Prepare the way of the Lord.

One more powerful than I is to come and I am not worthy to untie His sandal. I have baptized you in water but He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit.
Please Pray For...

Dennis Bianucci
Linda Bienik
Lauren Bovis
Ryan Brubeck
Pedro Cardenas
Sr. Barbara Jean Ciszek
Laura Dinelli
Blake Donegan
Kevin Feldott
Jack Fuheley
Cardinal Francis George
Lilli Gregory
Wilson Gregory
Raymond Hassler
Kim Hausknecht
Jack Henry
Jane Jacobson

Mike Kelly
Benny Kilman
Nicholas Lux
Cheryl Mancuso
Rita McCambridge
Mike Morrison
Becca Mueller
Ryker Mullinax
Richard Pfuger
Quela Rosello
Rosemary Sherman
Janet Sinnott
Joan Stipetic
Sheila Walsh
Lauren Whelan
Jack Witowski

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:

**Rose Wilhelm**
The Wilhelm Family

**Marie & Richard Galvin**
Sister & Brother-in-Law of John Lux

**William Steele**
Husband of Barbara and Father of Bill Jr., Beth, Chuck, Jim, Jen & Matt

**Stazie Krajewski**
Mother of Patricia, Joanne & Richard

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Mass Intentions For The Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Parishioners</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, December 8</td>
<td>7:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Norman VanTassel</td>
<td>Jennifer Haidu</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>The Tully Family</td>
<td>Robert Tully</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Immaculate Conception of Mary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 9</td>
<td>7:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Gerry Creegan</td>
<td>Pam Oplawski</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Mary Ann Ovnik</td>
<td>The Ovnik Family</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The Deceased Members of the DelGranado, Anaya, Kochan and Khomin Families</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 10</td>
<td>7:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Donn Renfro, Joan O'Brien</td>
<td>The Blyth Family</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Tom Hickey, John Borowiak</td>
<td>Mary Casey, Lorraine Alexovich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 11</td>
<td>7:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Communion Service</td>
<td>The Benz Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Damasus I, Pope</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Jacob Silver, Virginia Hirsch</td>
<td>Raymond &amp; Joan Wielgos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, December 12</td>
<td>7:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Joseph, Jerry &amp; Salvator</td>
<td>The Furstaci Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Guadalupe</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Betty Lucas, Communion Service</td>
<td>Ginny Cavanaugh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, December 13</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Joseph &amp; Mary Potsch, Claire Elizabeth Griffin</td>
<td>Jim &amp; Joan Potsch, The Griffin Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</td>
<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Sacrament of Reconciliation, Fr. Bacchi</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:15-4:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Sacrament of Reconciliation, Fr. Hoffman</td>
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Pastor's Notes

This weekend our High School Quest members encourage us to participate in our annual Giving Tree program for the benefit of parishioners of our Sharing Parish, St. Agatha. Begun by the O’Brien family several years ago, it is another excellent opportunity to share with others. More information is in this bulletin.

Also in this bulletin you’ll find an “ask” for help with the Religious Retirement Collection, to be taken up next weekend. This outreach to religious communities of women and men has given us an opportunity to express our admiration and gratitude for the great sacrifices they have made through the years, educating, leading and serving God’s people. This collection has always been responded to with the greatest generosity through the years. Please continue to do so as you are able.

How about the Nazareth Academy’s Roadrunners class 6A State Football Championship? Awesome performances for this focused, dedicated team and their coaches. Good for you!

As we enter into the Advent-Christmas Season, college students are coming home for Christmas/semester break. Welcome home all of you. It is great to see you! You look different!

And thinking of you, it is awesome and wonderful to see so many students from college, high school and grade school woven in to our liturgies – as lectors, ministers of communion, ushers, choir members, musicians and greeters. (How about homilists? Any of you willing to jump into that part of our liturgies? Give me a call!) Thank you to all of you for serving your faith community in those roles and for reminding us that our prayer is for everyone, all of God’s people.

Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving! Did you know this about Thanksgiving and the Pilgrims? It comes from a parishioner:

> When crops were abundant the Pilgrims placed five kernels of corn beside their plates to remember the time when crops were small, when they only had a little food, and only five kernels of corn a day to keep from starving.

