



Family Mass 2023 (photo by Michael Burks)

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 7, 2024
The Epiphany of the Lord

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/collegethurchmass

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 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, 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 with questions.

Christian Initiation of Adults: contact Joe Milner at 314-977-7305 or 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 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 or at the Parish Center front desk. For questions email 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 or Julie Kilian at julie@sfxstl.org for more information.

Safe Environment Program Compliance contact Terry Edelman at terry@sfxstl.org.

To reach the Pastoral Council, email sfxpc@sfxstl.org.

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joy@canainstitute.org

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Anonymous Faculty member
 Mary Kate Agniel
 Dave Ampleman
 Margaret Baughman
 Samuel Belk
 Maureen Carney*
 Tara Chandler
 Tom Engelhardt
 Steve Frank*
 Sue Griffard
 Joanie Hasser*
 Butch Henning*
 Yvonne Jayasuriya
 Laura Kaiser and Family
 Terry Kippenberger*
 Uly Labilles
 Donna Leach-Heimos
 Julianne Lister
 Tom McDermott
 Eddie McDevitt
 Angie Menard*
 Karena Menard*
 Barb Michael
 Rea O'Neill
 Terry O'Toole
 Nancy Partridge* & Glider
 Fr. Dick Perl, SJ*
 Tim Plunkett
 Helen Risse
 Mark Roddy*
 Jennifer Saunders*
 Mark Segovia
 Fr. Gary Seibert, SJ*
 Ned Spencer
 Greg Stephen
 Debbie Webers
 Robert Wilmott

* Long-term

Prayer requests to:

church@sfxstl.org

Or visit 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 for info.

The Diligent Search

By Ann Garrido (from her book *Let's Talk About Truth*)



[W]hile the magi depart from Jerusalem to "go and search diligently for the child," Herod himself remains seated on his red velvet cushion. The magi continue their thousand-mile trek, but Herod is not curious enough to join them for the final five miles from Jerusalem to Bethlehem to see for himself. "When you have found [the child], bring me word," he commands. Scripture, yes, he has that; but not one ounce the spirit of a scientist. Indeed, he sees [the magi's] quest as dangerous. As threatening the status quo.

So often in our modern world . . . scientific pursuit and religious faith are caricatured as opposing options and we are asked to ally with one or the other. Some say it's impossible nowadays to be a scientist who also is part of a faith community. Some say they've never met a religious person who remains curious and open to pursuing tough questions. . . . [But] close observation of the natural world coupled with rigorous curiosity is a path that we can trust will lead us closer to God, not further away. When we are fearful and afraid of upsetting the status quo, we will be tempted to perch on our own red velvet cushions and look at others who have traveled different paths with suspicion. But when we love and seek truth, wherever and however it is found, we find all paths merge, eventually leading to the same place.

. . . [T]he magi—those seekers from the East, who, upon having their curiosity struck by the rising of a new star, will not stop searching for its meaning, no matter how far they must travel. And pursuing truth wherever it leads, in whatever form it comes, they arrive at the place genuine seekers always inevitably seem to end up: face to face with God.

Ready to start 2024 by joining a small faith Community with other SFX members?

A small faith group meets monthly at the home of Peg Woodworth in University City on the third Thursday of the month, from 2-3:30 pm. It is hosted by parishioners, Peg Woodworth and Anita Blattenberger. For more information or to join, please contact Bridget Brennan at joy@canainstitute.org or 314-313-0613.

Fair Trade Sales This Sunday!

Fair trade coffee, tea, chocolate and more will be available in the vestibule for purchase after the 8 am and 10:30 am Masses on Sunday, January 7th. All sales support our sister parish, St. Peter Claver in Belize.



Jeff Leonard

Living Our Faith: Meet Jeff

(Note: this is one of a series of profiles of parishioners to help us all get to know one another better. If you are interested in participating, or want to suggest we highlight a parishioner friend, contact Angela at angela@sfxstl.org.)

An SFX parishioner since: 2014. Backstory: in 2012 my wife, Robin, and I moved from Columbus, Ohio to St. Louis with our boys, Jack and Sam, who were in second grade and kindergarten. We felt disconnected from our neighborhood parish after deciding to send the kids to public school, so we decided to try College Church. At our first Mass, Angie Doerr swept up the boys to have them join the other kids in religious education. We immediately knew we were “home,” including my wife, who’s not even Catholic!

