



*Winter Inn in the College Church Ballroom, as volunteers prepare to welcome guests*

## **St. Francis Xavier (College) Church**

*The Jesuit Parish in the Heart of St. Louis*

**3628 Lindell Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63108**

**314-977-7300**

**sfxstl.org**

**January 28, 2024**  
**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

### **LITURGY SCHEDULE**

Saturday: 5:15 pm, Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:30 am.

Online Masses will be posted on our YouTube channel. Subscribe here: [tinyurl.com/collegechurchmass](https://tinyurl.com/collegechurchmass)

Weekday Masses: 7:15 am and noon Monday through Friday, all in main church. (7:15 am Mass only on national holidays.)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Mondays through Fridays, 10:45 am through noon.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

We, the members of St. Francis Xavier College Church, form a welcoming Jesuit parish community. As followers of Jesus Christ, we praise God, love our neighbors as ourselves, celebrate liturgy and the sacraments, engage in lifelong formation and proclaim God's reign of justice, mercy and peace.

**PARISH INFORMATION****E-MAIL ADDRESS:** church@sfxstl.org

**The Parish Center is closed if St. Louis City Schools are closed due to bad weather. Activities and events are also cancelled.**

Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Saturday we are closed & Sunday: 8:30 am to 1:00 pm.

Bulletin Notices: must be submitted to [church@sfxstl.org](mailto:church@sfxstl.org) by noon on Thursday, ten days before the bulletin date. Holidays require additional time.

Infant Baptisms: Visit the Baptism page on the SFX website, [www.sfxstl.org/baptism-1](http://www.sfxstl.org/baptism-1), for information on infant baptisms and required preparation class. Baptisms are celebrated on the first and third Sunday of the month, at 12 pm. Contact [frtim@sfxstl.org](mailto:frtim@sfxstl.org) with questions.

Christian Initiation of Adults: contact Joe Milner at 314-977-7305 or [joseph.milner@slu.edu](mailto:joseph.milner@slu.edu)

Marriages: contact Sandy Hauck at 314-977-7303 for scheduling and preparation information.

Funerals: contact Fr. Tim McMahon at [frtim@sfxstl.org](mailto:frtim@sfxstl.org) or 314-977-7300.

Disability Access: Our church has an elevator and hearing assistance system. Please see an usher for assistance.

Parish Registration: Available online at [sfxstl.org/parishioner-registration](http://sfxstl.org/parishioner-registration) or at the Parish Center front desk. For questions email [church@sfxstl.org](mailto:church@sfxstl.org).

Youth Faith Formation: Catechesis of Good Shepherd classes are available for preschool through 6th grade level students. Traditional religious education classes are available for grades 1 through 8. Classes meet September - May on Sunday mornings. Contact Jennifer Quick at [jennifer@sfxstl.org](mailto:jennifer@sfxstl.org) or Julie Kilian at [julie@sfxstl.org](mailto:julie@sfxstl.org) for more information.

Safe Environment Program Compliance contact Terry Edelmann at [terry@sfxstl.org](mailto:terry@sfxstl.org).

To reach the Pastoral Council, email [sfxpc@sfxstl.org](mailto:sfxpc@sfxstl.org).

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**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Anonymous Faculty member  
 Winnie Agniel  
 Mary Kate Agniel  
 Dave Ampleman  
 Margaret Baughman  
 Maureen Carney\*  
 Tara Chandler  
 Madeline Dames  
 Tom Engelhardt  
 Steve Frank\*  
 Sue Griffard  
 Joanie Hasser\*  
 Butch Henning\*  
 Yvonne Jayasuriya  
 Terry Kippenberger\*  
 Uly Labilles  
 Donna Leach-Heimos  
 Tom McDermott  
 Eddie McDevitt  
 Angie Menard\*  
 Karena Menard\*  
 Barb Michael  
 Rea O'Neill  
 Terry O'Toole  
 Fr. Dick Perl, SJ\*  
 Tim Plunkett  
 Mark Roddy\*  
 Alicia S.  
 Mikell S.  
 Mark Segovia  
 Fr. Gary Seibert, SJ\*  
 Ned Spencer  
 Greg Stephen  
 Debbie Webers  
 Robert Wilmott

\* Long-term

**Prayer requests to:**

[church@sfxstl.org](mailto:church@sfxstl.org)

Or visit [sfxstl.org](http://sfxstl.org), and find the form under "Parish Life."