> Remember to give thanks and praise for:

1. God’s love
2. The beauty of the earth
3. The joy of human life
4. The beauty of each other
5. Our country

Here is the ninth of Pope Francis’ 10 tips for bringing greater joy to life, brought to us by Fr. Ronald Rolheiser in the Catholic New World newspaper:

**9. Don’t proselytize, respect other’s beliefs.** What we cherish and put our faith into grows “by attraction, not by proselytizing.” Beauty is the one thing that no one can argue with. Cherish your values, but always act toward others with graciousness, charity, and respect.

(Next tip next week! You can see more writings by Fr. Rolheiser at www.ronrolheiser.com.)

Getting ready for Christmas? Here’s a pre-Christmas moment in a little girl’s life:

> She climbed onto Santa’s lap and Santa asked the usual, “And what would you like for Christmas?” The child stared at him open mouthed and horrified for a minute, then gasped: “Didn’t you get my E-mail?”

And you may have seen this:

> A teacher asked 5-year old Ryan if he knew the name of Jesus’ mother, and he answered, “Mary.” And the teacher said, “Good. Now can you tell me his father’s name?” Ryan replied, “Verge.” When the teacher asked where he came up with that, Ryan said, “Haven’t you ever heard people talking about Verge ‘n’ Mary?”

(Thanks, Cecilia Abbott from Lick Haven, PA)

Blessed Advent to all of us.

Rev. John Hoffman

Scripture Reflection

In today’s first reading, Isaiah presents a calming, tender and forgiving message from our God... “Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God.” Jerusalem’s sins have been expiated! Our God is portrayed as a warm, loving, parental protector who will shepherd us sinners in his arms and lead us with care. Within that comforting message, however, a voice is crying out, “...prepare the way of the Lord”. What is this preparation all about? Maybe our preparation is about truly acknowledging our humanity in a broader view...the world. How is our sin keeping us from uniting in worldly peace and reconciliation? We may need to revisit how our voices are crying out and what our voices are actually saying. Do our current cries unite or divide?

This sentiment of cleansing our hearts from distraction appears also in the second letter of St. Peter. Again, we hear a message of preparing ourselves for the Lord, for we do not know when the time will come. Our preparation involves the yearning and excitement for a renewal of heart amongst all peoples of the world. St. Peter mentions how we await a new heaven and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. That righteousness and goodness can be now, in this kingdom on earth, if we pay close attention to how and what our crying voices are proclaiming.

The Gospel of Mark repeats the message of preparing the way of the Lord. The voice from Isaiah is crying out again...in this case, John the Baptist is proclaiming repentance through baptism. This baptism is a renewal of life through the acknowledgement of sin in preparation of the one who is to come...who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.

In today’s world, there are lots of crying voices trying to be heard, vying for attention. Deep within those voices, do we really know for what we are crying? Are we trying to unite or divide?

Aston J. Stearns
St. Francis Xavier
Christmas Mass Schedule 2014

- **Christmas Eve**
  - 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. in Church
    - Masses for which tickets have been distributed

- **Christmas Eve in Church**
  - 7:00 p.m.

- **Midnight Mass in Church**
  - preceded by Christmas Carols at 11:30 p.m.

- **Christmas Day in Church**
  - 7:30 a.m.
  - 9:00 a.m.
  - 10:30 a.m.
  - 12:00 Noon

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Retired Men’s Group
Christmas Luncheon
LaGrange Country Club
Wednesday, December 17
Lunch at 12:15 pm
Cash Bar at 11:30 am

Please make your reservation to the rectory office by Monday, December 15. Cost is $30. Menu choice of Beef, Chicken or Fish.

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The Christmas Wafer

The Christmas Wafer (also known as “Oplatki”) will be available in the Rectory during office hours Monday through Friday, 9:00 am until 8:30 pm, Saturday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and on Sunday between 9:00 am and 2:00 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.

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Retirement Fund For Religious

Support religious communities. “Your generous contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters and enables our younger sisters to continue in active ministry,” writes a religious sister. Your gift to next weekends collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital support for the retirement needs of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. It also helps ensure that younger members can continue the good works of their elders!

