

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

2500 Arbeiter Rd., Joliet, IL 60431

Phone: (815) 609-8077 Email: office@sfxjoliet.org Website: sfxjoliet.org
Emergency Phone: (815) 669-7752 Pastor: Fr. Karl Langsdorf, frkarl@sfxjoliet.org

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil

4:30pm - Church / Live-streamed & Broadcasted in the Parking Lot

Sunday

8:30am - Church / Broadcasted in the Parking Lot

10:00am - Parking Lot, with limited seating in the Narthex

Weekend Masses can be viewed on the parish's YouTube channel @SFXjoliet

<https://www.youtube.com/@SFXjoliet>

Weekday Masses

Monday: 9:15am Tuesday: 9:15am Wednesday: 6:30pm

Thursday: 9:15am Friday: 9:15am

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday: 6:00-6:30pm Thursday: 9:45-10:15am

Confession

Saturday: 3:30-4:15pm Wednesday: 6:00-6:30pm

After the 9:15am Mass on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday

By Appointment

Office Hours

Monday & Friday 9:00am - 12:00pm

A Message from Our Pastor



These last few weeks I have and will for a few more days visit parishes for confessions. It is something I never complain about. Yes, I have heard it all many times before. I am grateful and happy to be an instrument of God's mercy. I have seen tears and heard stories that have shown me the power of the divine working in people's lives. I have been humbled by the faith of young adults and asked myself where did that depth of faith come from. I have wondered why a particular person came to me. It has strengthened my faith and made me realize that God is alive in our world and has a plan. Thank you, Lord, for allowing me to be part of your plan. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your ministry of mercy and compassion. Thank you for helping me not to judge. Above all thank you for coming among us that we might have life to the full. Prepare the way of the Lord.

sfxjoliet.org St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve
3:00, 4:30, 10:00

Christmas Day
8:30, 10:30

Christmas Eve 3:00 Mass will be live streamed

Christmas Day 10:30 Mass in parking lot (weather permitting)

Please pray for ~

Lucas Arseneau
Mildred Balogh
Mary Bruce
Mike Cannon
Larry Formella
Pat Gierich
Darlene Janulis
Pamela Mazzone



Tara McDonald
Jim O'Brien
Mike Piwowar
Tom Sagenbrecht
Scott Schwartz
Chester Sobczak
James Talley

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 17th

4:30pm Marita Szyszka

Sunday, December 18th

8:30am Mike & Darlene Lavenhagen

10:00am SFX Parishioners

Monday, December 19th

9:15am John Zingarelli

Tuesday, December 20th

9:15am Intention of the Celebrant

Wednesday, December 21st

6:30pm Marilyn Walega

Thursday, December 22nd

9:15am Intention of the Celebrant

Friday, December 23rd

9:15am Intention of the Celebrant

Saturday, December 24th

3:00pm SFX Parishioners Intentions

4:30pm SFX Parishioners Intentions

10:00pm SFX Parishioners Intentions

Sunday, December 25th

8:30am SFX Parishioners Intentions

10:30am SFX Parishioners

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reflection on the Gospel of Matthew 1: 18-24



Reflection Questions:

- What positive outcomes have you witnessed when you have been totally obedient to God?
- How has your obedience to God affected those around you in a positive way?

Suggestions for Living out this Gospel:

- + Consider assisting a family who might be struggling...helping them during this holiday season.
- + Consider volunteering to help Catholic Charities.

Righteous One

The birth of Jesus
A story told
A pregnant virgin
A man foretold

Height of darkness
Diaphanous light
Message given
Pre-dawn flight

A righteous one
With faith he was filled
The babe Jesus was saved
God's plan fulfilled

Reflections on the Sunday Readings
Second Sunday of Advent - 11 December 2022

Isaiah 7:10-14. Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6. Romans 1:1-7. Matthew 1:18-24.

To Dream and to Act. The promised Second Coming of Christ is assured in the reality of the first. This birth of Jesus, promised by an angel to Mary and dreamed by Joseph, results in God-with-us, Emmanuel.

- How will my life be a sign that God is indeed with us now?
- How will God's grace spill this week into these mercy works: _____?
- How will I trust God and exorcise from my life whatever keeps me fearful?

