Church
preceded by Christmas Carols
at 11:30 pm*

Christmas Day in Church

NO 7:30 am

9:00 am, 10:30 am and NOON

Christmas Flowers Collection

The Christmas flowers on the altar enhance our Mass celebration of the Birth of Jesus Christ every year. Please consider making a contribution to the beauty of our worship space. Envelopes are in the packets that have been mailed to your home, or feel free to use your own envelope addressed to "Christmas Flowers" and place it in the offertory basket.



Christmas Flowers

St. Francis Xavier Church
La Grange, Illinois

Dec 2017

Amount \$ _____

OUR GIFTS OF TIME, TALENT, AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

We are drawn to our parish home during this wondrous time of Advent and Christmas. We come with our families, joining other families, building the St. Francis Xavier community. Many precious moments have been fused into our memories within the walls of our church and Education Building. And now Unity Hall is surely a place where new memories have been and will be welcomed. Be sure to enter Unity Hall to behold the scene of the Nativity under the stained glass window of the prophet Moses.

These memories would not be possible without your stewardship. The time and talent of so many volunteers brings forth the beauty of Advent and the ways that we have touched lives with Christ's love by participating in the Giving Tree, the School Service Day, and the Religious Ed Toy Drive. And your financial gift assists the parish in providing moments that families will remember for a lifetime as we celebrate the coming of the baby Jesus.

You may have received an email earlier this month about signing up for electronic giving using your credit card or bank account. Since our November appeal to increase the number of families who use automatic giving, 66 additional parishioners have signed up for the SFX electronic regular offertory program (our goal is 100 by December 31)! To enroll, visit www.sfxlg.org.

Note that in the graph below, collections received so far are **less** than last year at this time by about \$24,000. Please assist us with this shortfall if you are able. We need your financial resources in order to create a more just world through sacraments, worship, learning and service. God bless your generosity of time, talent, and treasure.

May the Prince of Peace be with you all!
Jennifer Zeisloft, SFX Business Manager

Your Parish Finances



		+		=		<i>November</i>
Prior Month's Offerings:	<i>EFT/Credit Card</i>		<i>Basket</i>			<i>Total</i>
November 2017	\$ 46,567		\$ 72,386		\$	118,953
November 2016	\$ 39,279		\$ 78,962		\$	118,241

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

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

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.

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.

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 no effect on the effects of alcohol.

Don't serve more than one drink per hour 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 who is drunk more awake. If a guest is drunk, do not let him or her drive home. Get them a ride or cab or let them sleep it off.

Drunk drivers can kill people.



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In 1223, just two years before his death, Saint Francis of Assisi set up a living crèche, a replica of the manger in Bethlehem at the birth of Jesus. He preached and prayed before the scene. His biographer, Thomas of Celano, says that in that moment Francis was “overwhelmed with love and filled with wonderful happiness.” His contemplation of Jesus, the Word made flesh, drew him to experience the depth of God’s love.

We live in a troubled world beset by wars, violence, injustice, broken relationships, and illness. Beyond that, we do believe and are convinced that God loves us and walks with us in Jesus, his Son. As we know, God will heal us and our broken world and bring us into the fullness of life. It is my hope that when you pray before the mystery of the Incarnate Word, as Saint Francis prayed, you will be renewed in hope and confidence and be “overwhelmed with love and filled with wonderful happiness.”

May God bless you with a renewal of faith, hope, and love as we celebrate the birth of the Lord.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Card. Blase J. Cupich".

ARCHBISHOP OF CHICAGO



*Christmas 2017
Cardinal's letter to the Faithful
Archdiocese of Chicago*



little falcon fun

St. Francis Xavier

who

Two & Fall Three year olds! (turns 3 after 9/1)

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 am - 9:45 am

Twice A Month
January 8 & 22
February 12 & 26
March 12 & 26
April 9 & 23
May 7 & 21

where

St. Francis Xavier School - East Campus
21 N. Catherine, LaGrange
Room 22 (first floor)

why

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

how

Register online at: <https://tinyurl.com/yd5p8qn3>

Session fee is \$50 / due at the first class.
(Space is limited. Checks payable to SFX)

Preschool

We here at St. Francis Xavier School are very excited to announce the expansion of our Preschool Program beginning 2018-2019! Preschool 3 will offer half day classes with three and five day attendance options, and Pre K 4 will run Monday through Friday with half day and full day options.

Our Preschool program combines cognitive and play-based philosophies. We believe purposeful play with experiential learning fully engages the child and develops a true love of learning. In addition, SFX focuses on actively living one's faith and providing an example of character to others in daily life. Our goal is to guide children in their journey to realizing their own personal gifts and learning to value the contribution of others.

