# The Kavier-Connection

Quarterly Publication of St. Francis Xavier Church Vol. 9, No 4 December, 2014

#### **Anointing Service**

Saturday, December 6 10:00 a.m.

#### **Immaculate Conception Masses**

Monday, December 8 9:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

#### Penance Service

Sunday, December 14 6:30 p.m.

#### **Individual Confessions**

Friday, December 19 4:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 23 1:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.

#### **Christmas Eve Masses**

Wednesday, December 24 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

#### **Christmas Day Mass**

Thursday, December 25 9:00 a.m.

#### New Year's Eve Mass

Wednesday, December 31 5:00 p.m.

#### New Year's Day Mass

Thursday, January 1, 2015 9:00 a.m.

#### St. Francis Xavier Church

219 2<sup>nd</sup> Street North PO Box 150 Sartell, MN 56377

Phone: 320.252.1363 Fax: 320.259.7090

Website: www.stfrancissartell.org

#### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

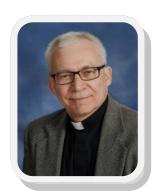
- Father Tim
- Activities for Grades 9-12
- Knights of Columbus Super Bowl Sunday Breakfast
- Out of the Darkness
- Save the Date for Youth Ministry
- New Parishioners, Baptisms, Deaths and Marriages
- Faith Formation
- Social Justice
- Gathering in the Arts
- The Gift of Catholic Education
- What's Happening at St. Francis Xavier
- Life of Holiness
- Quilters of Our Parish Need your Help
- Scouting at St. Francis Xavier
- Upcoming Events and More



My fellow parishioners,

Once again we are in the midst of our Advent journey. Any journey presupposes that we know where we are headed and take the appropriate steps to arrive there safely. Knowing where we want to go helps to make the journey as easy as it can be.

So it is with our Advent journey. Advent begins by looking to our final destination as we journey here on earth: eternal life in God's kingdom. That's where we want to end up. That's where God wants us to be. God has created us that we might share now in His life and come to know the fullness of God's love for all eternity. Knowing that is where we want to go surely helps us as we make the journey.



However, we could not get to this final destination if it were not for the one who is our guide. Of course, that guide is Jesus. If heaven is our final destination and Jesus is our guide, how appropriate it is that we remember when He took on human flesh and shared in our humanity.

His birth marks the beginning of our salvation. That is why in Advent we move from remembering where we are headed, awaiting Christ's return in glory to marking the moment in history when Jesus, God's own Son, took on human flesh through the power of the Holy Spirit and being born of Mary.

In addition to remembering our final destination and recalling the birth of the Savior who guides us to this destination, Advent also calls us to remember that Christ is present now among His people. Because Christ is among us, we pay attention to the people around us. If we want to meet Christ, we do so by caring for those around us, especially those who are in most need, most vulnerable, those who cannot "find any room in the inn." In them, we shall surely meet Christ.

Likewise, we meet Christ in the Sacraments. How appropriate then that our preparation for Christ should include meeting Christ in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He comes to us to set us free from the power of sin, strengthening us by His own love for the journey we are on. Therefore, I encourage you to celebrate this Sacrament during Advent. We will hold a parish penance service on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. A good number of priests will be here so please join us this time. Don't wait until the last minute. Mark your calendars now and encounter Christ in this powerful sacrament of healing on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Advent offers us some of the best ways to meet Christ and be prepared to remember his birth. I pray you will make the most of these opportunities as you continue your journey to God's kingdom.

Blessings,

Fr. Tim

### Activities for Teens of Our parish ... Grades 9-12

Drop-in Nights: Join us on Tuesday evenings from 7:30—9:00 p.m. for a drop in night. We have food, music, games, prayer and discussion. Come as you are and bring a friend. It's a great way to take a break from homework and spend

some time with friends in a safe, nonjudgmental, and faith based environment.

**ABLAZE!** At 8:00 p.m. every 3rd Saturday of the month, Cathedral High School host Ablaze/Waking the New Generation. Join us at Cathedral for pizza, games, skits, discussion, a speaker, and some great prayer experiences.