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SPRED CHRISTMAS LITURGY

Please join us on Sunday, December 14 at 6:00 pm for our special SPRED Christmas Liturgy.

This Mass will incorporate some of the special ways our SPRED Group celebrates liturgy. Please come and join us and experience our unique way of celebrating God’s love for all of us.

You are also invited to join our Reception in Joyce Hall immediately after Mass.

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St. Francis Xavier
Christmas Mass Schedule 2014

- **Christmas Eve**
  - 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. in Church
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  - 7:30 a.m.
  - 9:00 a.m.
  - 10:30 a.m.
  - 12:00 Noon
**Capital Campaign Corner**

Over the past several weeks a Selection Committee comprised of Fr. John, Jennifer Zeisloft (our current Business Manager), Clara Jurivich, Mike Bruni (Finance and Capital Campaign Co-Chair) Ferd Dimailig, Keli Dudek and Clay Edwards (all from the Buildings and Grounds Committee) have been working to select an architectural firm to provide services for the accomplishment of our Capital Campaign projects. Five firms were invited to submit proposals. Four responded to the invitation and subsequently interviewed with the committee. Excellent presentations which included creative ideas and summaries of impressive credentials were made to the Selection Committee on November 13th.

After much deliberation the Selection Committee decided to proceed with Jaeger, Nickola, Kuhlman and Associates. As you are probably aware, JNKA completed both our facilities assessment and the Master Plan on which we based our 125th Anniversary Capital Campaign. They were selected, not only on the basis of our experience with them, but also on the basis of their expertise in designing renovations and additions to beautiful historic churches such as ours. Of course, their fee for services was taken into account and was such that the Selection Committee felt very comfortable recommending that we proceed with JNKA. The next step is to work with Celine Coath of the Facilities & Construction Department at the Archdiocese to garner requisite approvals and to finalize an Owner-Architect contract with JNKA.

You can all help to move the Capital Campaign projects forward by continuing to make your pledge payments as indicated on your pledge forms. This will ensure that we will have the funds on hand to complete both the renovation projects in the school and the new gathering space simultaneously or in close succession beginning in spring/summer 2016. It will also enable us to honor our commitment to both St. Agatha and Ascension-St. Susanna parishes. If you have not yet made a pledge, it is not too late to do so. Your pledge can be your commitment of time and talent and/or treasure. All three are essential for the success of the campaign. Please consider being a part of these exciting and much needed improvements at your parish.

More Capital Campaign updates to follow.

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**Your Parish Finances**

| Sunday Collection, November 30 | $26,251 |
| This week last year | $28,015 |
| Total Collection: | |
| Year-to-date | $614,049 |
| Previous year-to-date | $604,526 |
| Needed for Budget: | |
| Year-to-date | $622,576 |

Thank you for your generous and ongoing support of the Parish!

And thanks for your support of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. $8,887 has been collected to date for this great cause!

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**Leave A Legacy**

We are grateful for the generous support that you give to St. Francis through your weekly contributions. Have you considered providing for the continuation of that support by including the parish in your Will? Bequests given to the parish through Wills are for the sole use of St. Francis Xavier Parish. To include the parish in your Will, the correct language is: “I give (a percentage or amount) to the Catholic Bishop of Chicago—A Corporation Sole, for the sole benefit of St. Francis Xavier Parish, LaGrange.” Thanks for giving consideration to leaving a legacy!

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**Tax Advantaged Way To Support the Parish**

Have you considered making a donation of appreciated common stock? Gifts of appreciated securities provide an immediate income tax deduction in the amount of the value of the stock and are not subject to capital gains tax.

*If it seems appropriate, please consider taking advantage of this for your Capital Campaign pledge payment.*

For more details, please call Jane Bandyk at the rectory office 708-352-0168.

*This article is not intended to provide legal or tax advice. Please consult your professional advisors before taking action.*
Welcome Wednesdays at St. Francis Xavier School

We will be hosting several admission events throughout the school year. This is a great time to meet other parents, learn about our programs and tour our school. Reservations are suggested, but not required.