Confession Times

Wednesday, December 21st: 5:30 PM - 6:20 PM
Daily Mass: Directly Following Mass

Christmas Choir

Invitation for Youth and Adults to sing with the choir on Christmas Eve

- Youth Choir to sing at 3:00pm Mass
- Adult Choir to sing at 10:00pm Mass

Rehearsals

- Youth Choir (ages 8 to high school)
- Mondays Dec 5 - Dec 19
6:15-7:00pm
- Adult Choir
- Thursdays 7:00-8:30pm

Go to sfxjoliet.org/music or scan for more info!



St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

sfxjoliet.org

Survey Results Are In!!!

Parishioner Mass Time Survey Results

Surveys were distributed to adults attending Masses the weekend of November 26 and 27, 2022. Two hundred eighty-seven (287) surveys were returned. The results and action items are summarized below.

Based on the results of the survey:

- All Masses will continue to be broadcast over the radio to the parking lot, with communion also served in the parking lot. All Mass attendees are welcome to remain in the lot. We ask that the portion of the lot reserved for outdoor attendees not be used for people coming inside (it makes it easier for the eucharistic ministers to serve communion).
- Mass will continue to be broadcast online.
- Mass times will not change from current times (4:30 p.m. Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Sunday, 6:30 p.m. Holy Day vigil, 9:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Holy Days).
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Masses will be inside starting January 1, 2023. The south-most quadrant (the space farthest from the choir) will be reserved for attendees wearing masks.

Respondents were asked to identify which Mass they typically attend.

| Regular Mass Time | Number of Responses |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Saturday 4:30 p.m. | 94 |
| Sunday 8:30 a.m. | 86 |
| Sunday 10:00 a.m. | 79 |
| More than one time identified | 28 |

Respondents were asked about whether their satisfaction with the current Mass times (including holy days) and if they had suggestions for different times. Some respondents also included comments. Those results are summarized below.

Saturday 4:30 p.m.

| Response | Okay with current time | Prefer a new time | No response |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Number of Responses (Percentage) | 248 (86.4%) | 17 (5.9%) | 22 (7.7%) |
| Suggested alternate times: 4 p.m. (7), 5 p.m. (3), 5:30 p.m. (1), 6 p.m. (4), 6:30 p.m. (1) | | | |

Comments:

- Don't usually attend but no later
- If I was to attend later would be better to suit my needs
- Earlier the better

Sunday 8:30 a.m.

| Response | Okay with current time | Prefer a new time | No response |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Number of Responses (Percentage) | 233 (81.2%) | 24 (8.4%) | 30 (10.4%) |
| Suggested alternate times: 7:30 a.m. (1), 8 a.m. (6), 9 a.m. (8), 9:30 a.m. (3), 11 a.m. (2) | | | |

Comments:

- Would like without music again
- Need a better sound for music
- Love it
- Limit music at 8:30 to entrance and final song. No singing prayers.

Sunday 10:00 a.m.

| Response | Okay with current time | Prefer a new time | No response |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Number of Responses (Percentage) | 233 (81.2%) | 23 (8.0%) | 31 (10.8%) |
| Suggested alternate times: 9 a.m. (1), 9:30 a.m. (1), 10:30 a.m. (3), 11 a.m. (5), 12 p.m. (2) | | | |

Comments:

- Perfect time as a backup
- Needs to be in-person
- Prefer this time but wish it was inside
- The time is OK but I feel the Mass should be brought inside
- Inside Church
- The dispensation is over Come inside!
- Mass should NOT be broadcast to the parking lot - I believe people would get a better feel for the Mass if they could experience it in person
- For the winter (move inside)
- Thank you for outdoor Mass. Much appreciated!
- Keep Fr. Karl warm (move inside)
- Please Thank you (keep outside)
- Until COVID is done (keep outside)
- However would be nice to have Mass a little later 11ish tough to get kids up early
- Time is fine please move inside
- Better to celebrate Mass inside traditional gathering
- A parking lot Mass should be available. But I don't think it should be 10 AM. We need to get back in the Church, kids are growing up thinking Mass is something you do in a car, some parents need encouragement to come back inside the church and worship together. But for those who truly are not ready like sick or immune compromised folks, we should support them and keep a car Mass but not at a prime time slot
- Please move inside we miss our community. There is no reason not to be indoor.
- Time is fine but we want it to be inside
- If that is easier that is OK (move inside)
- Attend 10 only because it's the best time for our family. Very sad it's still outdoors.
- Make the time compatible with RE

