

FRIDAY CRUSADER

WEEK OF OCTOBER 5 - 9th, 2026

Rooted in Faith. Growing in Virtue. Striving for Excellence.

SFX PARENT HUB

QUICK LINKS | *EVERYTHING YOU NEED ALL IN ONE PLACE*

CHURCH BULLETIN | SCHOOL WEBSITE | SCHOOL CALENDAR

HOT LUNCH MENU | FACTS PARENT PORTAL | BUY A RAFFLE TICKET ONLINE

IMPORTANT DATES

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Monday, October 12th - PTO Meeting at 8:05a in Library

Monday, October 13th - LAST home volleyball game; Central Elementary @ 6p

Wednesday, October 14th - Culver's fundraiser for 8th Grade Trip 4:00-8:00 pm

Thursday, October 15h - PINK Day (pink shirt/uniform bottoms)

Thursday, October 15th - Parent/Teacher Conferences

Friday, October 16th - 1/2 Day Dismissal at 11:40AM

Sunday, October 18th - 7th Grade Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, October 18th - $500 Early Bird Raffle Drawing; BUY ONLINE today!



MR. ADAM DOBROWOLSKI
Principal

A NOTE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Faith • Leadership • Community

It is time for parent teacher conferences. Our dedicated conference day is **October 15th**, although teachers may offer additional times to accommodate family schedules. I hope every family will make time to connect with your child's teacher. These conversations are so important. Parents know their children in a unique and personal way, while our teachers see them grow and learn each day. When we share our observations and communicate openly, we are better able to support each child academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. Family partnership is at the heart of our mission to develop the whole child. For generations, St. Francis Xavier School has worked alongside families to help children recognize their gifts, grow in faith and character, and prepare to live out the purpose God has given them. Thank you for continuing that partnership with us.

I am grateful to everyone who participated in our recent Parent Commitment Meetings. The cost to educate each child at SFX is $8,488, while tuition is intentionally set below that amount. ***Fundraising helps us bridge that gap*** and sustain the excellent education and formation we provide our students. I am deeply grateful for the time, effort, and sacrifices our families make to support our school. Your generosity is truly an investment in your children and in their future.

Our first SFX Grand Raffle early-bird drawing will be held Sunday, October 18th, after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. School families can earn a Gala ticket for every 10 raffle tickets sold. Please remember to note your family name on your sold tickets upon turning them in to earn credit for each sale. After selling the five required tickets, I encourage you to consider selling additional tickets. Every ticket helps us move toward our fundraising goals and strengthens our school community.

Thank you for all that you do for St. Francis Xavier School. I am grateful for the privilege of walking alongside you as we nurture, educate, and guide our children. Together, with faith and a shared purpose, we are laying a strong foundation for their future.

A peek at our SFX Middle School

Last week, our middle school students were at Camp Daggett for two days, spending the night on Thursday night. This has been an annual trip for our middle school that we like to schedule during the early part of the school year. It is a great opportunity for camaraderie. Students participate in the high ropes course which fosters teamwork, communication, and fortitude in

overcoming challenges. The many other activities during the two day trip provide leadership development, problem solving, and teamwork.

Athletics
Next week is the final week of our volleyball season. We are a Michigan High School Athletic Association member school. Students in 6th-8th grade can participate in our athletics programs. At SFX, we offer our own teams for volleyball, girls basketball, and boys basketball. Additionally, with our co-op partnerships with Petoskey Schools, our students can participate on the Petoskey Middle School athletics teams for cross country, football, ski team, wrestling, track and field, and softball.

Our students have a history of excelling in high school and many become leaders of their teams.

Band/Enrichment Classes
SFX students are able to participate in the award winning Petoskey band program. Starting in 6th grade, students can enroll in Petoskey band class. Students are shuttled up to the Petoskey Middle School and back to St. Francis. Once in high school, they can become a part of the Marching Band, Petoskey Steel Drum Band, and Jazz Band.

For students that do not participate in the Petoskey Band Program, students take a range of enrichment classes including Art and Physical Education for all middle school grades. Students in 6th grade learn a string instrument through the Dorothy Gerber Strings Program. This class meets twice per week.