**Dates**
January 14, January 28, February 11, March 11, April 15 and May 6

9:00 AM at East Campus (preschool 3 – first grade)
21 N. Catherine Avenue, La Grange
10:15 AM at Main Campus (second grade – eighth grade)
145 N. Waiola Avenue, LaGrange

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

Looking For St. Francis Xavier Day School Alums

Are you a graduate of St. Francis Xavier Day School? We are trying to create a database of all graduates. Please e-mail the following information to Jennifer Courier, at jcourier@sfxlg.org or call her at 708-352-2175:

- Name
- Year of Graduation from SFX
- Mailing Address
- E-mail Address
- Telephone Number

We would also appreciate knowing if your children subsequently attended or are attending SFX.

In addition, we would like to know of any alumni who may have passed away. Finally, if you have an interest in helping to organize alumni activities, please let us know that as well.
School of Religious Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sundays</th>
<th>Wednesdays</th>
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<tr>
<td>December 7</td>
<td>December 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class</td>
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<td>December 14</td>
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<td>December 28</td>
<td>December 31</td>
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The Giving Tree

Many years ago, the O’Brien Family began the Giving Tree here at SFX. Since then, Diane O’Brien lost her battle with breast cancer. In her memory, the Giving Tree has been named The Diane O’Brien Giving Tree. The Giving Tree allows us to help Christmas happen for approximately 300 individuals, along with our Sharing Parish, St. Agatha. Each person whose name has been sent to us receives two gifts. This adds up to 600 tags to be distributed and gifts returned. Many inner-city families are helped by the outreach of St. Agatha’s Parish. Their need is great, as is the joy we receive from sharing with them at Christmas.

Help us to share the joy of the season with our friends at St. Agatha’s by taking a tag this weekend, December 6-7. Affix the tag to the wrapped gift you purchased and return it the weekend of December 13-14 BEFORE THE START of the Noon Mass.

Once again, the work for this parish project is a service provided by the Teens in QUEST. Please call Emily Brabham at 708-352-0168 x304 with any questions.

Family Outreach Ministry

Looking for a way for your family to serve others this New Year's Eve? Join the Family Outreach Ministry at Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) and help pack meals for the hungry. We've reserved 50 spots on December 31 from 12:00-2:00 p.m. 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 for sign up petersonrtw@sbcglobal.net.

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 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-4 will go to their prayer space on the Saturdays that the choirs are not singing.

Here is the tentative schedule:
December 13—SF Choristers
February 14—Cherub Choir and
February 21—SF Choristers
March 21—SF Choristers & Cherub Choir and
March 29—SF Choristers
April 18—Cherub Choir and April 25—SF 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):
December 20;
January 17, 24 & 31;
February 7 & 28;
March 7 & 14;
and April 11

You can call 708-352-0168 and direct your questions to:
Terri Simeoni, RE Coordinator and
Allen Sterwalt, Director of Music
What is Fretus? Fretus is the Freshmen/Sophomore Winter Retreat. This is a combined effort between St. Francis Xavier and St. Cletus Parishes. This retreat is an opportunity for freshmen and sophomore teens to examine their faith, reflect on where they are, learn a few things, and have an outrageous amount of fun!

January 9-11, 2015

We are blessed to have this retreat led by wonderful, Spirit-filled junior and senior high school teens, who are eager to be companions on the journey. For more information, including registration, please check out our website: youthministry.sfxlg.org. If cost is an obstacle to participation in this opportunity, scholarships are available. Questions? Contact Emily at ebrabham@sfxlg.org.

Beyond the Fourth

College Retreat

This retreat is a unique opportunity for college age parishioners to connect or reconnect with their faith. Whether you’re really involved in campus ministry or you only go to church when you’re home on breaks, this is a retreat for you. If you attended Kairos in high school, sometimes you look for those mountain top experiences when life is in a valley. Come with us as we navigate the peaks and valleys of faith and of life.

December 28-30, 2014

This is a combined effort of St. John of the Cross, St. Francis Xavier, and St. Cletus parishes. It focuses on the challenges and blessings in this specific time of life. Whether you’re a freshman finishing your first term, a senior about to graduate, or anywhere in between, this is a retreat for you! Come spend a part of your Christmas break among friends!

