

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church



The Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 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 **Ministry SFX**.*

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



Bishop Hicks' Column

December 2022: 'All are welcome in this place'



I love Jesus! And It is always a source of joy and honor to offer the holy sacrifice of the Mass whenever and wherever I am asked to do so. So when I received a request to celebrate a diocesan-wide Mass for individuals with special needs or disabilities and their families and friends, without hesitation, I responded, "Yes!"

On September 18, we gathered as a family of God with our brothers and sisters living with Down syndrome, deafness, amputations and other challenges. The Mass was beautiful. After being nourished by Word and sacrament, I enjoyed a post-Mass gathering with attendees, posing for photographs and engaging in conversation. During these delightful interactions, just about everyone expressed gratitude for the Mass and the fellowship. However, I was also struck by a common theme of their not feeling welcomed - not only in many parts of our society, but also in some of our churches. Participants shared experiences of not being acknowledged or recognized, and even feelings of invisibility.

I was surprised, and probably more accurately, shocked by their comments. Honestly, my heart broke and sank as I reflected on some of their experiences of rejection and isolation. As I drove away from our time together, I wondered, "How is it possible that people with disabilities have experienced exclusion in our Catholic churches, where for decades we have sung an entrance hymn with the lyrics, "All are welcome in this place."

Hopefully, it goes without saying that the Church should be a community in which all people experience an unconditional love that reflects God's love. I am sure that most of us never intentionally intend to be noninclusive. Yet during this month when we celebrate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, let me take this opportunity to challenge all of us to reflect on some of our unintentional attitudes and actions, and look for ways to see, welcome and include all of our sisters and brothers with disabilities or special needs.

For we should always strive to be a church that lives the words of St. Paul in his Letter to the Galatians 3:26-28: "So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

As baptized Christians, we are all constantly called to a personal conversion that reflects the love of Christ. But it does not end with our own individual attitudes and actions. As an institution, we as the Church also need to embrace persons with disabilities or special needs concretely with our ministries, policies and programs. I am proud to highlight that in the Diocese of Joliet, Renata Cichowicz is providing the lead for pastoral outreach for such ministries through the Department of Catechesis and Evangelization. The diocese also acts as an affiliate of the National Catholic Partnership on Disability. Additionally, St. Raphael Catholic Church in Naperville and several other parishes intentionally serve these communities with programs like REACH: Religious Education Apostolate for Christian Handicapped. REACH provides simplified religious education lessons at a slower pace using a smaller student-to-catechist ratio. This program also prepares students for the sacraments of reconciliation, the Eucharist and confirmation.

I look forward to whenever I have the opportunity to celebrate Mass and gather with our beautiful community of individuals living with deafness, disabilities or special needs. Until then, I enthusiastically echo our Holy Father's words from his 2021 message for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities: "I would like to speak to all of you who live with any condition of disability, to tell you the Church loves you and needs each of you for the fulfillment of her mission." †

Prayer to Foster Belonging

Creator God, we are your people. We look to the future with optimism and with faith in You, as we pursue our call to provide justice and fullness of life for all people with disabilities.

We pray that every man, woman and child may develop their potential and meet You in themselves and in one another.

May we enjoy a totally welcoming community, with You as our center, joined hand in hand with our sisters and brothers. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

From the National Catholic Partnership on Disability and based on the Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on People with Disabilities.



Please pray for ~

Lucas Arseneau
Mildred Balogh
Mike Cannon
Larry Formella
Pat Gierich
Drew Griffin
Darlene Janulis

Pamela Mazzone
Tara McDonald
Jim O'Brien
Mike Piwowar
Tom Sagenbrecht
Scott Schwartz
James Talley

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 3rd

4:30pm Abbott & Dunne Families

Sunday, December 4th

8:30am Connie Hatter

10:00am SFX Parishioners

Monday, December 5th

9:15am Meric Chip Belding

Tuesday, December 6th

9:15am Intention of the Celebrant

Wednesday, December 7th

6:30pm Howard Holubetz

Thursday, December 8th

9:15am Intention of the Celebrant

Friday, December 9th

9:15am Joan Kiffmeyer

Saturday, December 10th

4:30pm George Benas

Sunday, December 11th

8:30am Jackie White

10:00am SFX Parishioners

Second Sunday of Advent

Reflection on the Gospel of Matthew 3: 1-12



Reflection Questions:

- What has helped you achieve true repentance?
- How can we help change our lives to be better people?

Suggestions for Living out this Gospel:

- + Consider visiting someone you have not seen for some time. Make a plan to get together to catch up.
- + Consider making contact with someone who might be alone and forgotten.