Living my faith: I got involved pretty quickly. I was active in the parish’s Strategic Planning process in 2014. In 2015 I joined the Pastoral Council, including two years as chair. Once I rolled off in 2021, I became a lector. I also helped represent the parish during the All Things New process. Lately, I’ve been involving in analyzing parish donation patterns, and providing recommendations to the Development Commission on how to ensure that SFX is on solid financial footing in the future.

Why I’m involved: I went to De Smet Jesuit High School, and our motto was “Men for Others.” That really stuck with me and has been a guiding tenet my entire life. I also think College Church is in a unique position as part of the North Deanery. We’re an active parish. How can we join our neighbors in North City to live our Ignatian Spirituality together?

Three words that describe SFX: Ignatian, Engaged, Inclusive

My neighborhood: We live in Clayton. We like being centrally located in the region, able to walk and bike easily to restaurants, Forest Park and other spots.

Fun facts: I work in Marketing at Wells Fargo, and have loads of hobbies: cooking, gardening, playing the guitar, painting. Robin has her own travel business, which keeps her busy gallivanting about the globe.

My first job out of college was interning for a U.K. Member of Parliament. I’d studied in France as a sophomore, so I was itching to get back to Europe after I graduated. It sounds much more glamorous than it was, and London was gritty and on edge with Margaret Thatcher at the helm. But living abroad twice provided great experiences, and helped inform my world view and propelled my curiosity.

St. Francis Xavier’s parish family represents diverse backgrounds, with many immensely talented, deeply engaged, warm and welcoming parishioners. Learn more about how to become involved by calling (314) 977-7300 or visiting sfxstl.org.

DO YOU HAVE A FEW HOURS EACH WEEK TO MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE? St. Francis Community Services – Southside Immigrant Services Center, located at 4222 Delor St. (63116) needs tutors and helpers for their “After School Program”! Designed for youth in kindergarten through 5th Grade, the Program runs Mondays through Thursdays from 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. You can help for just one day or more, flexible hours. You will assist children with homework, reading, and other weekly assignments. If interested, contact Jazmin at Jpintor@ccstl.org or (314) 632 - 6704.

**Pastoral Care Commission
Spotlight on Seniors
2024 Program**

Join with us to learn, to celebrate, to grow in our faith, build friendships and Community
Ballroom Lecture Series following 10:30 Mass

January 14th: Yet Another Journey into Yes, Continuing to allow God to lead us gracefully on our myriad journeys. Presented by Jesuit Father Mike Harter, S.J. Father Harter, a member of the Central-Southern Province, has served the Society of Jesus not only in our own Province but from Oregon to New York and from Canada to Australia, gracefully learning to say Yes on his own personal zig-zag journey. Currently Father Harter is a member of the support staff at St. Ignatius Hall, Florissant, serving our retired, elderly and infirmed Jesuits. Please join us for a presentation of a Yes lived in faith sprinkled with a touch of humor.

February 11: Just in time for Valentine's Day: **The Centrality of the Heart In Prayer. How is it that our hearts and brains are wired for compassion, how the connection between heart and brain lead us to prayer, care and love.** Presented by parishioner and spirituality guru, Sandy Spencer. You don't want to miss this.

March 10th: Tips and Challenges in choosing among long term care options: independent living; assisted living, memory care and skilled Nursing. Presented by Linda DeSmet. Linda was on staff at the Alzheimer's Association for 18 years, served as Family Support Specialist at a Residential Living Center and recently moved into an independent living community. Linda holds a Masters degree in gerontology. Join us for an informative presentation with time for questions.



SAVE THE DATE!

Walking Together

**A Discussion on the State of Our Parish
Sunday, February 4, 2024**

**11:30 am - 1:00 pm (Immediately after
10:30 Mass)**

College Church Ballroom



Every member of SFX Parish is invited to participate in this important discussion about our journey to become a synodal parish. Join other members of the SFX family to hear updates on our priorities and progress, express your views and questions, and enjoy fellowship.

Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/SFXWalkingTogether>



TODAY & TOMORROW

CHANGING THE FUTURE — ONE CHILD AT A TIME

partners, TTEF has limited scholarship for all Catholic High Schools. For questions, please call Laura George at (314)-792-7623, or email ttef@archstl.org.

The Today and Tomorrow Educational Foundation, TTEF, opens the scholarship applications for the 2024-2025 school year on Monday, January 22, 2024, at 8:00am. They encourage all families to apply for scholarships.

For NEW and RETURNING families, an online application is required. Please visit: ttef-stl.org

A complete application requires proof of income.

TTEF offers scholarships to all Archdiocesan Elementary Schools

and all non-public schools in the City of St. Louis. With their

partners, TTEF has limited scholarship for all Catholic High Schools. For questions, please call Laura George at

(314)-792-7623, or email ttef@archstl.org.