#### KC Super Bowl Sunday Breakfast

**Bv Tom Offerdahl** 

You're invited! **Sunday, February 1**st, the Knights of Columbus are serving the annual *Super Bowl Sunday Breakfast* at St. Francis Xavier School. Scrambled eggs (with sautéed mushrooms, peppers, onions & cheese as topping choices), sausage, hash browns (regular and cheesy!), biscuits & gravy, rolls, beverages and more. Fill up at breakfast, then you're good until that evening – maybe even watching the Vikings in the big game. Hey, miracles happen! It's a great meal and great company.

Join us from 8:30 a.m. until Noon. \$8.00 for adults, \$5.00 for youth ages 5 -12, and pre-school age are FREE.

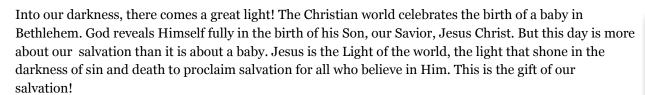
#### **Out of the Darkness**

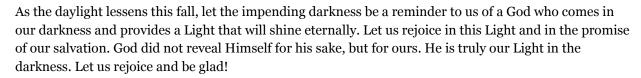
By Deb Rudolph, Pastoral Associate



Throughout the fall season we witness many changes – the trees, plants and flowers fading, dying off, and preparing to rest for the winter. As fall approaches we await the splendor and beauty of the trees showing beautiful gold, red and orange leaves. As we near the end of fall, daylight is lessened each day until we come to the Winter Solstice; the darkest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. Winter Solstice this year is on Sunday, December 21st. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."











#### **Save the Date for Youth Ministry**

By Jake Schwendinger



We have so many amazing opportunities for our students that it is almost overwhelming. With Advent and Christmas just around the corner it is the time of year that Youth Ministry begins planning for summer. Yes, you read that right, once the snow falls and the weather drops below freezing youth ministers around the country know that it's time to begin planning summer activities. As we begin planning here at SFX, I have found that there are so many awesome activities to prepare and plan for. Because of the overwhelming opportunities I wanted to give everyone a "Save the Date" along with some more information about these larger events so that you all can begin planning your calendars and decide what opportunities you want to engage in. Whether you want to jump in for all the events, or only one of them, you and your friends are welcome. For more information regarding any of these events or to sign up to be on a mailing list for more details as they become available contact Jake in the Office of Youth Ministry.

**Castaway:** Castaway is a 3-day retreat experience for youth in grades 9-12 and sponsored through Catholic Education Ministries of the St. Cloud Diocese. Youth from our Diocese have been participating in this retreat for 40 years. Castaway will take place one of the last two weekends in March and is held at the Young Life- Castaway Camp near Detroit Lakes.

**Steubenville North:** Steubenville North is a weekend summer youth conference being held in Minneapolis/St. Paul. It is hosted by Franciscan University of Steubvenville and is a high energy, life giving, and life changing experience. Whether you are into your Catholic Faith or are still asking a lot of questions, this conference is a great opportunity to dive deeper and have a ton of fun with friends. The Conference will be held July 24-26, 2015. Registration will be open SOON. In the meantime check out the promo video on their website <a href="https://www.steubenville.org">www.steubenville.org</a>

A Call To Service: ACTS (A Call To Service) is a week long service camp hosted by the St. Cloud Diocese in Minneapolis/St. Paul. It is scheduled for June 21-26, 2015 and there will be more details coming in the spring.

**SonShine:** Sonshine is an outdoor Christian music festival held every summer in Willmar, MN. Think Woodstock or Ozfest but with Christians and all to glorify God. This year Sonshine will be held July 16-18, 2015.

NCYC: The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) takes place every 2 years. Next year, 2015 it will be hosted in Indianapolis, IN. We will be traveling there with the St. Cloud Diocese by bus leaving November 18th and returning November 22nd. More information will be forthcoming.

