



Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish

Our Mission:

We honor the traditions of our parish and welcome all to unite in prayer and the Sacraments. Loved by God and guided by the Holy Spirit, we share the good news of Jesus Christ through joyful worship, faithful formation and dedicated service.



THE HOLY FAMILY

"Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt." - Mt 2:14

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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December 28, 2025



PARISH STAFF

Rev. Wayne F. Watts, Pastor

wwatts@ssjfx.org

Msgr. Dan Mayall, Retired

dmayall@ssjfx.org

Rev. William J. Sheridan, Retired

Rev. Edward F. Harnett, Retired

Christopher and Binh Keefe, Deacon Couple

ckeefe@archchicago.org

Robert and Karen Kerls, Deacon Couple

rkerls@ssjfx.org

Jack and Noony Malone, Deacon Couple

johnmalone@ssjfx.org

Curt and Sally Robey, Deacon Couple

crobey@archchicago.org

Joseph D'Arco, Director of Business Operations

jdarco@ssjfx.org

Colleen Larkin, School Principal

colleenlarkin@saintsjfx.org

Jonathan Metzinger, Music Director

jmetzinger@ssjfx.org

John Hopkins, Music Director

jhopkins17@gmail.com

Ron Berger, Liturgical Planner

rberger@ssjfx.org

Michael Cesario, Director, Evangelization & Ministry

mjcesario@ssjfx.org

Dana McKenna, Director, Family of Faith Program

dmckenna@ssjfx.org

**MaryClare Birmingham, Coordinator,
Ministries of Care and Bereavement**

mbirmingham@ssjfx.org

Noreen Russo, Youth Ministry Coordinator (ACTION)

nruosso@ssjfx.org

Saints JFX Mass Schedule

Daily Mass

6:30 am (SFX) Monday through Friday

8:30 am (St. Joseph) Monday through Saturday

Saturday Vigil Mass

5:00 pm

(SFX, May through October; SJ, November through April)

Sunday Mass

8:00 am (St. Joseph)

9:30 am (SFX)

10:30 am (St. Joseph)

11:30 am (SFX)

4:45 pm (St. Joseph)

7:30 pm (SFX) Teen ACTION Mass (school year)

Confession is offered from 9:00 - 10:00 am on Saturday at St. Joseph Church.

Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish Office

St. Joseph Campus

1747 Lake Avenue

(847) 251-0771

cadaniel@ssjfx.org

Hours: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday - Friday

St. Francis Xavier Campus

524 Ninth Street

(847) 256-4250

officessjfx@ssjfx.org

Hours: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday - Thursday

For emergencies outside of office hours,
please call 708-237-6665

For additional parish information, please visit www.ssjfx.org

For school information, please visit www.saintsjfx.org

Follow us on social media!

Instagram ([saintsjfx_wilmette](https://www.instagram.com/saintsjfx_wilmette)) and

Facebook ([Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier](https://www.facebook.com/SaintsJosephandFrancisXavier))



Discover the Saints JFX App

Scan the QR code and install the app. Once installed, log in using the person icon in the upper right hand corner. Follow the instructions to register.

Are you interested in becoming more active at Saints JFX? We need you! Scan the QR code and select any ministries that interest you. The ministry leader will be in contact with details.



Dear Friends,

At each Mass this weekend, your priest will pray this prayer on your behalf, "O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity." I pray every day for the families in this great parish, and, on this feast day of families, in a special way I hope that all families will find in Jesus, Mary, and Joseph a model to imitate, especially in their closeness and obedience to the Father.

Today we celebrate, just days after we commemorate the birth of our Savior, the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. As we do, we consider our own families, the domestic Church. Do we allow the love exemplified in the Holy Family to inspire us? Do we see Mary and Joseph as our models for loving parenthood? Is Jesus' obedience to and love for his parents played out in the way we treat our own parents? Do we extend our family's love for each other into the world as Jesus, Mary and Joseph did?

In today's second reading, Saint Paul's somewhat controversial (maybe because the words are too bold?) Letter to the Colossians, we hear some great, challenging words – not even mentioning the infamous "subordinate" ones. "**Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience**" jump out at me. Read the words again and ask yourself if you're living them in your family life and in the world in which you operate. These words challenge me in my daily life: "**compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience.**" What do you think when you read them again?