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.

Meeting MLK in St. Louis

Since 1983, the third Monday in January has been designated as a federal holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., making him the first modern private citizen to receive this distinction. His leadership and legacy have come to be synonymous with civil rights, social justice, and nonviolent social change—all of which came from his call and commitment as a preacher and pastor. A fourth generation Baptist minister, King became the pastor at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama, at age 25, a position he resigned when the responsibilities of national leadership did not allow enough time to care for the spiritual needs of his congregation. He then directed his pastoral service throughout the country with an inspirational guidance that helped usher in the end of legalized racial segregation.



While most are familiar with the well-publicized national events that marked the course of King's life, far fewer are aware of his presence and influence locally. Between 1954 and 1964, he is believed to have visited St. Louis as many as nine times. During those visits, he spoke at the Washington Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, United Hebrew Congregation, Temple Israel, and Christ Church Cathedral, challenging those institutions to confront their own prejudices. And on October 12, 1964, just days before receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, King came to St. Louis University, responding to an invitation to participate in the Student Conclave Issues Series. He addressed an audience of 3,900 students, faculty, staff, and community members at the gymnasium on West Pine. "We have come a long, long way, but we have a long, long way to go," King told the group, as he described the struggle to eradicate racism and effect change. Those in attendance remember that the gym "was packed, with standing room only," and that the speech was "mesmerizing."

Reflecting on King's visit to SLU, Christopher Collins, S.J. remarked, "As I understand it, Dr. King was influenced by elements of the Catholic social teaching tradition, such as, first and foremost, making a philosophical case based on reason that all people are

created equal and carry the same dignity." Could there be any better way to begin the new year than by remembering that basic truth, which King advanced so powerfully—including here in St. Louis—and to whose realization he dedicated his life?

MLK Day ON of Service 2024 Building Beloved Community

"Our goal is to create a beloved community, and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives."

- The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King often spoke of The Beloved Community. It was his vision of a world in which everyone will be cared for. Poverty, hunger, and oppression will be replaced with an inclusive society where all will share in the wealth of the earth. Disputes will be resolved through peaceful means. War and power will no longer be used to conquer enemies. Adversaries will be reconciled. King did not see this Beloved Community as an abstract ideal but, compelled by his Christian faith, believed it was achievable. However, he recognized that no single person or organization can create it in isolation. Individuals and institutions must work together to bring it into being. Dr. King devoted his life to building this Beloved Community.

For the last 20 years people have been honoring Dr. King's legacy of justice by participating in the National Day ON of Service. In 1994, Congress passed the King Holiday and Service Act that transformed a day "off" into a day of action and service to the community. It is the only federal holiday to be designated as a National Day of Service. All are invited to follow Dr. King's example and volunteer in some way that contributes to others. The Corporation for National and Community Service sponsors and coordinates many opportunities to volunteer on this date. Some local organizations plan events. Families and individuals may also choose to contribute in a particular way. Each of us can use this day to help build the Beloved Community.

For more information about the MLK Day ON of Service, visit the AmeriCorps site: tinyurl.com/2f648ayt

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Significant Figures in Racial History

Zora Neale Hurston – born January 7, 1891, in Notasulga, AL. Hurston was an African American author, anthropologist, and filmmaker. She wrote four novels and over 50 short stories, plays, and essays portraying racial struggles in the American South during the early Twentieth Century.

Sadako Sasaki – born January 7, 1943, in Hiroshima, Japan. As an infant, Sasaki was a victim of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima by the U.S. in 1945. Although she survived, she was exposed to so much radiation that she developed leukemia and died at age 12. Young Sasaki is remembered for spending her short life folding over a thousand origami cranes for the sake of world peace.

Tyre Nichols – died January 10, 2023, in Memphis, TN. Nichols was a 29-year-old black man who was stopped for a traffic violation by five Memphis police officers who brutally beat him. He died three days later. Further investigations concluded there was no probable cause for the traffic stop.

Mary Ellen Pleasant – died January 11, 1904, in San Francisco, CA. Pleasant was born into slavery, but became an entrepreneur, financier, real estate magnate, and abolitionist. A Catholic, her aim was to earn as much money as she could to help as many people as possible. Pleasant served African Americans before and during the Civil War with transportation, housing, and food.

Frankie Muse Freeman – died January 12, 2018, in St. Louis, MO. Freeman was a civil rights attorney for nearly

60 years. She was lead attorney in the case that ended racial discrimination in public housing in St. Louis. Freeman was the first woman appointed to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. In 2007, she was inducted into the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the MLK National Historic Site in Atlanta.