#### New Parishioners & Sacraments Received

### NEW MEMBERS:



#### September:

Mark & Bonnie Mehr, Grace & Rose Travis & Angela Kiffmeyer, Colin & Grant Cory Zutz & Pal Xavasith & Mya Scott & Sara Bierwerth & Layla Arnold & Renee Dingmann David & Kathy LaBeaux Kyle & Kayla Cariveau, Aiden, Easton & William Mark & Samantha Seelen & Alayna Ronnie & Kris Carlborn, Caleb & Brady Rick & Julie Cariveau & Connor Ryan & Rhonda Conda & Lucy Mike & Julie Sieben, Megan, Matthew, Abigail &

#### October:

Ray & Armella Middendorf Colin Anderson & Shannon Schmitz Patrick & Paullette Hogan Kristopher Mitzel & Ashley Sieben Ken & Janice Kenning Marissa Bergdahl, Seth & Brianna Douglas & Jane Mick & Tiana Tom & Angela Handeland & Ella Danielle Hartfiel & Tom Platz Jason & Tracy Dullinger, Benjamin, Nickolas & Maximilian Mathias & Sara Christianson Kelly Braun & Alex Hilsgen, Kendal & Myah

#### **BAPTISMS:**

Date	Name	Parents
09/06/14	Leonard Mark	Jacob & Amanda Jantzer
09/06/14	Briana Nichole	Aaron & Tracy Tschumperlin
09/07/14	Eleanor Louise	Andrew & Katherine Gravdahl
09/07/14	Justin Robert	Shawn & Amy Barber
09/07/14	Alex Joseph	Shawn & Amy Barber
09/07/14	Andrea Cora	Marie Joshua & Christina Tebben
09/07/14	Oliver John	Andrew & Kelli Maurer
09/20/14	Brody Michael	Joshua & Nichole Lang
09/21/14	Mya Alexis	Cory Zutz & Pal Xayasith
09/21/14	Easton Michael	Alexander & Katlyn
		Lewandowski
09/21/14	Lillian Anne	Matthew & Ashley Sherry
09/21/14	Rosalia Marie	Matthew & Ashley Sherry
09/21/14	Parker Charles	Lewis & Carissa Solarz
10/05/14	Mason Patrick	Shane & Amber Kusler
10/11/14	Lily Ann	Jacob & Stephanie Andrews
10/11/14	Myah Mae	Alex Hilsgen & Kelly Braun
10/11/14	Elin Lily	Benjamin Peterson & Maria
		Keppers
10/11/14	Maya LaVine	Benjamin Peterson & Maria
		Keppers
10/18/14	Jackson Thomas	Michael & Mackensey Stang
10/19/14	Jamie Lee	Joshua & Stacy Boom
10/19/14	Alina Priscilla	Thomas & Stephanie Giroux
10/19/14	Bennett Joseph	Joseph & Sara Kraemer
10/19/14	Alexa Marie	Dustin & Sarah Lampert
10/19/14	Olivia Lulu	Jonathan & Joy Ruis
10/19/14	Alayna Rae	Mark & Samantha Seelen
10/19/14	Harrison Rey	Herold & Merlyn Simon
10/26/14	William Michael	Kyle & Kayla Cariveau

#### **MARRIAGES:**

Date	Names
9/06/14	Jerry Wanken & Patricia Macht
9/12/14	Jeff Schulte & Laurie Stribling
9/13/14	Joseph Storkamp & Sara Langer
10/04/14	. Daniel Kramer & Amy Fiedler
10/11/14	Russell Klever & Emily Kight
10/25/14	Michael Sorenson & Samantha Sche

#### **DEATHS:**

**Date** Name 09/20/14 Thomas "Tom" G. Bearson 10/01/14 Quidella "Dell" Westra Richard Wilson 10/13/14



#### Faith Formation Highlights and Upcoming Events

#### September-November Highlights

- Open House food and fun
- **Teaching Mass**
- Confirmation kick off with bonfire
- First Communion/Reconciliation parent meeting
- Teens attended Senior High Youth Rally

#### **Upcoming Events**

- Grades 1-5 family night December 15
- Catechist in-service & supper January 7
- Retreat for those preparing for Reconciliation January 12 & 13
- First Reconciliation January 22 & 27



## In Him was life, and that life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1: 4-5

We are a people of the light. At St. Francis Xavier that light shines in many

ways. We have numerous projects that people roll up their sleeves to tend to and we pray in many ways for people's sufferings and hardships. We share here a few ways that the light is shining and offer ways that you too can get involved and answer the call to love God and neighbor – not just at Christmas, but year round.

Our involvement with **Central MN's Habitat for Humanity Apostle Build** is one such place where light shines. Along with 11 other churches in the St. Cloud area, we have been able to give generously through both money and volunteering at the sites of several homes. Thank you to all who have helped in this ministry from SFX so far. If you would like to be updated about future volunteer opportunities, please contact Carol Hart at <a href="mailto:carolhart72@gmail.com">carolhart72@gmail.com</a>.