What about Paul's command to forgive? He challenges, "If one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do." Forgiveness is an interesting thing. When we seek it, we expect to find it, freely given to us, from God and from others. When someone seeks it from us, we tend to be more reluctant or cautious in dispensing it. Paul's instruction states that in the same way we receive mercy we should dispense mercy. As a family of faith, let's try that.

The final two words that move and inspire me are Paul's instruction on gratitude and love. Just a few days ago, many of us received gifts from loved ones. I'm sure, if we were trained properly, we gave a verbal thanks to the giver and intend to write a more formal thank you note. I always say, that if you're sincere, you can never say thank you enough. The attitude of gratitude inspires, motivates, and urges us to love. That brings me to the last challengingly inspirational word: love. "Over all these," Paul orders, "put on love, that is the bond of perfection." Throughout Sacred Scripture our Lord invites calls and commands us to love.

He tells us that love of God and neighbor provides the basis for all law. In Saint Paul's many letters he speaks of love, and the kind of love Christians are called to live. It starts with family!

I know far too many families that are estranged from one another. With the arrival of the Prince of Peace, a member of the Holy Family, and getting ready to start a new year, today is the day to make peace and live the challenging words Saint Paul wrote to the Colossians.

Imitating the Holy Family involves listening to God's voice and responding to God's will with loving obedience, even when we don't fully understand what God is calling us to do, and when doing what we are called to do is inconvenient, or even difficult. Today's Gospel portrays an obedient and caring Joseph immediately carrying out the will of the Father as revealed to him by the message of an angel.

As families, and as a family of faith, we can imitate the Holy Family by keeping God's commandments, especially the command to keep the Sabbath Day holy. As we complete 2025 and look forward to 2026, perhaps we can resolve to make Sunday Mass (and maybe a few daily Masses), and full and active participation in the Mass, a priority in our family lives. The Holy Family received great rewards; we will too.

Merry Christmas!

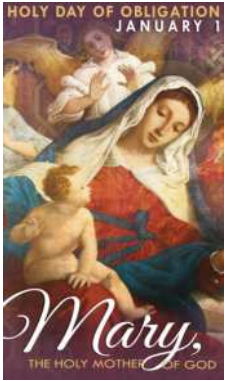


PS I am very grateful to John and Jonathan for the beautiful Christmas music this week and to Joe, Darek, Alex, Doug and Tom and to all those who worked so hard to make Christmas joyful and amazing this year. Great things are happening here.



