



St. Francis Xavier Parish

3801 Scott Road, Burbank, CA 91504

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent



Prepare the way of the Lord

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Friday: 8 a.m.
Saturday Vigil: 5 p.m.
Sunday: 8 am, 10 am, 11:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Holy Hour—Friday: 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

CONFESSION

Friday 6:00 p.m. —7 p.m.
Saturday 4:00p.m.—4:30p.m

HOUSE BLESSING/SICK VISITS/BAPTISM/

MARRIAGE/FUNERAL

Please call the parish office

PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Office

Hours: Mon - Fri, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Phone: (818)504-4400

Religious Education

Phone: (818)504-4411

St. Francis Xavier School

Phone: (818)504-4422

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www.sfxburbank.com

Come and grow with us. We are a welcoming and inclusive community of love centered on the Holy Eucharist and helping one another to become a Eucharist to the World.



From the Desk of Fr. Sebastian,

Dear Friends,

There is a story. "An elderly woman was on a busy street corner. She was confused and hesitant to cross because of the heavy traffic. Finally, a man came up to her and asked if he could cross the street with her. Gratefully she took his arm but grew alarmed as he zigzagged randomly across the street, to the blare of horns and the screech of locked brakes. When they reached on the opposite curb, she said angrily, "You almost got us killed! You walk like you're blind." "I am blind," he replied. "That's why I asked if I could cross with you!"

This is the second Sunday of Advent. This Sunday, the main figure of Advent, St. John the Baptist, is being presented to us. He is the voice crying in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord!" The preparation that St. John refers to is not about decorations, gifts and parties. Rather, he is talking about internal and spiritual preparation. He is talking about repentance. We all need repentance "for we all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom 3/23). We all experience chaos and disorder in our lives like misplaced priorities, misguided goals, strained relationships, imbalance and so forth.

Repentance is more than just turning away from sinful behaviors. It is rediscovering God's image in each one of us. It is clearing our heart for him. St. Augustine, once said, "What do I profit if Jesus is born in thousands of cribs all over the world during this Christmas, but is not born in my heart and my life?"

How do we find our true self? We find our identity in the stillness of our heart. In other words, we find our true self in prayer. In prayer when we stand before the Lord, we find our clear picture. Jesus discovered his temptations in the desert. Similarly, we find the right direction from the scripture. According to the psalmist, "The word of God is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path" (Ps 119/105). Therefore, during this Advent let us make an effort to find extra time for prayer and Scripture reading. The time we spend for God never goes in vain.

Our Native American Mass (Sunday at 10 am) and Phil Am Membership Drive gathering (Saturday 6 pm) went so beautifully well. My sincere gratitude for Karry Ann, and Rene Decena and his Team.

For our spiritual preparation for Christmas, we have planned several programs during Advent. Please see the inside of the bulletin for details.

May God bless you.

PARISH NEWS

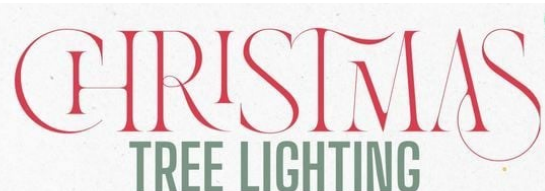
Retirement Fund for Religious Collection

Across the United States, hundreds of religious communities lack financial resources sufficient to meet the retirement and health-care needs of aging members.

Your gift provides vital support for senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests. Thank you for your donations.



**Retirement
Fund for
Religious**



COME ONE, COME ALL, to the Parish Family Christmas Tree Lighting!!!

Bring your family's own decoration to contribute to the tree and come join us on **Sunday, December 10th after the 5 pm Mass** for Christmas Carols, lighting of our Parish Family Christmas Tree, and cookies and hot cocoa together!

Our Christmas Tree will be put up in the breezeway on December 1st and we invite each family to bring a special ornament to adorn our tree sometime between then and December 10th!

(All ornaments can be reclaimed after our celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany on January 7th or, if left it will be used on our trees for years to come.)