A way our light will SOON shine is through our hosting "Church of the Week" April 27-May 4. Our space will be turned into an overnight resting place for up to 20 people who would otherwise not know where to lay their head for a week. If you would like to be involved in volunteering for this or in the planning, please email Ken Wendinger at <a href="mailto:lkwendinger@gmail.com">lkwendinger@gmail.com</a> or 320-251-2774 or Deb Weinberger at <a href="mailto:debweinberger1@gmail.com">debweinberger1@gmail.com</a> or 320-253-1490 We hope this experience will serve as leaven in our community. As we grow in service we will hopefully grow our understanding of living in poverty and how we might respond as individuals and with each other.

**Prayer for Peace and Compassion** - *Thursday*, *December 4th from 7-8 p.m.* at church. Advent is a season meant to slow us down. We are asked to set aside some quiet time to reflect on our busy lives. Join your voice with others

to pray for peace in our world. Granted we might be doing this all the time. However, gathering as a community will be a rich and meaningful way to stand united in praying for peace. ALL are welcome. Families, this would be a great thing to attend together. We will also be looking at the idea of Sartell becoming a "Compassionate Community" through the **Charter for Compassion** project. Hear more about this on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Light also shines through building relationships. Our Social Justice Concerns Committee has connected with the same committee at First United Methodist Church in Sartell to share how we might do things together. Be watching the bulletin for that to start happening. We will also connect with other churches in Sartell.

Some other practices for an enriching Advent:

- **Bear Hope** Support an organization that bears hope and healing to people in need.
- Live Small Resist the rush to consume and reject the temptation of too many things. Gift yourself, your loved ones, your family, or a neighbor in need with wholehearted presence— a rare treasure in times of too much activity.
- Keep Vigil Open a space for prayer, for stillness and for peace. Select one evening each week of Advent and host a silent vigil for peace. Keep lights and sounds low, invite yourself into stillness. IT might be uncomfortable at first, but you will be craving it after a while!

Blessed Advent to all!

Molly Weyrens

#### **Gathering In the Arts Spotlight**

By Ruth Brattensborg

With Christmas just weeks away, the GAB's have invited **St. Nicholas to visit SFX at all Masses on December 6 & 7th**, with cookie and punch social after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Bring your cameras to this photo opportunity with St. Nicholas.

A Christmas Silent Auction in the Gathering Place is scheduled for **December 6th through the 14th**. Many beautiful gift items. Bidding will close at 11:45 a.m. on the 14th.

The Magi are invited to visit SFX at all Masses on January 4th & 5th.

The Annual Art Fair is scheduled for Sunday, February 15 from 1:00-4:00



St. Nicholas and children bringing up gifts December 2013.

The GIA Board is working with the Environmental Committee to enhance the décor in the Gathering Place. Seasonal and monthly changes are evident on tables, walls and ceilings.

GIA Funds were also used to purchase ten tall stand-up-to tables for use at parish functions and events. They were recently used at the Matthew Kelly event in November.

The Gathering in the Arts program is not included in the parish budget and depends on the generosity of benefactors for its success.

#### The Gift of Catholic Education

Education is the most valuable and treasured gift you can give your children. An education that focuses on the spiritual, academic, social, emotional and physical qualities of your child is teaching to the whole child. A school that encourages and models the teachings of Jesus throughout the school day is one that is supporting and developing children who care about others, the world around them, and themselves. It is teaching them values for a lifetime. St. Francis Xavier School is just that school!



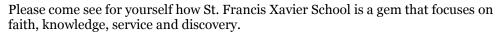
St. Francis Xavier School offers parents and their children the educational choice for a successful future. A future that starts with a strong foundation...one that is centered on faith and values with outstanding academics, community service, and much more, woven throughout all learning experiences. Supporting each and every student is a dedicated group of master teachers who care deeply and are committed to the success of each child.



Our programs are dynamic, inclusive, diverse, and academically challenging. The main feature that distinguishes schools like ours from other learning institutions is the fact that we instill and integrate Catholic truths and values throughout the daily academic life of each student.