Enrollment will begin mid-November! Please contact our Advancement Director Jennifer Courier at jcourier@sfxlg.org for more information or to be placed on the distribution list for applications.

New Tax Credit Scholarship Program

You may have heard by now about the new tax credit scholarship program created through the Invest in Kids Act. This Christmas, you can give the gift of a Catholic education to children from low-income families while also receiving a tax credit yourself. This program is different from regular charitable giving to St. Francis Xavier or another charity.

Visit archchicago.org/tcs to learn why and to access a step-by-step guide to the program.

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 is 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!

Welcome Wednesdays at St. Francis Xavier School



We would like to invite you to attend a Welcome Wednesday admissions event and learn all about our programs and tour our school. Reservations are suggested, but not required.

2018 Welcome Wednesday dates:
January 17, 2018 & May 16, 2018

Welcome Wednesday kicks off at 8:30 am at our East Campus with an informal presentation from our principal and an early education teacher, and ends with a school tour.

Our East Campus (Pre-school 3 – Kindergarten) at
21 North Catherine Avenue, LaGrange
morning begins at 8:30 am

Families interested in enrolling a child in grades 1-7,
please call the school to arrange for a private tour
at your convenience.

To make reservations, schedule a private tour,
or request a shadow day for your child,
contact Jennifer Courier at 708-352-2175.

Our all-school **Open House is January 28, 2018.**
The "Gym Fair" at the Main Campus
will showcase all clubs and extracurricular activities,
and teachers will be in their
class rooms at both campuses
to answer any questions you may have.

Open Enrollment begins mid-November.

Our early education classes reach capacity very quickly.

Contact Jennifer Courier jcourier@sfxlg.org to be placed
on distribution list for the application paperwork.

SFX YOUTH MINISTRY WEBSITE:

www.youthministry.sfxlg.org

Merry Christmas!

May the Blessings of Christmas be with you,
 May the Christ Child light your way,
 May God's holy angels guide you,
 And keep you safe each day.



Church League

Looking to watch a Church League basketball game and support the young men of St. Francis Xavier? Here is the schedule for the January 6 & 7 games (no games the weekend of December 23 & 24 in observance of Christmas).

Saturday, January 6		
Which SFX Team	Time	Location
Juniors	4pm	St. Louise
Juniors	6pm	St. Louise
Freshmen	6:30pm	St. Francis Xavier
Seniors	7pm	Park District of LG
Seniors v Seniors!	7:30pm	St. Francis Xavier
Juniors	7:45pm	WS Recreation
Seniors	8pm	St. Louise
Sophomores	8pm	St. Isaac Jogues
Sophomores	8:30pm	St. Francis Xavier
Sunday, January 7		
Freshmen	5pm	St. Mary's

God's Garage Open Hours

God's Garage will be open weekly on Mondays and Tuesdays from 7-8pm. I (Olivia) will be there during these times with snacks if anyone would like to stop by and say hi, use the space to hang out with friends, do homework, etc. I have set this time up as an opportunity to get to know the teens and parents of St. Francis. Don't be afraid to stop by!

New Year's Eve

There WILL be 6pm Mass on December 31st.

~ *Olivia Hollman*

Religious Education Important Dates & Class Dates

Sunday, December 24	No Class
Wednesday, December 27	No Class
Sunday, December 31	No Class
Wednesday, January 3	No Class
Sunday, January 7	At Home Lesson
Wednesday, January 10	At Home Lesson
Sunday, January 14	Class
Wednesday, January 17	Class

Children's Liturgy of the Word

The Word of the Lord has a message for children as well as adults. Children's Liturgy of the Word offers the children an experience to hear the scripture in words that they can understand. Here at St. Francis we are fortunate and proud to have adult volunteers and Presiders of Liturgy who journey with our children so that they can experience the Word of the Lord with a message that is relevant and fitting for them.

Our Saturday evening 5:00 pm. 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 Reflectors 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 "kicked off" the school year on Saturday, October 14. Allen Sterwalt, our Director of Music, along with our Cherub Choir and SF Choristers (Children in Grades 1-8) led us in prayer with music. **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 to 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:

January 6—Cherub;
 February 3—Combined Choirs;
 February 24—Choristers;
 March 3—Cherub and
 March 24—Choristers

Children in Grades K-4 will be invited to join their Reflectors 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):

January 13, 20 & 27;
 February 10 & 17;
 March 10 & 17;
 and April 7, 14, 21 & 28

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

St. Francis Xavier Honor Roll

St. Francis Xavier Day School is proud to announce the 7th & 8th grade students who have achieved Honor Roll status for the first trimester of the 2017-2018 school year. Congratulations to all and keep up the good work.