Weekly Mass Schedule

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<p><u>Monday, December 29</u> 6:30 am SFX <i>Presider: Fr. Watts</i></p> <p>8:30 am SJ <i>Presider: Fr. Watts</i></p> <p>Intentions: +Virginia & James Regan +Rock & Rosie Rockelmann +Arthur & Virginia Roth +Dennis Roth</p>	<p><u>Wednesday, December 31</u> 6:30 am SFX <i>Presider: Fr. Watts</i></p> <p>8:30 am SJ <i>Presider: Fr. Sheridan</i></p> <p>Intentions: +Patricia Heintz +William Hermann +Bill McClintic +Joan Thesing</p> <p>5:00 pm SJ Holy Day Vigil <i>Presider: Fr. Watts</i></p>	<p><u>Friday, January 2</u> 6:30 am SFX <i>Presider: Fr. Watts</i></p> <p>8:30 am SJ <i>Presider: Msgr. Mayall</i></p> <p>Intentions: +Marty Doyle +Bill & Carol Pettinger and Family</p> <p>3:00 pm SJ Wedding <i>Stablein/Rueve</i></p>	<p><u>Sunday, January 4</u> 8:00 am SJ <i>Presider: Fr. Sheridan</i></p> <p>Intentions: +Gerald & Elsie Crabbe +Dumitru Stanoiu</p> <p>9:30 am SFX <i>Presider: Fr. Rozier, SJ</i></p> <p>Intentions: +Steve Kelly +Jim McNeely +Mike O'Connell</p>
<p><u>Tuesday, December 30</u> 6:30 am SFX <i>Presider: Fr. Watts</i></p> <p>8:30 am SJ <i>Presider: Msgr. Mayall</i></p> <p>Intentions: (L)People of the Parish</p> <p>9:00 am–10:00 am SJ <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">  </p> <p><u>Thursday, January 1</u> <i>Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</i></p> <p>9:30 am SFX <i>Presider: Fr. Sheridan</i></p> <p>10:30 am SJ <i>Presider: Msgr. Mayall</i></p> <p>Intentions: +Olivia Sergot (L)Fr. Robert Ryan (L)Fr. Brian Welter</p>	<p><u>Saturday, January 3</u> 8:30 am SJ <i>Presider: Fr. Sheridan</i></p> <p>Intentions: (L)People of the Parish</p> <p>9:00-10:00 am SJ Confession</p> <p>5:00 pm SJ <i>Presider: Fr. Munz, SJ</i></p> <p>Intentions: +Michael Tischler</p>	<p>10:30 am SJ <i>Presider: Msgr. Mayall</i></p> <p>Intentions: +Elizabeth Cox +Tim Finnegan +Bob Jones</p> <p>11:30 am SFX <i>Presider: Fr. Rozier, SJ</i></p> <p>Intentions: +Tom & Calista Gorman +/(L)Joseph & Carol Naglich</p> <p>4:45 pm SJ <i>Presider: Fr. Watts</i></p>
<p style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 5px;">+ Deceased / (L) Living SFX - St. Francis Xavier SJ -St. Joseph</p> <p style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 5px;">Masses are livestreamed on our YouTube channel. Search <i>Saints JFX</i> on www.youtube.com</p>			<p>Intentions: +Irv Meyer</p> <p>7:30 pm SFX ACTION <i>Presider: Fr. Watts</i></p>

Please pray for the sick and those in need:

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Carmen Albino | Peter DiClementi, Jr. | Susan Hayden | Marlene Miller |
| Laura B. | Sally Griffin | Tiffany McGivern | Pam O'Reilly |
| Margie Bennett | Sheila Groark | John McGuiness | Christopher Patino |
| Lorraine Bixler | Rick Hawkinson | James Mendis | Carla Zaramella |
| Jim Bohlman | Catherine Horan | Oliver Mendis | |
| Paul "PJ" DiClementi | Marian Harmon | Eden McKenna | |

Please email officessjfx@ssjfx.org to add or remove a name.

*In prayer
 and loving memory of:*

Rev James Barrett



PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY, PRAY FOR PEACE

US Air Force

Ssgt John Wesley Hobbs
2nd Lt Luke Stenberg

US Army

Rev Chaplain Maj John Barkemeyer
Cpt Christopher Cannon
Cpt Ryan Cannon
PFC Richard Carlson
Sgt Harrison Daniels
Maj Jason Harlan
Pvt Ryan Higgins
Erik Larson (Army Reserve)
Sgt Brenda Lore Mayo
Sgt David Lore Mayo
SGT Seth Miller
Col Kelly Quinn
Lt Ryan Slattery
Lt Col Shawn Swarz
PFC Asher Walsh
Lt John Williams

US Marine Corps

Pvt Stuart Corboy III
Sgt Joseph Devroy
Cpt Peter Dulaney
Sgt Brandon Galgay
Sgt Aidan Gobeyn
Cpt Brad Gustafson
Ssgt Walter Ramirez
Maj William Smith
Cpl Trevor J. Talbot
Pvt 1st Class Stevie Williams

US Navy

Cmdr Kevin Carlson
Lt Matthew Mah
PO2 Kevin Morrison
Cornelius Robert Murphy
LTJG Hugh Rider
Cmdr Tom Smith
ENS John David Tobin
Shane Zeman

US National Guard

Liam Gobeyn
Sgt Steven Tetzlaff
Sgt Jackson Knott
Lt Col Grant Swinger

*If you would like to add or remove a name,
please contact us at officessjfx@ssjfx.org.*

Readings for the week of December 28, 2025

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/
Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Monday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/
Lk 2:22-35

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/
Lk 2:36-40

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/
Jn 1:1-18

Thursday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/
Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Friday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Jn 1:19-28

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/
Jn 1:29-34

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



Thursday January 1, 2026 we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, a holy day of obligation.