Among other enrichment classes students are currently taking in our middle school include **News Broadcasting, Underwater Remote Operated Vehicles, Leadership, Personal Finance, and Yearbook**. All middle school students take a half year of **Archery** class, and a half year of **Technology** class.

Our middle school also offers accelerated academic offerings. Later this year, we will offer a dedicated middle school informational open house for families with students in elementary grades to learn more about our middle school. Stay tuned on this in future Friday Crusaders regarding the scheduled date and time.

In Christ,

Adam Dobrowolski, Principal

ATTENTION PARENTS: If your child will be absent or has an appointment, please email both the office and their teacher. This helps us maintain accurate daily attendance records."

We love watching our SFX succeed on and off the field!



Petoskey's Korbin Sulitis making the state take note of 'freaky good' season

Drew Kochanny
The Petoskey News-Review
Updated Nov. 5, 2024, 12:58 p.m. ET

FOOTBALL

Petoskey's Lukas Nemec shoulders the load for offensive response

Drew Kochanny
The Petoskey News-Review
Oct. 5, 2026, 3:00 p.m. ET

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH

PEACE

"she gives her battles to God and lives in peace" – Phil 4:6

"You will never enjoy peace if you are always disturbed by the faults of other."

— ST. CATHERINE OF SIENNA

Check out these KIND Crusaders! These students were recognized by their teachers and classmates for exemplifying the virtue of kindness. Sometimes our children are the ones who teach us the greatest lessons. Kindness doesn't mean we always agree—it means we choose to treat one another with patience, grace, and respect, even when we see things differently. What a beautiful reminder that we're all part of the same SFX family working toward the same goal: doing what's best for our children.





Wednesday's Mass: **Father Peter discussed the importance of praying the Rosary....especially during the month of October. He also reviewed all of the Mysteries of the Rosary. He reminded our students that they are praying *to* God *through* Mary when they pray the Rosary. The Joyful Mysteries can be found below, which are prayed on Mondays and Saturdays.**

Friday's Mass: **The message of the day was simple today - have faith. Father Peter reminded students that people will see what they want to see and hear what they want to hear. But the Lord wants us to trust in Him. To believe in Him. To love Him. Trust in God even when things are difficult - God will take care of us.**

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

Mondays and Saturdays



1. The Annunciation of Our Lord

MEDITATION: The angel said to Mary, "You shall conceive and bear a son and give Him the name Jesus. And He will be called Son of the Most High."

Luke 1:31-32



2. The Visitation

MEDITATION: "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Blessed is she who trusted that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled."

Luke 1:42 & 45



3. The Nativity of Jesus

MEDITATION: While Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem, she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger.

Luke 2:6-7



4. The Presentation in the Temple

MEDITATION: When the day came to purify them according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem so that He could be presented to the Lord.

Luke 2:22



5. The Finding in the Temple

MEDITATION: They came upon Him in the temple sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. All who heard Him were amazed.





The students LOVED the Fun Run! Thank you to all of our supporters and volunteers who helped make this event possible. We are still collecting donations so we will have a running total of funds raised next week.

REMINDER: Our next meeting is on Monday, October 12th at 8:05a in the SFX Library. Please consider joining us...we are always looking for fresh ideas. And we vote on teacher requests for funds - we'd love to see you! PLUS we'll be planning Turkey Bingo (scheduled on Friday, November 13th).

You can still DONATE to the Fall Fun Run!



Thank you to everyone who took the time to attend one of the Parent Commitment Meetings. Your questions were heard and our administration is taking into consideration all of the input that was provided. We look forward to a fruitful year of volunteering to support the operating budget of the school.

The first Early Bird Raffle Drawing for $500 is on October 18th. This is our largest fundraiser and we are SO grateful for family participation. Keep selling your tickets! The Grand Raffle Drawing for $15K CASH will take place at the 36th Annual Gala at the Grand Unity Event Center on February 20th. The theme is Palms, Pineapples & Prayers!