This retreat will fill up quickly, registration information is available online at youthministry.sfxlg.org.

REGISTRATION.  Registration for CHWC Philadelphia June 6-13, 2015 is now OPEN!  Forms are available online and at the rectory.  A non-refundable $100 registration fee is due when forms are submitted.  The total cost of the trip is approximately $650/person. Fundraising will be happening to lower this cost. Individual teens will be able to potentially fundraise the majority of this cost.

All current high school youth and college students are invited to consider attending Catholic Heart Work Camp in Philadelphia June 6-13, 2015. Our teens that participated in the Betsy Layne experience are hard at work planning for 2015 including planning fundraising opportunities.

QUEST

Happy Thanksgiving from Quest! Have you observed love in action through service? We want to hear about it! Do you have photos of your group in action? We’d love to share them! Please send group photos and service stories to Emily at ebrabham@sfxlg.org.
Taizé Prayer
St. Francis Xavier
and
Grace Lutheran

All are invited to ourTaizé Evening Prayer
Friday, December 12
7:30 p.m.
at
St. Francis Xavier

Taizé Prayer is contemplative and most importantly communal, combining simple repetitive melodies that are sung by all, prayerful silence, scripture reading and intercessory prayer. This prayer can promote a kind to inner unity of person, allowing the spirit to be more open and attentive to what is essential. It is our hope that you will join us, especially at this time when our world is much in need of prayer.

Music Ministry:
Upcoming Events

125th Parish Anniversary Celebration Concert
SFX Christmas Concert
and Candlelight Service
featuring the Celebration Ensemble,
Gallery Choir, Spirit Choir, SF Choristers,
Cherub Choir & parish instrumentalists.
Saturday, January 3, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.

St. Francis Stories

Do you or someone you know have a great St. Francis story from the past – or present? Can you share your memories and photos of parish life over the years? As part of the 125th Anniversary celebration we are putting together a DVD which will contain photos from past and present as well as interviews with parishioners of all ages. If you know of someone we should interview, have photos we can copy, or are interested in working on the DVD, please contact Mary Pat Flaherty by email at m-flaherty@sbcglobal.net or call 708-354-3914.

EVERYONE
HAS A
STORY!

Christmas Concert, Bake Sale, Silent Auction
Sunday, December 7
1:15 pm at the
Sisters of St. Joseph Chapel

People of all faiths and spirituality are welcome to enjoy the inspired Christmas music of Reverend Barbara Lohrbach in a benefit Concert this Sunday, December 7 at 1:15 pm, followed by refreshments. Admission is simply a freewill offering. Reverend Lorbach will perform both popular and classical Christmas songs and invite the audience to join in a holiday sing-a-long.

In addition to refreshments, there will be a silent auction, bake sale and mystery gifts to raise funds for the Sisters’ nonprofit hermitage gifts to raise funds for the Sisters’ nonprofit hermitage retreat center, located on 80 acres of rolling hills in northwest Stockton, Illinois. For information about the retreat center, Christ in the Wilderness, call 815-947-2476 or visit the website at www.citwretreat.com.

Honoring the Grieving Heart
Saturday, December 13
9:00 am-Noon
Facilitator: Joy Davy

Grief and loss come to us in many forms. There is no need to compare one person's loss with another's, as each of us is on his or her own way, working to integrate personal sorrows and joys into the people we are becoming. Join Joy Davy, MS, LCPC, NCC, for a morning dedicated to sending healing energy to our grieving hearts. Explore without judgment all the emotions of grief and loss and come to understand how you have been “broken open” and changed by your grief. Cost: $35

The Well Spirituality Center, 1515 West Ogden Avenue in LaGrange Park. To make reservations or for more information, please call 708-482-5048; or email thewell@csjoseph.org.
Catholic Women’s Club News

Join us Saturday, January 31, 2015 from 11:30am-3:30 pm at the Westin Lombard Yorktown Center as we gather to celebrate "Your Whole Self: Nourishing the Body, Mind & Soul."