Current and Upcoming Events

January 12 – January 15 The Missouri History Museum will host a variety of family activities in celebration of the life and legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Programs will include crafts, storytelling, Gospel music, youth workshops and more. See their website for more details. mohistory.org/mlk-celebration

January 14 2:00 – 3:30 pm The St. Louis Art Museum will host the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. The program will highlight the richness of the Black experience in America and feature an original theatrical work inspired by photographs by Moneta Sleet Jr. in the Museum's collection. It is a free event. Check their website or more information. slam.org/event/2024-rev-dr-martin-luther-king-jr-celebration-boldly-embracing-a-legacy-of-greatness/

January 14 2:30 pm The Archdiocese of St. Louis will commemorate the legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis and the Annual MLK, Jr. Model of Justice Awards.

For more information, or to become part of anti-racism ministries, contact Winnie Sullivan penultim@swbell.net or Lisa Burks lmburks60@gmail.com



Our parish is located in the
Northern Vicariate of the
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS
Very Reverend Scott Jones, V.E. | Episcopal Vicar

Connect With the Northern Vicariate Office:

6052 Waterman Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63112
314-792-6510

Website:

<https://www.archstl.org/northern-vicariate>

Subscribe to Flocknotes:

<https://northernvicariate.flocknote.com/news>



Available Ad Space

Build your business and help us grow a vibrant faith community!

Bob Swagman from LPi, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our bulletin. Please consider purchasing an ad, sponsoring a charity, or in Memory of a Loved One. Your participation makes our bulletin successful, and you attract customers!

BENEFITS OF ADVERTISING

- Local, targeted community advertising for **one full year, at one low price.**
- A **FREE** ad listing on parishesonline.com.
- **FREE**, professional ad design, and 4 free ad changes per year.

Bob Swagman 636-346-2058



BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER

Circle of Creation Green Corner



The St. Louis Post-Dispatch has two articles to help you reuse or recycle your Christmas tree. [How to give your Christmas tree a second life after the holiday](#) by Elizabeth Wolfe and Saeed Ahmed [[stltoday.com/life-entertainment/nation-world/home-gardening/how-to-recycle-repurpose-your-christmas-tree/article_181bcbb7-4a97-53ef-9f0f5c04d612a5f4.html](#)]. [Here's where to recycle your Christmas tree in the St. Louis region](#) [[stltoday.com/news/local/government-politics/heres-where-to-recycle-your-christmas-tree-in-the-st-louis-region/article_dfb2802a-a415-11ee-b5a8-a302db067a4e.html](#)]

St. Louis County Public Health provides a [Holiday Recycling Guide 2023](#) [<https://stlouiscountymo.gov/st-louis-county-departments/public-health/environmental-services/waste-and-recycling/2023-holiday-recycling-guide/>] which features many resources for recycling, including batteries, Christmas trees, and holiday lights.

The issue of dumping of tires has become a serious environmental and health concern. Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU) is asking Missourians to sign their petition to urge the State of Missouri to create a modern digital system for licensed scrap tire haulers to minimize the dumping of used tires and promote accountability. You can help make a difference by signing and also asking friends and family in Missouri to sign [secure.everyaction.com/vead3y817UaTKbzqVI5ICw2](#)

Franciscans For Earth are sponsoring "Climate Change-- Culture Change" presented by Jean Ponzi, the Green Resources Manager at the Missouri Botanical Garden, on Tuesday evening at 6:30 PM on January 9, 2024 at the Tau Center at 335 S. Kirkwood Road. Additional information and registration is here [[franciscansisters-olph.org/events/ffe-jan2024-kirkwood-309/](#)].

All people of good will can read this for free. APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION *LAUDATE DEUM* OF THE HOLY FATHER **FRANCIS** TO ALL PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS [vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html](#)

Open Space STL lists opportunities for volunteer service through various organizations, providing information and registration [volunteer.openspacestl.org/need/](#) Great Rivers Greenway lists events at various Greenway locations. You can look at [greatriversgreenway.org/events/](#) for volunteer opportunities.

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

[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 6-7

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

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

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

January 13-14

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

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

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

This Sunday's Scripture Readings

First Reading:

Isaiah 60:1-6

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13.

Second Reading:

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel:

Matthew 2:1-12

Bulletin Articles

Email bulletin articles to Camille Smith, at bulletin@sfxstl.org, before Thursday at noon 10 days before the bulletin date.

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.