Sign up for Youth Mass on October 18th



Thank you, PTO, for coordinating another FUN RUN! We are appreciative of all of your generous donations. The kids had a blast! A special shout out to Coveyou Scenic Farms for donating apples and to the Hagstrom family for getting bananas donated from the Grain Train. Our students were happy to have a healthy snack after they ran!



The Middle School Volleyball team took 2nd place at the Harbor Light tournament last weekend - great job, Lady Crusaders! They lost to Alpena All Saints on Tuesday but beat Harbor Light on Thursday. Their final home game is on Monday at 6pm at Central Gym. They will close out their season in Rogers City on Tuesday. Good Luck!



Fire Protection Week with DK!



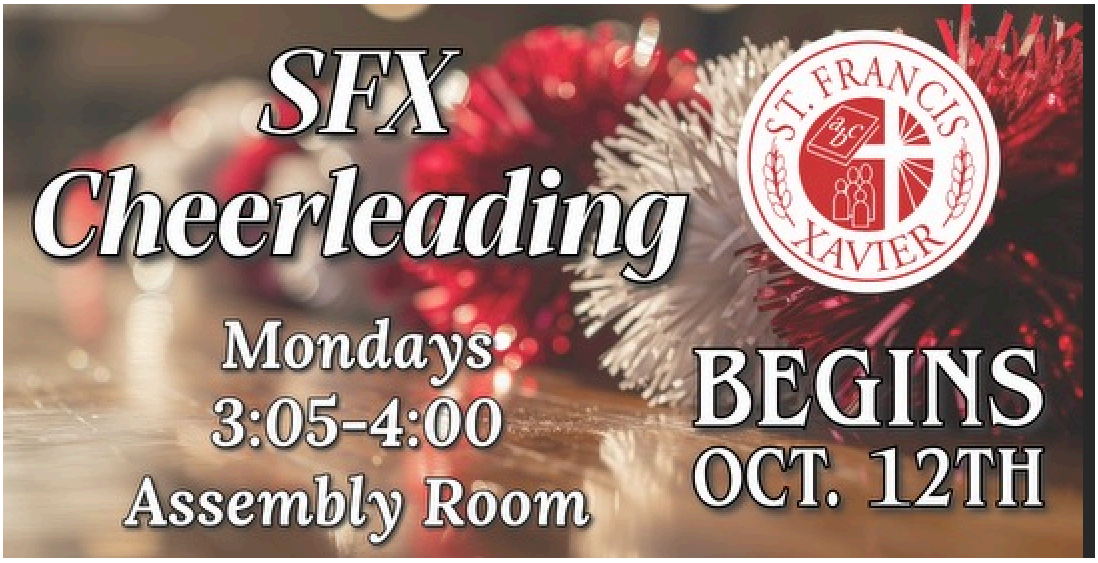
WE LOVE OUR PRESCHOOLERS!







Our SFX Cheer Team is back again this year and practice starts Monday after school. Please reach out to Tisha Cone at tishacone@gmail.com with any questions.


SFX
Cheerleading
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
Mondays
3:05-4:00
Assembly Room
BEGINS
OCT. 12TH


ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
7TH GRADE
PANCAKE BREAKFAST
SUNDAY
OCTOBER 18, 2026
9AM-NOON
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL BASEMENT
$12
PER
PERSON
$40
PER
FAMILY
Help us support our 7th grade class as they prepare for their big trip next year!
THANK YOU TO THIS MONTHS SPONSOR
KELSEY'S PAINTING

Looking for something to do AFTER the Pancake Breakfast on 10/18? The Cummings String Quartet will be playing at the church on Sunday at noon. This is the same strings program that teachers our SFX Students.



St. Katharine Drexel

The Heart of a Woman, the Strength of a Saint



Opening prayer and program introduction by
Fr. Mitch Roman, Pastor,
Holy Childhood of Jesus

Monday, October 19th 2026

Saint Katharine Drexel (1858–1955) was an American heiress who gave away a massive fortune to found the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. She dedicated her life, and more than $12 million of her inheritance, to advocating for racial justice and providing quality education for African Americans and Native Americans. As a young woman Katharine visited the Holy Childhood school.