We are currently in the process of collecting raffle ticket items (i.e monetary contributions, spa weekends, airline tickets, vacation home stays etc). As you know, this is a huge part of our fundraising effort and every single contribution makes a difference!

If you have any raffle items, monetary contributions or questions please feel free to contact: Halle McCormick (hallewmccormick@gmail.com) or Anne Avants (arehorster@gmail.com).

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 Maureen Burriesci at maureenb71@yahoo.com.

Save the Date

Please consider attending Christ Renews His Parish Women’s Retreat on January 24-25, 2015.

As one ChRHP sister wrote,

I never really paid much attention to the Holy Spirit. After the CRHP retreat, I realized what an influence it has had and continues to have in my life. I have a new bond, a new sensitivity to its presence.

Applications are available in the church office. Space is limited. If you have questions, feel free to contact Maureen Vulich at mrvulich@comcast.net.

Our Advent Journey

Advent is a time of hopeful anticipation, light in the darkness, and awakenings. Here are just a few suggestions for a prayerful journey through Advent.

- Spend time in prayer every day. The booklet: Our Journey through Advent presents a line from Scripture and a prayer for the day.

- Also in Our Journey through Advent, you will find a litany for Blessing your Manger. Use your manger as a focal point for prayer. Consider sharing your manger with others on Jan. 3 at the Crèche exhibit after the Christmas Concert.

- Display and light an Advent Wreath or another Candle. The Welcome to Advent page distributed in church contains an Advent wreath blessing, which can be used daily.

- Attend parish Advent events. See the parish bulletin, Welcome to Advent page, or website for details.

- Choose a service project for the season. Connect to the Giving Tree, bake cookies for those incarcerated, support a person or a worthwhile organization. See the bulletin for suggestions.

- Visit www.sfxlg.org for additional Advent resources for individuals and families.

- Plan to attend the 125th Anniversary-Christmas Concert & crèche exhibit Jan. 3 to enhance your Christmas season.

Found

There was wallet and IPod Touch found in church. If you may have lost one or both of these items, please all the rectory at 708-352-0168.
SFX Men’s Club

All men of the parish are welcome. For more information, please contact Matt Hubert at mthubert@gmail.com or Mark Gies at mark@vendrite.com.

Calling All Bakers!

You are invited to reach out in love to those for whom Christmas is celebrated differently. Barb Szulc and Sarah Zavala are continuing a project initiated in 2011 to bring a taste of Christmas to incarcerated men living at the North Lawndale Adult Transition Center, a work-release program that is part of the Illinois Department of Corrections. The holidays can be difficult for incarcerated individuals, and following the Gospel, we want to reach out in kindness at this time of the year. This is a great service opportunity for parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren, Quest groups or anyone who just loves to bake!

As you plan your Christmas baking, we ask you to consider setting aside some of your favorite cookies (or muffins, or brownies, or chocolate-covered pretzels) to share with the men and staff at North Lawndale. Barb, Sarah and their crew of helpers will collect and package the cookies, and deliver them on December 14. We are planning to deliver 250 dozen cookies to residents and staff at North Lawndale. In order to plan our own baking, please let us know by today December 7, if you intend to participate. Send an email to Barb at baszulc@aol.com with your name and an estimate of the number of cookies you’ll donate. Cookies may be dropped off at Barb’s home, 205 46th Street in Western Springs on Saturday, December 13 from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm. Please call Barb at 708-256-3329 with any questions.

Also an option: If you are unable to bake, and would like to contribute to the success of this project, we ask that you consider donating brownie, muffin or cookie mixes. You may drop them off in the back of the Church through today December 7. We’ll be happy to do the baking for you!

Thanks for your participation,
Barb Szulc and Sarah Zavala

Why Buy Fair Trade Coffee??

The coffee sold at St. Francis Xavier is purchased from Equal Exchange Fairly Traded. There is a lot behind this coffee. “We work closely with our farmer partners, year after year, to better understand each other’s needs. The result is a trusting relationship—and delicious coffee.”

Beth Ann Caspersen, Quality Control Manager

Fair Trade builds right relationships between buyers and sellers that are rooted in the principles of human dignity and solidarity.