**Join our prayer group on Zoom,**

Friday mornings at 9:

Contact Bridget Brennan at  
[joy@canainstitute.org](mailto:joy@canainstitute.org) for info.

**Reflection from our Director of the Work**

By Katie Jansen

The Synod on Synodality continues!

"Synodal" and "synodality" are ... terms that "speak of a mode of being Church that integrates communion, mission, and participation". So they indicate a way of living the Church, valuing differences and developing the active involvement of all.<sup>1</sup>



The foundation of this way of living church is relational. The most important "work" any of us can do is to get to know those around us - to listen to each other's stories - to encounter one another. Pope Francis would like us to become "experts in the art of encounter." Fr. Timothy Radcliffe, OP asked Synod participants to see their primary work as making friendships. "This Synod will be fruitful if it leads us into a deeper friendship with the Lord and with each other."<sup>2</sup>

At College Church, we want to continue to offer opportunities for parishioners to build friendships. We want to offer spaces for encounter. Beginning in the month of February and going through Lent, there will be opportunities to gather virtually and in person. There will be Parishioner Roundtables, Lenten Book Groups, and Ignatian Contemplation nights. The common Catholic question during Lent is "What are you going to give up?" These activities offer us an opportunity to "give up" feelings of isolation and disconnection.

*We are embraced by the healing friendship of God which unlocks the doors of the prisons we create for ourselves.<sup>2</sup>*

*This friendship was offered to disciples, to tax collectors and prostitutes, to lawyers and foreigners. It was the first taste of the Kingdom.<sup>2</sup>*

We are invited to prioritize encountering others and building friendships. In so doing, we imitate Jesus and build the Church. And we get a taste of the Kingdom!

1. Read more from Fr. Timothy Radcliffe, OP: <https://bit.ly/synodfriendship-sfx>

2. Read more from the Synod Report: <https://bit.ly/synodreport-SFX>

**Voting Rights Advocacy Day**

The College Church Advocacy Committee invites you to join us in Jefferson City! We'll be joining a Voting Rights Advocacy Day sponsored by the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition on Tuesday Jan. 30, 2024, at the State Capitol from 9am - 1pm. This is a great opportunity for you to learn about legislation impacting our democracy, meet with lawmakers, and attend a committee hearing. No experience required!

The Advocacy Committee will coordinate carpooling for the 30th, preparation for the day, and debriefing your experiences afterwards. The focus issues for this non-partisan advocacy day will be protecting Missouri's long-standing citizen initiative process, protecting election workers, and expanding ID access for all. Register online at <http://bit.ly/Jan30Lobby> - and be sure to let the Advocacy Committee know, too! Just email us at [sfxadvocacy@gmail.com](mailto:sfxadvocacy@gmail.com). We hope to see you on the 30th!



## Antiracism at College Church

At College Church, antiracism is an expression of our recognition that all are created in the image of God. As such, we respond—personally and collectively—to the call to identify, and to actively challenge, structures and systems that devalue people on the basis of race, and to practice restoration in the pursuit of justice.

### Peace in The Holy Land

It would be hard to overstate the immense suffering that has been and continues to be endured by the people who live in the Holy Land. It has been widely reported that since October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 1140 Israelis have been killed, 250 taken hostage—132 of whom are still being held—24,100 Palestinians have been killed—8,000 of them children. The people of Gaza struggle to survive without the needed humanitarian supplies of food, water, and medical care and live in fear of bombing. Families and friends of those still held by Hamas wait for news of their loved one's return. Protests of the actions of each side have provoked acts of violence against Palestinians, Jews, and Christians have erupted around the world.



As people of faith, how are we to respond to such pain and injustice? In a pastoral letter written in 2015, Bishop Edward K. Braxton addresses racial injustices in this country by asking us to “listen, learn, think, pray, and act.” These practices can be applied to the war in Palestine. We can listen to the voices and experiences of people who are suffering. It is likely we will hear views both similar to and different from our own. We must listen with the intent to understand and to learn—even when listening may be difficult. We pray—seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit to discern the truth and to act out of love.