We will offer a vigil Mass on December 31 at 5:00 pm at St. Joseph Church.

We will also offer two Masses on January 1; 9:30 am at St. Francis Xavier Church and 10:30am at St. Joseph Church.

Saints JFX Ministry of Care



Experienced Ministers of Care are available to bring communion to our parish sick and homebound, those in senior facilities, and Evanston Hospital.

If you or a family member would like to schedule a visit, please contact the MOC Care line at (847) 256-2273 (CARE) or email mbirmingham@ssjfx.org

IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE ARE IN EVANSTON HOSPITAL

Please call our Care Line at 847-256-2273 if you would like a visit from a Minister of Care. The hospital no longer provides a list of Catholics to visit. Our ministers go on Sundays and MWF to visit, pray with, and bring Holy Communion to all who request it.

Please leave the patient's name and hospital room number on the Care Line voicemail, along with your name, relationship, and phone number; or email this information to MaryClare Birmingham at mbirmingham@ssjfx.org. We will call or email you to confirm the request.

Sacraments at Saints JFX

Sacrament of Baptism

Request form can be found on our parish website: ssjfx.org/baptism.html

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 9:00 am-10:00 am at St. Joseph Church or by appointment. Please call 847/256-4250

Sacrament of Marriage

Request form can be found on our parish website: ssjfx.org/weddings.html

Parish registration forms can be found on ssjfx.org/join-our-parish.html

Pray the Rosary

Please join us to pray the Rosary at 7:30 am daily

To join online:

<https://www.microsoft.com/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting>

Meeting ID: 217 167 320 893

Passcode: PgfzMi

If you prefer to call in:

872-215-5920

Phone conference ID: 706 348 841#

The Rosary is also prayed at 8:00 am, Monday through Saturday at St. Joseph Church, followed by 8:30 am Mass. All are welcome.

All are invited to join the **First Saturday Devotions** group after the 8:30 am Mass at St. Joseph on the first Saturday of each month. The group will meet next on January 3, 2026.



We pray the rosary along with devotions in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary; prayer guides will be available at the church.

Companions in Grief

We meet the Third Thursday of each month at 10 AM
In the Community Room at St. Joseph

All Are Welcome



Upcoming meeting dates:
January 15, February 19

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is dedicated to helping the poor and those who have fallen upon difficult times. If you or someone you know is in need of help, please call the parish office at (847) 256-4250 and ask for the SVDP line.

If you are calling outside of business hours, please press 7 to leave a message and we will return your call.

All inquiries are held in the strictest of confidence.



**Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish
Year End Giving**

Please keep the parish in mind this holiday season

There are various ways parishioners can financially support Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier each year

- An appreciated stock/mutual fund gift
- A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) gift from your IRA account
- A donation through your Donor Advised Fund (DAF)

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Joe D'Arco at jdarco@ssjfx.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Please consult your tax advisor for specific tax advice.



**Wilmette Police Presentation
Thursday, January 8, 7:00 pm**

On Thursday, January 8, at 7:00 pm in the SJ Community Room, Community Relations Officer Carly Watson, from the Wilmette Police Department, will give a talk on safety/security topics including cyber security, home security, personal safety, and more.

The presentation, including time for questions and answers, will conclude by 8:00 pm. A short reception with light refreshments will follow. This event is organized by Guild 4 of Saints JFX Women's Club. All parishioners are welcome.

Don't miss this opportunity to meet Officer Watson and learn about these important topics!



Stewardship Report

If you are able, please consider contributing via PushPay (www.pushpay.com)

December 21 , 2025	
Collected at Church:	
Envelopes:	\$ 7,408.00
Loose Cash:	\$ 2,426.00
Electronic Contributions:	\$21,880.00
Total:	\$31,714.00

Sunday Collection

Haiti Sharing Parish

St. Thomas of Canterbury School



*Thank you
for your
generosity.*

Super Bowl Sunday Parish Blood Drive February 8, 2026
11th Annual Parish Blood Drive

Super Bowl Sunday, February 8 is the 11th annual parish blood drive and again honors Kevin Joseph Smith Burke. What started out of a Ministry of Care meeting 11 years ago is now the largest Catholic Church blood drive in America. We have 400 spots to fill and appointments are open for booking.