Make sure your family is part of our community celebration of the anticipation of the Birth of our Lord, and help us create the prettiest Christmas Tree ever seen in Burbank!



Sponsored by the SFX Family Life Ministry.

Baptism Workshop

BAPTISM WORKSHOP

Tuesday, December 12th 7p in the church, is our next Baptism Workshop for parents and godparents.

Those who wish to baptize their child need to attend the class. Since Baptism is a time of renewal for the entire family and since each child is unique and precious, attendance of the baptism workshop is important each time a child in a family is baptized.



JOY (Just Older Youth)

JOY will meet for breakfast at Hill St. Café on December 14th at 9:00 am. All seniors are welcome.

Please RSVP to Peg Setti at (818) 428-8135 if you plan to attend on Dec. 14th.



Journey to the Manager

Please Join! On Friday, December 15 at 6 pm for a one-hour prayer service in preparation for the celebration of Christmas. It includes scripture readings, reflections, prayers and music.

PARISH NEWS



Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass

*Join us on December 17,
2023 at 5:00 p.m.*



Advent Penance Service

*Friends and family, please join us on
December 19th at 6:30p for our Advent
Penance Service.*



**SIMBANG
GABI**

Simbang Gabi Mass -December 22nd at 6:00 p.m.

We welcome you to join us for our Simbang Gabi Mass followed by a reception at the Holy Cross Hall. All family and friends are invited.



CAPITAL CAMPAGIN AND DONATIONS

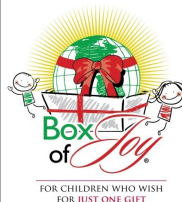
As we near the end of 2023, our first year of the five-year Capital Campaign pledge, I must again express my gratitude in your generosity and pride in our Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier!

Our plan is to begin our capital campaign project as early as in 2024 with the School Science Lab as our first priority. Thank you again for your support.

It's also a good time for each of us to look at our contributions and make sure that we are up to date in our pledge schedule. Indeed, you may want to pre-pay some of your 2024 obligation this month so if you itemized your tax deductions you can claim the added charitable contribution against your 2023 taxes rather than having to wait until Spring of 2025 to get credit for them. [Any charitable contributions such as your Capital Campaign pledge payments and your regular offertory gifts to our Catholic Community may be applied to reduce both your Federal & State 2023 income taxes for 2023 if you contribute before the end of the year!]

Just a brief reminder to those of you that itemize your tax deductions: All contributions made before January 1st can be applied to reduce your 2023 Federal and State income taxes! Contributions made after January 1st won't impact how much you owe until 2025. Thus, you may consider both a generous Christmas contribution and even pre-paying some of your regular weekly offertory before the end of December instead of in 2024 for quicker income tax relief.

PEACE & JUSTICE NEWS



Christmas Joy Outreach

For over a decade, our parish has generously supported the Native American children, mission in Nepal (our assistance is badly needed after the recent earthquake) and poor families in the Philippines during the Christmas Season.

Right after our Eucharistic celebration, there will be volunteers at the breezeway for the Peace & Justice Ministry to answer any inquiries on how you can generously donate to our parish Christmas Gift of Joy Campaign. We will continue accepting your generous donations until Dec. 17th.

SCHOOL NEWS



**First Trimester
Academic
Achievements
Recognition
Congratulations to
our SFX Students.
Great Job!!!**



DID YOU KNOW?

Recognizing the signs of physical abuse

Safe adults should be on the lookout for signs of physical abuse in children in their care. Some signs include frequent bruises or cuts, frequent and unexplained absences or injuries. Physical abuse can include hitting, kicking, shaking, or other forceful actions, resulting in harm or even death. Children who are suffering from physical abuse may be distrustful or reluctant to receive physical contact, and may dress inappropriately for the season, wearing long pants or long-sleeved shirts to hide injuries. For more information, read the VIRTUS® article "Recognizing Child Maltreatment" at lacatholics.org/did-you-know/.