We would like to invite you to experience the possibilities of St. Francis Xavier School. We extend a warm and welcoming invitation for a personal tour of our school so that you can enjoy a glimpse into our classrooms and meet our outstanding teachers. Please

also attend one of our upcoming open house events on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup> or Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> and learn more at <a href="http://www.stfrancissartellschool.org">http://www.stfrancissartellschool.org</a>.



MA APPLEADUS

Peace in Christ!
Kathy Kockler, Principal

#### What's Happening at St. Francis Xavier?!

Here you noticed? Committed to building the Kingdom of God here in our own parish, both staff and parishioners of St. Francis Xavier have recently provided a number of events and gatherings that offered a variety of ways to grow in faith together.

**John Angotti -** Christian and liturgical music composer and singer held a concert on a Saturday evening, October 25th after the 5:00 Mass. The following Monday he directed a seminar here at SFX for Diocesan Faith Formation Directors, Liturgists and Youth Ministers.

**Matthew Kelly -** On Saturday, November 8th. World renown inspirational speaker held a four-hour seminar on Catholicism and what it means to be Catholic in today's world. All who attended were invited to reclaim and acclaim a practice and love for Jesus Christ through His Church.

**Movie Night** - Making good use of our facility and large screens, the movie "God's Not Dead" was offered here at SFX on Saturday, November 22nd. it was a great opportunity to see a quality movie with friends and family and have time to discuss its influence.



And these are just a beginning! Watch carefully for opportunities to grow in faith with family, friends and visitors as together we proclaim and live our faith in Jesus Christ and His Church.

#### A Life of Holiness

by Phil Corbett

At his event in November, Matthew Kelly stressed that the call to holiness is not just for the ordained; it is for all of us. The key was to focus on moments of holiness and those moments of holiness would add up to a lifetime of holiness.

Irene had many of those holiness moments. Here are just a few of them.

Along with her husband Harold, Irene raised four biological children and was official foster parent to an additional 51 children, including one who stayed for over 12 years. In addition to the 51 official foster children, they took in dozens of other children whose families were struggling. Some stayed for days, some for weeks. All stayed for free.

While speaking with a young mother in a post office, Irene found out the mother needed to have surgery and had no place for her baby to stay. Irene offered to take care of the baby. The mother accepted. Irene had no assurance that the mother would come back for the baby; she just trusted the mother would. Several weeks later, the mother did.

During the 1930s, Irene often provided meals at her home to the homeless. Once she hired an armless man to do some yard work for her and decided he needed a bath and some clean clothes, especially socks. One of her children found her on the floor trimming the man's toenails so they wouldn't cut holes in the socks she gave him.

While at a bakery, Irene heard an employee asking a man who was loitering to leave. The man said he was waiting for his granddaughter to pick him up. The employee told the man if he did not leave soon, he would call the police. Irene told the employee to call her if the man's granddaughter did not show up. Soon



after getting home, Irene got the call. She had someone go get him and bring him to her home. She fed him, cleaned him up and gave him some of her husband's clothes.

Irene knew of an elderly bachelor who had lived a lonely life. She took it upon herself to go to his apartment daily to take care of him. On his last birthday before he died, she baked a cake, grabbed some of her grandchildren and threw him a party. He wept.

When Irene died in 1992, her obituary in the Star Tribune was four inches high and five columns wide – a testament to a long string of holiness moments. She was an inspiration to many and an example of how ordinary people can and should live truly holy lives.

By the way, though most people called her Irene, I just called her Grandma.



Pictured from left to right: Jeanne Skaj, Donna Traut, Margaret Lochner, LaVerne Dehler

#### **Quilters of our Parish Need Your Help**

Did you know that we have four to eight ladies quilting at Xavier Hall during the months of October—May every Thursday from 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. The quilters are working on quilt #4 out of 25 quilts for the September, 2015 Bingo. The Quilt Bingo generates approximately \$5,000 each year. This money stays in our Parish and is used for projects as needed.

#### Here are three ways you can help:

- If you are a hand quilter, or want to learn how to hand quilt, join our group. Come for a few hours or stay as long as you want.
- If you like to piece quilt tops, consider donating a pieced top. Don't worry if you have the fabric for the backing and/or binding.
- If you don't have quilting skills, a monetary contribution would be greatly

appreciated. We use the money towards purchasing quilting supplies. You can make your check out to St. Francis Xavier and place it in the Sunday collection.