Fair Trade:

- Respects human dignity
- Promotes the common good
- Advances economic justice
- Empowers disadvantaged people
- Connects us with the people who create the things we buy
- Cultivates global solidarity

The Catholic Relief Services Fair Trade Program creates opportunities for us to bring these core values of our faith to bear on the choices we make as consumers—choices that have the power to lift our brothers and sisters out of poverty.

Effort is made to see that these coffee farmers are given a fair wage!!!

A herald’s voice in the desert, crying
Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight his paths

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St. Vincent De Paul Society

The St. Vincent de Paul Society’s meeting take place on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Rectory Courtyard Room.
Please Pray For...all those serving in the military including:

- **David Tapia, U.S. Army**—husband of Marie Tapia
- **Major Ryan Boyle**—brother of Mark Boyle
- **Sgt. David Phillips**—brother of Rebecca Casiple
- **U.S. Army Captain Eric L. Tharp**—husband of Elizabeth Tharp
- **Lance Cpl. Matthew Yonkman**—son of Brian & Cindy Yonkman and friend of the Tvrdik family
- **Commander Robert O'Donnell**—son of Robert & 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
- **Sgt. Connor Murray, USAF**—friend of the Lawless and McCormick families
- **Lt. Christopher Ocasio, U.S. Army**—friend of the Berger Family
- **U.S. Navy David Michael DiSanto**—grandnephew of Sr. Mary Ricardo DiSanto, CSJ
- **Staff Sgt. Rhonda Russell, USAF**—daughter of Deidre & John Russell and granddaughter of Mary F. Russell
- **Sgt. Steven Sanders, USMC**—grandnephew of Marie & Genevieve Franciscus
- **U.S. Navy James Lynch & Christopher Cugier, Air Force**—cousin and nephew of Sr. Helen Sullivan
- **Ensign Jonathan Devitt Brown**—nephew to the Devitt Family
- **LCPL Gregory Allen, USMC**—nephew of Barbara Triggs & Anthony Anscombe
- **Petty Officer 3rd Class ISP, Alex Anderson, U.S. Navy**—niece of Dan & Erin Cooke
- **Kevin Peterson, U.S. Army Infantry, Major Marcos Melendez, USMC and Major Michelle Melendez, USMC**—son, nephew and niece of Jon Peterson
- **Cpl. 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
- **Sgt. Keith Brogdon**—dear friend of Mary Ellen Fitzhugh
- **Phil Lukanich, U.S. Navy**—husband of Joanna and son of Mark & Martie Lukanich
- **PFC Phillip G. Carr**—friend of Laurel & Ken Karlo
- **Master Sgt. Andrew Lang**—son of Marge & Ray Lang
- **Scott Conway, U.S. Navy**—nephew of Robert Dunne & Mark Conway
- **US Navy Lieut(jg) Mark Lasater**—grandson of Jean & Dan Murphy and nephew of Kathleen Murphy
- **Staff Sgt. Scott Blunk**—husband of Brianne and son-in-law of Maureen & William Becker
- **PFC Maryellen Connelly**—niece of Ken & Valerie Grzeslo
- **Lt. Daniel McGue**—grandson of Jack & Sue Ryan
- **Lt. Col. James Nichol, USAF**—son of Thomas & Lucile Nichol
- **Pvt. Joseph Slovak, U.S. Army**—son of Judy & Joe Slovak and grandson of Dave & Kathy Armstrong

Please inform us of others serving in the military...and let us know when friends and loved ones return from deployment overseas. Email the bulletineditor@sfxlg.org.
## Liturgical Ministers' Schedule—December 13-14, 2014

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Mass Time</th>
<th>Presider</th>
<th>Lectors/Commentators</th>
<th>Ministers of Communion</th>
<th>Altar Servers</th>
<th>Cantors</th>
<th>Greeters</th>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Fr. Hoffman</td>
<td>Children's Liturgy</td>
<td>C. Cooke</td>
<td>C. McNicholas</td>
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<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>Fr. Killeen</td>
<td>R. Hillsman</td>
<td>P. Olson</td>
<td>M. Cramsie</td>
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<td>Fr. Hoffman</td>
<td>P. Zadeik</td>
<td>G. Prendergast</td>
<td>A. Walls</td>
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<td>B. Olson</td>
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<td>M. Lukanich</td>
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<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>Fr. Killeen</td>
<td>R. Egan</td>
<td>A. Clark</td>
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<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Fr. Muccino</td>
<td>T. Downey</td>
<td>B. Edelmann</td>
<td>C. Gatsos</td>
<td>K. DeVries</td>
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<td>Fr. Hoffman</td>
<td>Quest Teen</td>
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**Readings For The Week of December 7, 2014**