Featured Speaker



Margaret M. McGuiness, Ph.D
Professor Emeritus
School of Arts and Sciences, Religion
La Salle University

Margaret is the author of *Called to Serve: A History of American Nuns* (NYU Press, 2013) and *Neighbors and Missionaries: A History of the Sisters of Our Lady of Christian Doctrine* (Fordham, 2012). *The Catholic Studies Reader*, co-edited with James T. Fisher (Fordham, 2011) was awarded first place in "History" by the Catholic Press Association. She currently serves as associate editor of *American Catholic Studies* (co-editor from 2000 until 2013). In 2013 she became president of the American Catholic Historical Association.

Mass 5:30 PM
Food 6:30 PM
Speakers 7:00 PM

Food catered by Vernales

Holy Childhood of Jesus
Bishop Baraga Parish Hall

FREE EVENT

Presented by the HCJC Parish Historical Committee with support from the Knights of Columbus

Free Will Donations Accepted and Appreciated

For more information
Joe Hoffman
231.881.2498

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

HIKE IN PETOSKEY STATE PARK



JOIN OUR EMAIL/TEXT LIST!

Sunday, October 11 5:30-7:00 p.m.

@Meet at the PSP beach parking lot at 5:30

JOIN US! ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WELCOME!

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN'S SOULS

Counselors from Catholic Human Services (CHS) will speak on topics that are relevant to the mental health of our children.

Second Sunday of Each Month
October - February at 5:00 PM at St. Matthew

Topics We'll Explore Together:

- **October**: Many parts, one family – **understanding and communication** in families, dealing with **anger** and **conflict**.
- **November**: Behavioral health: The human person and **mental wellbeing**
- **December: Substance Use Prevention –** Awareness, Current Trends; Signs, Symptoms, Hidden in Plain Sight, Refusal Skills
- **January: Safe Talk/ Suicide/ Mental Health**
- **February**: Understanding **anxiety** and promoting **wellness**: A nursing perspective



This program is for everyone—parents, grandparents, teachers, church leaders, and all those who care about the well-being and future of our children. Together, we can encourage, support, and invest in the next generation.

First Session: Sunday, October 11

If you have any questions, call the St. Matthew Parish Office
(231) 582-7718

LEARN TO SKATE USA

LEARN TO SKATE CLASS

FALL SESSION: OCTOBER 25- DECEMBER 6, 2026

NO CLASS NOV. 29, 2026



KIDS & ADULTS

4+

Years Old

Learn to Skate USA is endorsed by U.S. Figure Skating, USA Hockey and US Speedskating.

Group classes are a great way to start on your ice skating journey.

SNOWPLOW SAM

- Skaters ages 4-6 years
- 30 minutes of instruction
- Safe and positive learning through age-appropriate games and activities

time

2:30-3:00

$100

6-week session

BASIC SKILLS & ADULT

- Skaters ages 6+ years
- 30 minutes of instruction, followed by 20 minutes of practice time

time

2:30-3:20

$120

6-week session

Registration Link

www.littletraversefigureskating.com

All classes held at Petoskey Ice Arena


PETOSKEY
MIDDLE SCHOOL
SKI TEAM
SIGN UP!
RACE
COMPETE AND IMPROVE
BUILD SKILLS
AND CONFIDENCE
BE PART OF
A GREAT TEAM
HAVE FUN
& MEET NEW
FRIENDS
PETOSKEY
24
SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP
QUESTIONS? EMAIL THE TEAM AT PMSSKITEAM@GMAIL.COM
OPEN TO ALL PETOSKEY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

NEIGHBORS

Supporting Neighbors





WEDNESDAY • OCTOBER 14 • 4-8PM

Join us in supporting the St. Francis Xavier 8th Grade Class Trip to Washington D.C., as 10% of all sales (excluding online and delivery) will be donated.

There's no limit to how much heart you can put into the community – and we're always looking for opportunities for neighbors to help neighbors. Join us and consider giving what you can to our local cause today.

Thank you for your support!

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