Another voice we hear is from the United States Council of Catholic Bishops who issued a statement on December 16, 2023. “We call for an immediate cessation of all hostilities, the release of hostages, and for earnest negotiations towards a peaceful resolution of this conflict. We resolutely join our voices with the Holy Father, Pope Francis, reminding all parties in this conflict, that war is never the answer but always a defeat. We plead, ‘peace, please peace!’” In addition, the Church World Service is calling on U.S. citizens to take action to urge their senators and representatives to publicly call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, support humanitarian aid and protect civilian life.

We pray,

God of Love, Peace, and Justice,

Two thousand years ago, You chose the Holy Land as the place of the Incarnation of Your Son.

Born poor, he was made to be a refugee, fleeing to Egypt.

Today, Jews, Christians, and Muslims in Israel-Palestine suffer as Jesus did; hold them close and comfort them.

In the Bible, You tell us to welcome the stranger, to respond to evil with truth and goodness, and to treat all people as siblings and neighbors. Empower us to advocate for the rights and dignity of all Israelis and Palestinians, to reject dehumanization and bigotry in our own communities.

We pray that a deep and lasting peace, built on justice, will be incarnated in the land that was Your home.

Amen.

### Mother Mary Lange and Oblate Sisters of Providence

The Oblate Sisters of Providence was the first successful religious congregation in the world established by women of African descent. It was formed by four women from the Caribbean who had immigrated to Baltimore, MD.

In those days, Haitian refugee children could not master their catechism lessons because they couldn't read. In 1828, two women who ran a school for Black children in their home, Elizabeth Lange (eventually Mother Mary Lange) and Maria Balas, started caring for African American children. Along with two more women, they studied to become Sisters and opened a Catholic school for girls – Saint Frances Academy, which continues as the oldest school for Black children in the U.S.

The women professed their vows on July 2, 1829. A bigger school and chapel were built that served all of Baltimore's Black Catholics. It was the first place in America where Black Catholics had their own space for worship. The Order continued to grow. They opened a school for boys, more schools for Black girls, held evening classes for women, and established a home for widows.

In 1880, the Oblate Sisters accepted an invitation from  
*Continued on next page*



Mother Mary Lange

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the pastor of St. Elizabeth's parish – the only Catholic parish in St. Louis for the Black community – to teach in the parish school operated in the church basement. The sisters transformed the school into an institution with its own building for day students and boarders. They also established St. Francis Orphan Asylum on Page Ave. (later moved to Normandy, MO). But when the parish moved to Pine Street the school was closed, so the Sisters established St. Rita's Convent for Colored Nuns and Girls. They soon outgrew their building and purchased property on South Broadway. White people in the neighborhood tried to stop them from moving there, but the Sisters prevailed. St. Rita's Academy existed from 1912 until it closed around 1950.

By that time more than 300 Oblate Sisters of Providence taught and cared for African American children in 18 states. They also had missions in the Dominican Republic, Cuba, and Costa Rica. Currently the order has approximately 80 members. The Sisters continue serving God's people in Baltimore, MD, Miami, FL, Buffalo, NY, and Costa Rica.



Oblate Sisters Leadership Team today

### Significant Figures in Racial History

Mohandas Gandhi – died January 30, 1948, in New Delhi, India. Though a devout Hindu all his life, he embraced Jesus' law of love described in the Sermon on the Mount. It became the basis for his lifelong practice of nonviolence to bring about social change. Gandhi was gunned down by Hindu nationalists opposing his attempts to overcome conflict between Hindus and Muslims.

Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange – died February 3, 1882, in Baltimore, MD. Born in Haiti, Lange immigrated to the

U.S. in the early 1800's and founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence to evangelize the Black community through Catholic education. Hers was the first religious congregation of African American women in the U.S. Lange's cause for sainthood was introduced in 1991.

### Upcoming Events

**January 28** 12:00–6:00 pm Teens from across St. Louis are invited to participate in the St. Louis Youth Advocacy Workshop. Increase your skills and knowledge, and develop connections that will help you to impact the issues important to you. The event will be held at The Legacy Center, 6850 Normandale Dr., 63121. Lunch will be provided. Go to [wymancenter.org/st-louis-youth-advocacy-workshop/](http://wymancenter.org/st-louis-youth-advocacy-workshop/) for more information and to register.