**Sunday:** Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

**Monday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

**Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14

**Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30

**Thursday:** Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15

**Friday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/
  Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

**Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

**Next Sunday:** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
St. Francis Xavier Personnel

Pastoral Ministry
Pastor
Rev. John R. Hoffman
Associate Pastor
Rev. Robert Bacchi
Rev. William Killeen
Mr. Andrew Allison
Deacon
Dr. Kate DeVries
Director of Pastoral Ministries
Weekend Sacramental Ministers
Rev. James O’Connor
Rev. Keith Muccino, S.J.

Education Ministry
Day School Principal
Ms. Debra Rodde
Assistant Principal
Mrs. Donielle Jarzen
Day School Secretary (Main Campus)
Mrs. Peggy Evans
Day School Secretary (Main Campus)
Mrs. Mary Hoffman
Day School Secretary (East Campus)
Mrs. Kathleen Kinahan
Tuition Accounts
Mrs. Clara Jurich
Rel Ed Coordinator/Sacrament Prep
Ms. Terri Simeoni
Religious Education Office Staff
Mrs. Cindy Johnson
Religious Education Office Staff
Mrs. Lucile Nichol

Youth Ministry
Director
Ms. Emily Brabham
Music Ministry
Director
Mr. Allen Sterwalt

Parish Office Staff
Business Manager
Ms. Debra Rodde
Parish Accountant
Mrs. Donielle Jarzen
Pastor’s Secretary
Mrs. Peggy Evans
Parish Secretary
Mrs. Mary Hoffman
Staff Secretary
Mrs. Kathleen Kinahan

Food Pantry/Community Outreach
Coordinator
Mrs. Mary Freeman

Contact Information
Parish Office124 N. Spring ........................................708-352-0168
St. Francis Xavier Day School ......................................708-352-2175
School of Religious Education .........................................708-352-4555
S.P.R.E.D. (Special Religious Education) .........................708-352-0168
Fax Number .............................................................708-352-4904
e-Mail .................................................................sfxinlg@sfxlg.org
Main Day School e-Mail ............................................sfxmain@sfxlg.org
Main Religious Education e-Mail ................................sfxreligioused@sfxlg.org
Parish Web Site .....................................................www.sfxlg.org

Liturgical Ministry
Rev. William Killeen
Rev. Andrew Allison
Rev. Keith Muccino

Liturgical Schedule
Monday through Friday ................................................7:45 and 9:00 a.m.
Saturday........................................................................7:30 a.m.
Sabbath Liturgy
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a.m., 12:00 Noon and 6:00 p.m.
Holy Days of Obligation as scheduled in bulletin.
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday morning .........................................................After 9:00 a.m. Mass
Saturday afternoon ....................................................4:15-4:45 p.m.
The Reconciliation room is located off the walkway behind the tabernacle prayer area.

Infant Baptisms
Please call the Parish Office for scheduled 1:30 p.m. Sunday
Baptismal dates. Baptism Preparation Classes: 4th Thursday of
every month at 7:30 p.m. 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 p.m. Rehearsals are
usually scheduled on Friday evening. We do not schedule
weddings during Lent.

Food Pantry
The St. Francis Food Pantry is open every Tuesday from 9:30 to
11:00 a.m. 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.

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, Syndrea Porter, 773-643-6259, ext. 31 at the Claret
Center.

Bulletin Deadline
The deadline for submitting all bulletin articles is 9:00 a.m. on
the Monday preceding the Sunday of publication. If a holiday
falls on a Monday, articles are due by 12 Noon on the previous
Thursday. All articles must be emailed to bulletineditor@sfxlg.org.