High Honors: Patrick Adams, Brigid Anderson, Elena Beczkiewicz, Grace Brennan, Kayla Buelling, Mikaela Burns, Mary Byrne, Charlie Campbell, John Carr, Connor Carroll, Will Carroll, Lucy Cook, Brady Culin, LisaGrace Dillon, Taylor Dudek, Thomas Duffy, Jacob Eraci, Madelyn Farnan, Braden Ferguson, Moira Finucane, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Abby Fix, Jack Flynn, Margaret Freeman, Nora Gannon, Clare Gibbons, Briac Griffin, Nicole Grimes, Sebastian Gutierrez, Nora Havenaar, Miles Hayford, Aidan Hilling, Lina Hinostraza, Annmarie Holmes, Colin Holmes, Abby Justak, Tiernan Kelly, Lilly Kent, Frank LaMantia, Katie Layden, Colin Leader, Evan Madden, Emmett Mahoney, Ethan Man, Ryan McElligott, Edward McFadden, Brian McGovern, Benjamin Michel, Dailey Newcomb, Emma Newman, Ryan Newman, Luke Nowak, Jordan Opoka, Abbey Quinn, Isabella Rivera, Allison Sanchez, Katherine Sandt, Natalie Sarason, Eleanor Schaeffer, Colson Schmit, Cooper Schodrof, Peter Shanley, Kelsey Smith, Conor Stetz, Aidan Sullivan, Sophia Thomas, and Danny Walsh.

Honors: Angeleah Alexander, Avarie Bernstein, Billy Buckley, Katie Buckley, Delaney Burns, Lucas Chilson, Nora Collins, Kathleen Cooley, Nathan Daly, Colin DelGiudice, Margaret Duff, Seamus Dunlap, Matthew Giron, Carlos Gonzalez, Erin Hayes, Jack Hesser, Andrew Kopczynski, Helen Labrador, Colette Lewis, Haven Lisek, Charlie Liston, Ava Magliocco, Alex Marino, Alex McCarty, Lauren McCormick, Charlie McLaughlin, Claire Moroney, Colleen Mulcahy, Aidan Perkovich, Emma Sanchez, Nick Scardino, Cami Schodrof, Lucy Skokna, Luke Skonning, David Waight, and Ryan Wheeler.



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What's Your *Favorite Memory* of St. Francis Xavier?

Another question to consider: **People often say that St. Francis Xavier is a special place. Why do you think people feel this way?**

The SFX Staff, EnlightIN Team, our 125th Anniversary Planners and interested Volunteers are working on our *125th Anniversary Book*, and we invite your input. People of all ages are invited to write a favorite memory or answer the question above, and return it to sfxinlg@sfxlg.org or the rectory. Please include:

- Your memory or thoughts — a sentence, a paragraph, or a page (200 word max)
- Info about You: name, phone number, email address, age (if child), and how long you have been a parishioner
- A photo of yourself or an image related to your memory (optional)

Please return your memory or thoughts to sfxinlg@sfxlg.org or the rectory by **Jan. 15, 2018**.

Memories and thoughts selected by our editors will be highlighted in the 125th Anniversary Book, as well as in the parish bulletin and on the website. Contact Missy Westerhoff for further information: 708-352-0168 or sfxinlg@sfxlg.org.

Catholic Women's Club

All women of the parish are members of the Catholic Women's Club. If you would like to get involved or if you would like to receive monthly newsletters about our upcoming events via email, please contact Tiziana Lambert at tizianalambert@gmail.com.

A Call To Ministry

A new year with new challenges! What about that nagging feeling deep in your hearts? Is God calling you to be more fully a part of the ministries here at SFX? Have you thought that maybe you'd like to minister to those assembled as an extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion? As a Eucharistic Minister, you would be a sign and carrier of Eucharistic joy. Please consider His call to serve our parish in this way.

At SFX we are in need of ministers especially at the 10:30 am and Noon Masses. To discuss the possibility of becoming a member of this ministry please contact either David at d2rsherman@aol.com or George at Grutkowski@aol.com.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS®

LaGrange Council 6483
Established May 1973

DID YOU KNOW?

Knights of Columbus helped more than 310,000 children receive warm winter coats through the Coats for Kids program.

Learn more about your local LaGrange council at sites.google.com/site/knightsofcolumbuscouncil6483 or email, text or call council6483@gmail.com or 708-207-2780.

SFX Men's Club

All men of the parish are welcome.
For further information, please contact:

Matt Hubert at mthubert@gmail.com or
Joseph Enright at joseph_owen@hotmail.com.