**February 7–9** 9:00 am–5:00 pm Crossroads Antiracism Organizing and Training is offering a three-day workshop, *Toward Liberation*, in the College Church ballroom. This dynamic workshop explores a power analysis of white supremacy and systemic racism in the United States. Cohorts of participants are introduced to key frameworks for describing and understanding how white supremacy and systemic racism operate within institutions and deepen their learning through large group discussions, experiential activities, small group sharing, and individual reflection. This workshop will be open to the public. We ask that participants have previous experience engaging with Crossroads' analysis of systemic racism by having participated in one or more of our workshops; the list of options can be found online at this website: [crossroadsantiracism.org/register/](http://crossroadsantiracism.org/register/). If you are interested, please contact Lisa Burks, [lburks60@gmail.com](mailto:lburks60@gmail.com) or Winnie Sullivan, [penultim@swbell.com](mailto:penultim@swbell.com)

**For more information, or to become part of anti-racism ministries, contact Winnie Sullivan [penultim@swbell.net](mailto:penultim@swbell.net) or Lisa Burks [lburks60@gmail.com](mailto:lburks60@gmail.com).**



## SFX YOUTH FAITH

Pancake

## BREAKFAST

February 11th

After the 8:00 and 10:30 Masses

Tickets \$10 per adult, \$7 per child or \$40 per family

**All you can eat Pancakes, Sausage, Juice and Coffee**

Pancakes from Chris Cakes

Skip the line and purchase tickets at

<http://bit.ly/SFXpancakes>; tickets can also be purchased at the door.



## Circle of Creation Green Corner

If you would like to bring to the attention of the Circle of Creation Committee information and/or events related to environmental justice, please feel free to email [fran@drfransmathstronglab.com](mailto:fran@drfransmathstronglab.com).



Great Rivers Greenways has a [short slide show](https://greatriversgreenway.org/volunteer) [greatriversgreenway.org/volunteer] picturing how you could volunteer.

### Public Electronics Recycling events

[mrc-recycling.squarespace.com/electronics-recycling-events](https://mrc-recycling.squarespace.com/electronics-recycling-events)

March 2, 8:00 AM to Noon

2505 South Brentwood Boulevard

Brentwood, MO, 63144

hosted by the City of **Brentwood**

March 8 (Fri.), 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM

231 South Brentwood Boulevard

Clayton, MO, 63105

hosted by the City of **Clayton**

March 9 (Sat.), 8:00 AM to Noon

231 South Brentwood Boulevard

Clayton, MO, 63105

hosted by the City of **Clayton**

March 9, 9:00 AM to Noon

2497 Creve Coeur Mill Road

**Maryland Heights, MO 63043**

hosted by Pattonville High School

### Visit the College Church Circle of Creation Committee's Green Corner

[sfxstl.org/circleofcreation](https://sfxstl.org/circleofcreation) on the Parish website to keep up to date on resources related to caring for creation, including public electronics recycling events.

### January 27-28

Saturday  
5:15 pm Fr. McMahon, S.J.

Sunday  
8:00 am Fr. Redding, S.J.

10:30 am Fr. Redding, S.J.

### February 3-4

Saturday  
5:15 pm Fr. Dan Daly, S.J.

Sunday  
8:00 am Fr. McMahon, S.J.

10:30 am Fr. McMahon, S.J.

### This Sunday's Scripture Readings

#### First Reading:

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

#### Responsorial Psalm:

Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9

#### Second Reading:

I Corinthians 7:32-35

#### Gospel:

Mark 1:21-28

### Bulletin Articles

Email bulletin articles to Camille Smith, at [bulletin@sfxstl.org](mailto:bulletin@sfxstl.org), before Thursday at noon 10 days before the bulletin date.

### Help Needed:

There will be a new session of  
Imagine: A Guide to Ignatian Contemplation  
7pm on Monday evenings during Lent with Fr. Tucker

Would anyone be able to assist Fr. Tucker  
with set up and clean up on any of these Mondays?

To volunteer, please email  
[sfxFaithEnrichment@gmail.com](mailto:sfxFaithEnrichment@gmail.com)

### College Church Accessibility

As a reminder, **assistive listening devices** are available for our liturgies. Please let the ushers know if you would like to use one.