Viral Message

He shouted his message
for all to hear.
They flocked to the desert
from far and near.

Throughout the ages
His message rings true.
He lives through his words.
Believers listened and grew.

His message went viral
because of his passion.
To teach us repentance,
He taught with compassion.



FCFF Session
 Sunday, December 11th
 11:15am-12:30pm via Zoom

St. Francis Xavier Parish

Registered families received a Zoom invite via email.
 Questions? Please email Penny at pgiunta@sfxjoliet.org

Remaining FCFF Zoom sessions of the school year:
 Jan. 22nd Feb. 19th Mar. 19th Apr. 23rd

Students preparing for Confirmation in the fall of 2023, in-person sessions will be held
 from 6:30-8:00pm on the following Sundays:
 Dec. 4th Jan. 22nd Feb. 12th Mar. 19th Apr. 16th May 7th June 25th

Any questions can be sent to Confirmation@sfxjoliet.org

Reflections on the Sunday Readings

Second Sunday of Advent - 4 December 2022

Isaiah 11:1-10. Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17. Romans 15:4-9. Matthew 3:1-12.

A Changed Mind Fosters a Changed Life. Who would want to be accused of being part of a brood of vipers? Appearing to be good is not good enough. When the Lord comes again, justice and faithfulness will reign supreme from top to bottom. Won't that be grand? We don't have to wait. Though there will be a Second Coming, Christ is also with us now! Justice and faithfulness, hope and harmony are part of our lives already. Saint Paul, in the Romans reading, urges three things:

- Heed the instruction: Everyday, how will I let Scripture guide me?
- Pray in one voice: Everyday, how will I pray alone and with others?
- Welcome each other: Everyday, how will I live in harmony with others as the Lord does with me?



Adult Faith Sharing Gathering

Join us in the Narthex
 Tuesday, December 6
 10:00am

Topic will be: **Advent: Waiting in the Patient Calm of Mary**

Hope you can join us to share in fellowship and faith!

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

sfxjoliet.org



Pancake Breakfast

WHEN: Sunday, December 4 - 8:30am-12:00pm

WHERE: Take-Out or Dine-In - Church Basement

COST: at-will donations accepted



Consider donating blood first and then fuel up with a great pancake breakfast afterwards!



St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church



Blood Drive

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

Season of giving

DONATE BLOOD TODAY!




SUNDAY DEC 4
8:00am - 1:00pm

St. Francis Xavier Knights of Columbus
2500 Arbeiter Rd. Joliet

Church Basement Schedule by phone at 800-7TO-GIVE
PLEASE SCHEDULE at: <http://tiny.cc/SFXBloodDrive> or scan QR Code

Contact Jon Pankhurst for additional info



Pre-Order Gift Cards for Christmas!

Order by November 27th for pick up on December 3rd/4th.
Order by December 11th for pick up on December 17th/18th.

Pay when you pick up your gift cards!

Gift Card

To Order:

- Go to the Scrip table in the Narthex after the 4:30pm Saturday Mass or 8:30am Sunday Mass.
- Fill out an order form. (Participating RaiseRight retailers list will be available for reference.)
- Pay with cash/checks made payable to "St. Francis Xavier Parish" when picking up the cards.

No purchase fees for gift cards (including Visa gift cards) when you buy them through the RaiseRight (formerly known as Scrip) program!

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

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.

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.



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 Asiyambi via email: bodunrin@comcast.net or phone/text: 779-875-5419

Get the App that makes a difference.

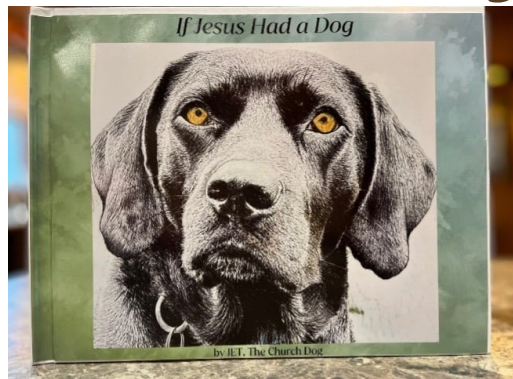
LIVE & Interactive shows.
Popular podcasts.
Putting faith at your fingertips.
Now, that's relevant.

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

JET would like to let you know,
he has put together a new book entitled,
If Jesus Had a Dog.



We have tried to help tell his story,
through his perspective and by his example.

God guides us to help one another
as we travel on this Journey of Life.

I think we can all agree,
JET is a very special companion.