St. Francis Outreach Ministry Opportunity

On Saturday, December 30, we will meet at Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) in Aurora for a great service project. We have reserved 63 spots from 11:30 am-1:30 p.m. At FMSC, the two-hour session begins with an orientation and then meals are packed by hand for the worlds hungriest children. Some moments of prayer and reflection end the session. This service opportunity, unlike most of the others, 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. Please contact Ana Dimailig for sign up at apd3@core.com.

OUR JOURNEY. OUR VOICE. SFX Music Ministry CD



In honor of our parish's 125th Anniversary, the SFX music ministry released the CD recording entitled, **"Our Journey. Our Voice."** This two-disc set highlights music created and performed at St. Francis Xavier through Sunday worship and special concert events over the past 25 years! Featured are diverse and inspiring performances by our past and present **Celebration Ensemble, Gallery Choir, Spirit Choir and Children's Choirs.** Also featured is **Kairos** with vocalists Jenny Palmer, Carolyn Kline, Jennifer Kerr Budziak and Meriel Owens.

This journey will take you through the timeline of music directors and music leaders within the last 25 years including Kathy Sherman, Ed Nowak, Jennifer Kerr Budziak, and most currently Allen Sterwalt. A warm thank you and gratitude goes out to Sr. Therese Fassnacht for her musical service and leadership as music director as well.

Highlighted are pieces from the SFX-sponsored *Frontiers of the Heart (1996)*, the premiere of *At Bethlehem's Door* – a musical journey to the heart of Christmas (1995), *Amazing Grace*—A gospel concert collaboration with Rev. Calvin Bridges and Chicago Praise Ensemble (1998), *Roses in the Snow* Advent performance (2004), *Ecumenical Concert (2004)*, and the *Epiphany Christmas Concert (2015)*.



The CD is available for purchase at St. Francis Xavier for the holidays! The cost is \$15 per two-CD set; or buy multiple copies for holiday gifts and receive a discount. Proceeds will help support a community outreach organization, and the SFX Music Ministry.

CD Sales to Benefit SFX Food Pantry

During Advent and Christmas, SFX cantor Barb Kalnes once again offers her CDs for sale to benefit the St. Francis Xavier Food Pantry. This year, two recordings are featured: *Dream Traveler*, a 2017 release featuring Multiplicity Jazz Ensemble; and the Advent-themed recording entitled, *Roses in the Snow*. These recordings are available for purchase at Anderson's Bookshop and Veni Vidi Val in downtown LaGrange, as well as the LaGrange Park Antique Mall located at the corner of Barnsdale and 31st Street. The price is \$12 per disc.

Your purchase of *Dream Traveler* and/or *Roses in the Snow* will directly benefit SFX Community Outreach. Half of all proceeds from the CD sales will go directly to the SFX Food Pantry to help stock the shelves and provide meat, fresh produce, and dairy products to those in need. Thank you for supporting these local music projects and the parish Food Pantry.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Office of Human Dignity & Solidarity
Immigration Ministry



Share the Journey—Support the Dream Act

“Dear brothers and sisters...the coming months offer a unique opportunity to advocate and support the concrete actions which I have described with four verbs: to welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate immigrants and refugees” -Pope Francis

The Dream Act of 2017 (S 1615/HR 3440) was recently introduced in Congress. If passed into law, this bipartisan bill would protect immigrant youth, including DACA beneficiaries. The Catholic Bishops have long supported these immigrant youths and their families who are contributors to our economy and exemplify the extraordinary contributions that immigrants provide to our nation. It is both our moral duty and in our nation’s best interest to protect them and help them reach their God-given potential.

ACTION: Respond to the call by asking your legislators to pass the Dream Act of 2017. Visit the USCCB website: www.JusticeforImmigrants.org.

For additional ways to advocate for immigrants and refugees visit: www.CatholicsAndImmigrants.org.



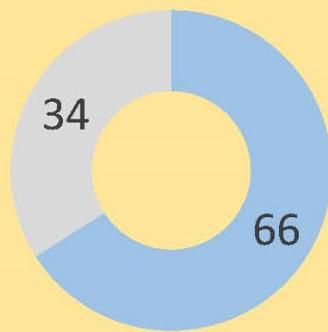
SAVE THE DATE ~ The Well Coffeehouse – Fun-raiser

On Friday, February 2 from 7:00-10:00 pm be prepared to be entertained with live performances ranging from comedy to poetry to piano and song, jazz to pop, amateur to professional. Bring your own food and drinks.

Sweets available for purchase. Cost: \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door.