Holy Days

| Response | Okay with current time | Prefer a new time | No response |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Number of Responses (Percentage) | 250 (87.1%) | 25 (8.7%) | 12 (4.2%) |
| Suggested alternate times: 7 a.m. (1), 9 a.m. (1), 10:30 a.m. (1), 4 p.m. (1), 4:30 p.m. (1), 5 p.m. (2), 5:30 p.m. (8), 7 p.m. (8), 7:30 p.m. (2) | | | |

Comments:

- Christmas eve the earlier the better
- Whatever the majority decides is fine with me

Respondents were asked for their opinion on the location of the Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass. Some respondents made comments that are summarized above.

| Response | Keep in the Car Park | Move Inside | No response |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Number of Responses (Percentage) | 80 (27.9%) | 159 (55.4%) | 46 (16.0%) |

RaiseRight™ The Right way to Fundraise

Turn everyday shopping into fundraising dollars

Purchase gift cards while helping the parish!
 Stop by the RaiseRight table in the Narthex after Mass to purchase cards or to get additional info!
 Check out sfxjoliet.org/raiseright for more info

TAX-FREE GIFTS TO THE CHURCH



If you are over the age of 70 ½ and receive IRA distributions, do you know you can make donations to St. Francis Xavier from your IRA, and the distributions are tax free to you? It is easy to do. The donation must be received by the parish directly from your financial institution, so contact your IRA trustee or financial advisor to find out about their donation process. The donation is considered a QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution) and is reported as non-taxable on your tax return. Upon request, the parish will provide you with a statement of your donation. If you are already giving to the parish, donate from your IRA and give yourself the gift of a tax-free distribution.



Diocese of Joliet
Catholic Ministries
Annual Appeal

DEVOTED
to the works of the

Lord



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are excited to share this closing report for the 2022 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA), which details how your devotion to the works of the Lord is helping to spread the Good News in the Diocese of Joliet.

When we join together each year in support of our annual appeal, we strengthen ministries that affect people every day throughout our communities. Your generosity has been integral to helping men and women discern vocations to the priesthood and religious life, to instilling the faith in children enrolled in Catholic schools and religious education programs, and to offering food and shelter to the most vulnerable among us.

Just as the diocese relies on parishes to help fulfill its mission of bringing Christ to those in need, parishes depend on us to help provide these services. No one parish could accomplish all we do together through the CMAA. By working as a team, we are able to reach our goals and support our important ministries.

Thank you for being so generous with the gifts God has bestowed upon you and entrusting them to us. We, too, promise to be good stewards of these gifts. In the following pages, you can see the impact they are already having, as well as the overall and individual parish results for the 2022 CMAA.

May God bless you and your loved ones, and may you continue to be *devoted to the works of the Lord* through all you do in His name.

Peace,

+ Ronald A. Hicks

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks
Bishop of Joliet

Brian Schroeder

Brian Schroeder
Chief Financial Officer

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|------|----------|
| St. Edmund Parish | Watseka | \$11,500 | \$13,969 | 121% | \$1,728 |
| St. Elizabeth Seton Parish | Naperville | \$110,100 | \$129,800 | 118% | \$9,652 |
| St. Francis of Assisi Parish | Bolingbrook | \$79,500 | \$106,780 | 134% | \$13,896 |
| St. Francis Xavier Parish | Joliet | \$34,900 | \$37,880 | 109% | \$2,086 |
| St. George Parish | St. George | \$24,600 | \$15,494 | 63% | \$0 |
| St. Irene Parish | Marionville | \$59,700 | \$63,899 | 106% | \$2,349 |



Through our support of the
Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal,
we are devoted to the works of the

Lord

| | 2020 Results | 2021 Results | 2022 Results (Projected) |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Goal | \$8.2 million | \$8.2 million | \$8.2 million |
| Total gifts collected | \$7,966,000 | \$8,138,000 | \$8,300,000 |
| CMAA donors | 31,904 | 26,820 | 27,800 |
| Parish rebates | \$859,000 | \$976,000 | \$1,100,000 |
| Parishes receiving rebates | 77 | 84 | 90 |



CATHOLIC CHARITIES



66,062 clients
18,608 meals served
44,249 served through the
mobile food pantry

VOCATIONS AND FORMATION

126 active diocesan priests
91 religious order priests
354 religious order
brothers and sisters
232 permanent deacons
26 seminarians