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

People of St. Francis Xavier

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

Fernando & Ernesto Calderon †

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

Salvador & George Calderon †

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Lucia Tualla & Joe Ybarro †

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

Luca Palma & Caloza Family

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

Virginia Orejana &
Stephany Przyborowski †

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

People of St. Francis Xavier

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Readings for the week of December 10, 2023

Sunday: Is 40:1-5,9-11/Ps 85:9-14/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Zec 2:14-27/Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4,9-11/Mt 17:9-13

PRAY FOR THE SICK



We pray for our sick parishioners that they may know the healing of Christ:

Teresita Blazon, Ray Landless,
Matthew Balano, Joanne Figliuzzi, Teri Kaczmarek, Marissa Socco, Bertha Padilla, Maria Sampley, Richard Fox and Vicky Claussen.

PARISH TEAM**Rev. Sebastian Vettickal, CMI**

Pastor

sebastian.vettickal@sfxburbank.com

Fr. Mathew Kurisummoottil, CMI

Associate Pastor

frmathew@sfxburbank.com

Deacon Jaime Abrera

deaconjaime@gmail.com

Deacon Jim Roope

Coordinator of Confirmation

deaconjim007@gmail.com

Deacon Tony Hobbs

tony.hobbs@rocketmail.com

Mrs. Rita ReckerPastoral Associate/Director of
Parish Administration

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Mrs. Rosie Roope

Director of Religious Education

rosie.roope@sfxburbank.com

Ms. Samantha Sanchez

School Principal

samantha.sanchez@sfxburbank.com

Mr. Jack Clapper

Director of Music

jack.clapper@sfxburbank.com

Ms. Lissette Rivera

Administrative Assistant

lissette.rivera@sfxburbank.com

Mr. Alberto Linares

Maintenance Technician

a.lina.helder@sbcglobal.net

Bulletin Submissions

rectory@sfxburbank.com

Ministries & Groups

Adult Faith Formation: Dn. Tony Hobbs; **Altar Server Training:** Herman Buitrago; **Altar Society:** Ernie Decena; **Annulments and Convalidation:** Dn. Jaime Abrera; **Baptism Workshop:** Dn. Tony Hobbs; **Bereavement Ministry:** Mary Abrajano & Barbara Bocek; **Confirmation Program:** Dn. Jim Roope; **Coordinator of Liturgy:** Dn. Jaime Abrera; **Cornerstone Music:** Paula Lucero; **Eucharistic Minister Training:** Dn. Jaime Abrera; **Family Life Ministry:** Dn. Jaime Abrera; **Filipino-American Group:** Rene Decena; **Grief Support:** Jose and Nora Hizon; **Knights of Columbus:** Rod Chapman **Lector Training:** Mike Imfeld; **Marriage Preparation:** Mike and Debbie Maddigan; **Minister Scheduling:** Parish Office; **Ministry to the Sick:** Audrey Abrera; **Music Director:** Jack Clapper **Old Tyme Country Faire:** Parish Office; **Parish Finance Council:** Richard Dixon; **Parish Council:** Brad Recker **Parish Hospitality Committee:** Karry Ann Luttge; **Peace & Justice:** Rosed Flores; **Power House:** Jonatan Zamora; **RCIA:** Paula Lucero; **Religious Education Programs:** Rosie Roope; **Sacristan Training:** Dennis Ehling; **Sandwich Sundays:** Peg Setti; **Usher and Greeters:** Karry Ann Luttge; **VIRTUS Training and Fingerprinting:** Rosie Roope; **Vocation:** Fr. Sebastian; **Wedding Coordinator:** Yvette Rubio; **YA (Young Adult)Coordinator:** Isabel Patel;

For more information regarding one of our Ministries, please contact the Parish Office at 818/504-4400.

To make an appointment for Confession or for a Sick Visit, please call the Parish Office at any time.

St. Francis Xavier is on Social Media! Follow us so you don't miss out on our great events and activities.

St.franisxavier—Instagram

St. Francis Xavier Burbank—Facebook

@LoveSFX—Twitter

St. Francis Xavier Elementary Alumni (Burbank) — Facebook

**Welcome to St. Francis Xavier Parish!**

We invite you to become a member of our community! Thank you for printing neatly and dropping in the collection basket or bringing to the Parish Office.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Ministry Interest: _____





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