The Well Spirituality Center, 1515 Ogden Avenue in LaGrange Park. To register: 708-482-5048 or thewell@csjoseph.org; www.csjthewell.org.

Electronic Giving Goal



- New Enrollees
- Needed to Meet Goal

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Registration Form

The Welcome (Christ Renews His Parish/CRHP 2.0) women's retreat offers a wonderful opportunity to connect with others and share experiences on a journey to renew your relationship with the Lord and build a bond with other women of the parish. All women are welcome on this spiritual journey.

Women's Weekend, January 20th - 21st, 2018

Carmelite Spirituality Center
8433 Bailey Rd., Darien, Illinois

Please arrive between 8:00 am – 8:30 am on the 20th

We conclude @ 3:00 pm on the 21st

Questions: Please contact Tammy Walczyk @ (708)354-7312

Scholarships Available Please Contact Fr. Bill Tkachuk

Please drop off registration form with payment (payable to St. Francis Xavier Parish)
to the Rectory attention Missy Westerhoff by January 10, 2018

Women's Weekend January 20-21, 2018

_____ Single Occupancy \$135
_____ Double Occupancy \$115 Room with. _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____ E-mail : _____

Emergency Contact

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Please list 2 people we may contact to ask to pray for you while on retreat. (Optional)

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

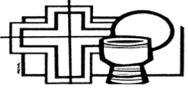
Name: _____ Phone #: _____



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
- **Staff Sgt. Rhonda Russell, USAF**—daughter of Deidre & John Russell and granddaughter of Mary F. Russell
- **Ensign Jonathan Devitt Brown**—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
- **Scott Conway, U.S. Navy**—nephew of Robert Dunne & Mark Conway
- **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

**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.**



Liturgical Ministers' Schedule—December 30-31, 2017

Mass Time	Presider	Lectors/ Commentators	Ministers of Communion	Altar Servers	Cantors	Greeters
5:00 PM	Fr. Tkachuk	C. Anderson H. McCormick M. Kanzer	L. Bannach M. Becker S. Devitt K. Kanzer J. Kelly F. Kudia M. Milligan C. Witt Not Filled	R. Newman E. Newman	K. Kelly	S. Devitt
7:30 AM	Fr. Killeen	G. Rutkowski M. Hermesdorf R. Hillsman	D. Challender M. Hermesdorf K. Stetz D. Walsh M. Westerhoff		S. VanOrdstrand	C. Urbain
9:00 AM	Fr. Tkachuk	T. Nichol S. Lehuta J. Stopka	M. Branecki V. Bracht D. Carlson J. Cogelja C. Froemel E. Froemel A. Gargano J. Van Gorp L. Weyrauch	T. Dudek B. Culin	C. Jakubisin	J. Virella
10:30 AM	Fr. Killeen	T. Serafin T. Gannon L. Hillsman	A. Clark J. Clark A. Krol S. Martin P. McGinnis J. Nowak L. Ovník G. Rutkowski K. Witowski	D. Walsh L. Nowak A. Justak	L. DiGianfilippo	P. Sbertoli
12:00 PM	Fr. Tkachuk	J. Gatsos E. McGovern M. Atseff	A. Chimento L. Donegan B. Edelmann A. Gatsos C. Gatsos	D. Newcomb C. Kachmarik	J. Pfluger	O. Lozano
6:00 PM	Fr. Tkachuk	Quest Teen	Quest Teens		Spirit Choir	

Readings For The Week of December 24, 2017

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Monday: Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-20

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Mt 2:13-18

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Lk 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Lk 2:36-40

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40



St. Francis Xavier Personnel

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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. Jennifer Courier
Mrs. Jennifer Zeisloft
Ms. Terri Simeoni
Mrs. Cindy Johnson
Mrs. Lucile Nichol

sgarcia@sfxlg.org
jcarr@sfxlg.org
mhoffman@sfxlg.org
pevans@sfxlg.org
kkinahan@sfxlg.org
mhouston@sfxlg.org
jcourier@sfxlg.org
jzeisloft@sfxlg.org
tsimeoni@sfxlg.org
cjohnson@sfxlg.org
lnichol@sfxlg.org

Youth Ministry

Coordinator

Ms. Olivia Hollman

ohollman@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
Mrs. 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.....sfxreligious@sfxlg.org
Parish Web Sitewww.sfxlg.org

Rectory Hours

Monday-Friday.....8:30 am-8:30 pm
Saturday.....9:00 am-5:00 pm
Sunday.....9:00 am-2:00 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 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. All articles must be emailed 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, 773-643-6259 ext. 31 at the
Claret Center or email nkennedy4@luc.edu.

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