CHRISTIAN FORMATION

25,567 religious education students
5,138 baptisms
120 adults received into full
communion with the Church
6,238 first Communions
6,170 confirmations
964 marriages

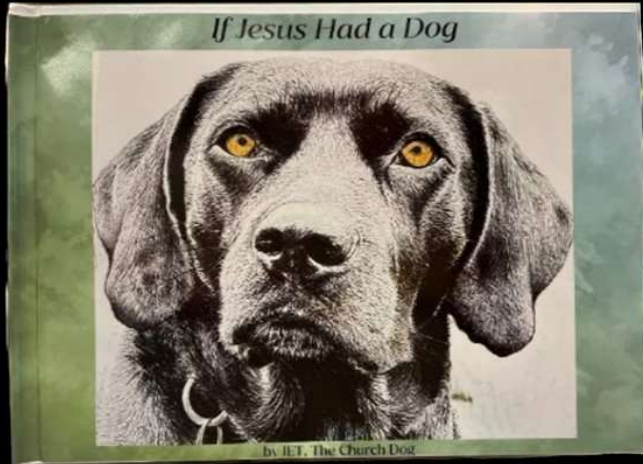


CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

50 Catholic elementary
and high schools
15,602 Catholic school
students



Jet has a new book!



In this book JET shares with us his perspective on how we can all help to make this world a better place.

Visit sfxjoliet.org/jetbook for more info!



St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

sfxjoliet.org

Daybreak Signup

Every fourth Friday of the month St Francis Xavier provides dinner to the Daybreak homeless shelter in Joliet.



The following items are needed:

- 4 trays of Lasagna or another Italian entree
- 3 or 4 loafs of French or Italian style bread (cut into slices)
- 2 large trays of salad & salad dressing
- Dessert for 40 people: cookies or some kind of pastries
- 3 half gallons of juice (Hi-C type juice)
- 3 gallons of Milk (whole or 2%, please)



There is a signup sheet on the St Francis Xavier website. Here is how to access it...Go to the St Francis Xavier website: www.sfxjoliet.org.

Hit the Navigation drop down menu. Then, select "Getting Involved". Select "Serve at Daybreak".

Then click button saying info and volunteer for Daybreak.

You can scroll down that form and volunteer for whatever food product that is still available.

Please bring your food to the Church parking lot at 5:00 pm.

Thank you and God Bless.



*Please consider helping those in need
in our diocese!*

 catholic
charities
Diocese of Joliet

The Gift of Christmas 2022

Bring joy to the clients of
Catholic Charities this
Christmas and beyond.
Visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org

Fishers of Men

- Mens fellowship group meeting
- We meet to share our experiences, discuss Mass Readings and build friendships
- **Monday nights at 7:00 pm**

Note change from
Wednesdays to Mondays

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

sfxjoliet.org



Volunteers needed for name tag / hospitality Sundays.

- Last Sunday of each month
- Set up: tables, name tags, coffee & treats
- Cleanup: package leftovers, clean coffee pot, put tables away

Please confirm your interest in helping by contacting Karen Asiyanbi via email: bodunrin@comcast.net or phone/text: 779-875-5419

Get the App that makes a difference.

LIVE & Interactive shows.
Popular podcasts.
Putting faith at your fingertips.
Now, that's relevant.

relevant radio
Bringing Christ to the world through the media

Listen on-air, online at relevantradio.com, and on the app. **DOWNLOAD TODAY!**

LISTEN LIVE AT 930AM / 950AM

Please pledge your gift to the CMAA!

Your Gift to the CMAA Makes a Difference! The Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal helps our parish and the Diocese of Joliet to provide countless ministries, programs, and services to support our friends and neighbors in immeasurable ways.

Our parish goal is **\$34,900**, and to date we have received **\$37,990.00**. 70% of gifts received over our goal will be returned to our parish for our use. If you have not had a chance to participate in the CMAA this year, there is still time. Please look for the mailing which will be arriving in homes shortly.

As your pastor, I encourage you to prayerfully reflect on God's gifts to you and to give a gift to the CMAA. Participation is the key to a successful appeal and a chance for our parish to receive a parish rebate, too. Every gift helps!

If you do not receive this mailing and would like to make a gift to the CMAA, please call the Diocese of Joliet Development Office at (815) 838-8515. Or, if you wish to make your gift online, please visit www.jolietdioceseappeal.org.