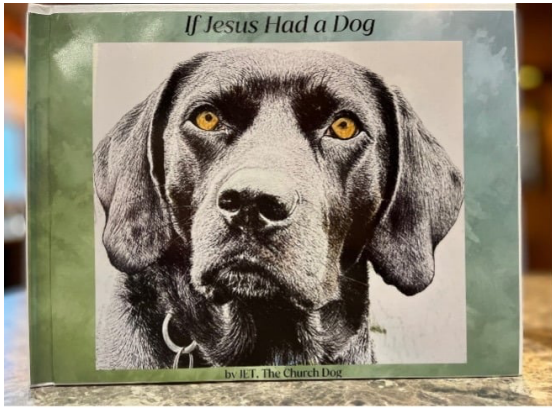
In this book,
JET shares with us his perspective
on how we can all help to make this world
a better place.

We hope you enjoy it!

**VISIT OUR PARISH WEBSITE
TO PLACE AN ORDER.**

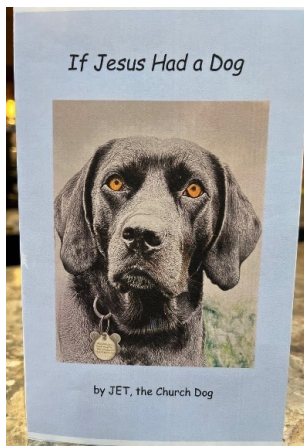
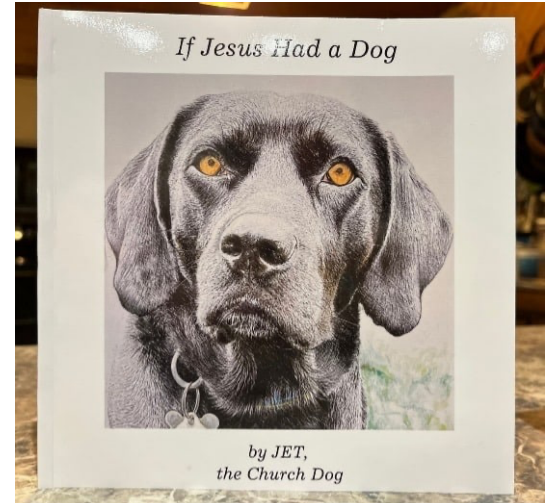
With hopes to share this story with all of JET's Friends,
we are providing several options...





9" x 11" Hardcover book = \$25.00

8" x 8" Softcover book = \$20.00



5 1/2" x 8 1/2" Paper book = \$10.00

(For those not interested in purchasing,
but would like to read JET's story,
on-line viewing will be possible from our parish website.)

We also have available,
a very limited number of
Black dog stuffed animals (7" x 7") = \$20.00

All profits will go directly to the parish.



**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

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



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 September 2022, the parish has received **\$1,750.20**.

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

THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of December 04, 2022



Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message

Enjoy this film narrated by Jim Caviezel that walks us through our Mother's miraculous appearance to Juan Diego, an encounter that has influenced the conversion of millions of people.



FORMED Live: Do We Make Too Much of Mary?

Why do Catholics think so highly of Mary? Join Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. John Sehorn as they discuss our Lady's esteemed place among the saints.



Marian Dogmas with Brant Pitre

Listen in as Matt Fradd and Dr. Brant Pitre explore the Church's understanding of Mary's role in the Church.

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

An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and OPUS DEI

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 **\$36,891.00**. 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**

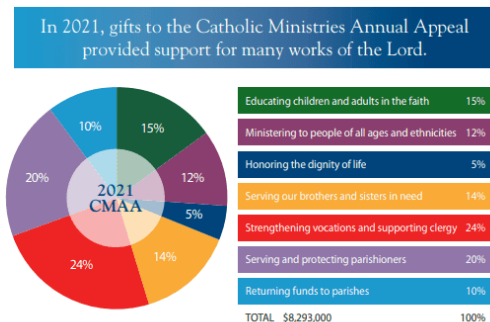
Thank you for your generosity!

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.



Our Sunday Offering

Contributions Received 11/14/22 - 11/20/22

Mass Collection

Sunday Offering	\$4,106.00
Blue Envelope	\$60.00
All Saints' Day	\$85.00
Campaign for Human Development	\$240.00
Seminarian Endowment	\$325.00
Military Services	\$10.00
Christmas	\$10.00
Christmas Flowers	\$50.00

Online Giving

Sunday Offering	\$3,637.00
Blue Envelope	\$40.00
Campaign for Human Development	\$50.00
Seminarian Endowment	\$25.00
Christmas	\$100.00

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.

Available Positions Throughout the Diocese

Director of Pastoral Care - St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Naperville
Director of Communications - St. John the Baptist Parish and School, Winfield
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

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