If you have any questions, please call Jeanne Skaj at 253-0453 or LaVerne Dehler 251-7011. Thank you for your help.

#### Scouting at St. Francis Xavier By Wendi Haas

Did you know that St Francis Xavier is the chartering organization for a Cub Scout Pack (11)? In 2010, for the 100th Anniversary of Boy Scouts, some Cub Scouts planted a tree on the north side of the Gathering Place/school area. Did you know that area Girl Scouts do light gardening at SFX in the summer? They do this to "pay" the church back for use of the facilities for meetings and events during the year. Boy Scout Troop 11 meets every Monday in Xavier Hall and, they help at the Fall Festival, Fish Fry and other parish functions as needed. There are a couple of Girl Scout troops and a leader group that also meet in Xavier Hall on Sundays.

As an adult member of both organizations, we are grateful for the parish's generosity. Both Boy and Girl Scouts pledge service to God and country, so don't be surprised if you see us around St. Francis Xavier.



April 2011, Den 3, Pack 11 planted a tree on north side of church.



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**Share the Spirit** 

Thank you to everyone for your generous hearts.

Please return your gifts to the Parish office by **Sunday**, **December 7** so all gifts can be delivered on a timely basis.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**November 30** ~ First Sunday of Advent—PEACE

Dec. 2/9/16/23 ~ Teen Drop-in Xavier Hall Basement—grades 9-12 (Every Tuesday)

**December 4** ~ First Thursday Coffee Social After 8:00 a.m. Mass

**December 5** ~ Adoration after 9 a.m. Mass until Noon /St. Nicholas Visits SFX School

**December 6**Anointing Service 10:00 a.m. Followed by Reception

Gathering in the Arts Silent Auction—Gathering Place

**December 6-7** Food Shelf Collection Weekend/St. Nicholas at every Mass/Hospitality after 10:30 Mass

**December 7** ~ Second Sunday of Advent—HOPE

**December 8** ~ Immaculate Conception – Masses 9:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. – Holy Day of Obligation

**December 14** ~ Third Sunday of Advent—JOY **December 14** ~ Penance Service 6:30 p.m.

**December 18** ~ St. Francis School Christmas Program—Preschool-6th grade 5:45—7:30 p.m. Church

**December 18** ~ Social Justice Meeting 6:30 p.m. Xavier Hall

**December 21** ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent—LOVE **December 22-Jan. 2** ~ Christmas Vacation—SFX School

January 2 ~ Adoration after 9:00 a.m. Mass until Noon

January 3-4 ~ The Epiphany of the Lord—Three Kings at Every Mass

January 10 ~ Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest 3:00 p.m. SFX School

**January 10-11** ~Hospitality Weekend

January 15 ~ CUF Raffle Kick off –SFX School/Social Justice Meeting Xavier Hall 6:30 p.m.

**January 10-18** — Christian Women Baby Shower for Jesus Parish wide Collection of Baby items for Birthline

January 19/20 ~ No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day/Teacher In-Service ~ Christian Women Meeting 6:30 p.m. Gathering Place ~ Home, School & Spirit Cinnamon Roll Sale Gathering Place

**January 25-31** ~ Catholic Schools Week

January 25/29 ~ Preschool & Kindergarten Open House— Jan. 25, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Jan. 29, 5:30-7:00 ~ Knights of Columbus Super Bowl Sunday Breakfast SFX School Gym 8:30 a.m.—Noon

February 5 ~ First Thursday Coffee Social after 8:00 a.m. Mass Gathering Place

**February 6** ~ Adorations after 9:00 a.m. Mass until Noon

February 7/8 ~ Hospitality Weekend/Welcoming Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass/Food Shelf Collection

February 9-13 ~ Prairie Fire Theatre: Peter Pan Friday, February 13, 1:30 & 7:00 p.m. February 15 ~ Gathering in the Arts, Art Fair 1:00—4:00 p.m. Gathering Place

February 16 ~ President's Day No School for SFX Students February 17 ~ Christian Women Meet 6:30 p.m. Gathering Place February 18 ~ Ash Wednesday Masses 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. February 21 ~ St. Francis Xavier Rocks 7-11:00 p.m. SFX School