2021 CMAA Parish Rebate Received: **\$4,245.00**

Thank you for your generosity!



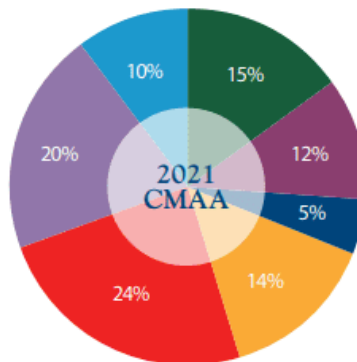
Deo Gratias Society

Prayerfully consider joining the Deo Gratias Society with your gift to the 2022 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal.

When you pledge \$100 a month for 10 months to the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal, you are welcomed as a member of the Deo Gratias Society. Members take a leadership role in the work of the Church, becoming partners in a shared vision for the future of the Diocese of Joliet.

In addition to spiritual benefits, membership includes an annual Mass and reception with Bishop Ronald A. Hicks, and recognition in our annual publication for society members.

In 2021, gifts to the Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal provided support for many works of the Lord.



| | |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Educating children and adults in the faith | 15% |
| Ministering to people of all ages and ethnicities | 12% |
| Honoring the dignity of life | 5% |
| Serving our brothers and sisters in need | 14% |
| Strengthening vocations and supporting clergy | 24% |
| Serving and protecting parishioners | 20% |
| Returning funds to parishes | 10% |
| TOTAL | \$8,293,000 |
| | 100% |

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

You can shop on Amazon and support our parish at the same time!

Simply log in & place your order at smile.amazon.com and select St. Francis Xavier Parish in Joliet, IL as the charity to receive 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible items. The parish will receive a donation...at no additional cost to you!

As of November 2022, the parish has received **\$1,915.93**.

THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of December 18, 2022



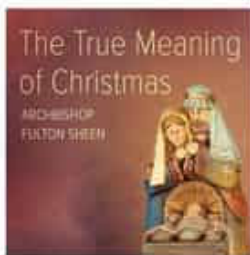
Christmas in Rome: A Celebration of the Nativity

Nowhere celebrates the birth of the Savior like Rome. This Christmas, marvel at the Holy City's festive celebration of the coming of the child Jesus.



The Story of the Nativity: The Truth of Christmas

Enjoy this fast-paced, thought-provoking look at the true story of the Nativity as we enter into the joyful season of Advent. Christmas is so much more than a humdrum story we've heard since childhood. Join top scholars, speakers, and authors as they explain the gravity of Christ's miraculous birth.



The True Meaning of Christmas by Fulton Sheen

This presentation combines recordings of Fulton Sheen's timeless reflections on the meaning of Christmas, mixed with Gregorian chant and seasonal music. It is sure to become a family favorite!

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

Our Sunday Offering

Contributions Received 11/28/22 - 12/4/22

Mass Collection

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Sunday Offering | \$3,648.00 |
| Blue Envelope | \$736.00 |
| All Saints' Day | \$13.00 |
| Campaign for Human Development | \$5.00 |
| Seminarian Endowment | \$105.00 |
| Religious Retirement | \$20.00 |
| Immaculate Conception | \$45.00 |
| Christmas | \$40.00 |
| Christmas Flowers | \$275.00 |

Online Giving

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Sunday Offering | \$3,267.00 |
| Blue Envelope | \$280.00 |
| Christmas Flowers | \$25.00 |

Thank you for your generosity!

For your heart will always be where your riches are.

Matthew

If you are interested in giving to our parish through our parish online giving website, go to:

<https://osvhub.com/st-francis-xavier/funds>

**Donations to second collections can also be made through
the online giving website.**

If you have any questions about the online giving process, please call the parish office or send an email
to finance@sfxjoliet.org.

RaiseRight Gift Card Program Earnings (7/1/22-12/11/22): \$706.19

Available Positions Throughout the Diocese

[Program Coordinator - Development Office - Diocese of Joliet, Crest Hill](#)

[Manager of Development and Systems - Diocese of Joliet, Crest Hill](#)

[Part-time Custodian - Ascension of Our Lord Catholic Church, Oakbrook Terrace](#)

[Part-time Custodian - St. Mary Immaculate Catholic Parish, Plainfield](#)

[Lifelong Lay Formation Lead - Diocese of Joliet, Crest Hill](#)

[For additional information, please click on this Diocese of Joliet Employment Opportunities webpage.](#)