The blood drive is a festive day in the gym and atrium with 800 people attending. Come for the food and comraderie. You'll see the Girl Scouts in action selling hundreds of boxes of cookies. Whether you can donate or not, all are encouraged to bring personal care items to restock the pantry at St. Thomas of Canterbury. We again want to collect thousands of items.

If you can't donate February 8, sign up for the OLPH drive on February 22. We are aligned to be the 2 largest Catholic Church blood drives in America. You can book an appointment at www.redcrossblood.org.

Please contact Jeff Later at jpl1009@gmail.com with any questions. Thank you!

Scan the QR code below to book your appointment.



Congratulations to those recently baptized at Saints JFX

Barrett Charles Borre

Michael Walter Burzawa

Victoria Rose Cwick

Leo Arthur Gustman

Colette Ruth Lyons

Davis Landman Nigh

Leo Seamus Roche



Pope Leo & the Future of the Church

A Tri-Parish Event



JANUARY 12, 2026

7-8 pm - Refreshments at 6:30 pm

Sacred Heart Church
at Divine Mercy Parish
1077 Tower Rd., Winnetka

Presentation will be livestreamed
and recorded

[Register here](#) or scan the QR.



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Fr. Enzo Del Brocco


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**WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 31
5:15 p.m.**

Featured music:

Funk: Virga lesse floruit
Josquin: Mystical Antiphons
Lassus: Ave maris stella
Lobo: Magnificat Secundi Toni
Palestrina: Alma Redemptoris Mater
Allen: Ave Virgo sanctissima

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The Vicar for Deacons

Have you ever considered the call to
be a Deacon of the Catholic Church?

Join us at **7 p.m.** on
January 19, 2026 at:
Office of the Diaconate
816 Marengo
Forest Park, IL 60130



We will provide an overview
of the **Deacon Formation
Program, the application
process and information on the ministry of
a deacon.** Men, single or married, are invited
to attend. Wives are strongly encouraged to
accompany their husbands. For more information
and to register for this session, contact the Office
of the Diaconate at **708.366.8900.**

**"Whom shall I send? Who will go for us? 'Here I
am, send me!'" – Isaiah 6:8**

**Church Teachings
on Migration:
Our Faith-Based
Response**

JOIN US AS WE WELCOME
FR. COREY BROST C.S.V.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
VIATOR HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY


Saturday, January 24, 2026 11:30am St. Edna Church
2525 N. Arlington Heights Rd., Arlington Heights

All are Welcome!



Sponsored by Contemporary Theology for Women
Contemporarytheology4women@gmail.com



 **ECUMENISM METRO CHICAGO**

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, January 24, 2026, 2:00 - 4:00pm.

Growing in Christian unity and the care for God's creation, we will gather in prayer and action for the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU)** at St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church, 6700 W. Diversey Ave., Chicago, IL 60707

This ecumenical prayer service will be grounded in the WPCU theme "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling" (*Ephesians 4:4*). This reflects the mission of EMC that "seeks to engage all the baptized, their communions and extended ministries in Chicagoland in living together with prayer, action and a coordinated voice that respects distinctions among traditions and extends God's love through Christ and the Holy Spirit, for all the world."

At the closing of the service, EMC judicatories will sign joint statements of actions which are grounded in EMC's Declaration to care, protect and preserve God's gift of creation, for all of the earth is the Lord's. (Psalm 24:1). The two statements proclaim our Christian resolve to *Protect Children, Grandchildren, Future Generations by Adopting Climate Change Mitigating Strategies and Protect Children, Grandchildren, Future Generations by Providing Clean, Safe Drinking Water* (please see attached). These statements are a clear public witness of EMC's Declaration that "taking decisive restorative action is a moral and religious imperative."

Ecumenism Metro Chicago: "Bringing Christians together for prayer, action, and the creation of a coordinated voice to provide a clear witness of Jesus Christ in Chicagoland."
<https://eia.archchicago.org/ecumenical-relations/ecumenism-metro-chicago-emc>
E-mail: eia@archchicago.org Post Office Box 1979 Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
Phone: 312-534-5325 Fax: 312-534-0357
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2026 Catholic Calendar

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