



Shrine of Remembrance, 2023.

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

November 12, 2023
Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:15 pm, Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:30 am, 4:30pm (when school is in session), 8:00pm (when school is in session)

Online Masses will be posted on our YouTube channel. Subscribe here: tinyurl.com/collegechurchlivestream

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, 10:30 am through 11:45 am.

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 Edelmann at terry@sfxstl.org.

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

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Director of Wedding Music & Accompanist, Music Ministry

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Pastoral Ministry

Bridget Brennan
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joy@canainstitute.org

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Anonymous Faculty member
 Margaret Baughman
 Samuel Belk
 Maureen Carney*
 Tara Chandler
 Tom Engelhardt
 Bernadette Farrell
 Dick Fleming
 Steve Frank*
 Sue Griffard
 Jessi Haselhorst
 Joanie Hasser*
 Butch Henning*
 Jeanne Hermann*
 Laura Kaiser and Family
 Terry Kippenberger*
 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.

Reflection from Our Director of Stewardship

By *Angela Pancella*



Recently, our parish held a series of sessions exploring the idea of gifts. The inspiration came from conversations about our Ministry Fair; we wondered if it would be of benefit to parishioners to have a chance to learn more about their own giftedness before being presented with all the various ways to become more involved at St. Francis Xavier.

I was only able to sit in on a couple of the sessions, but found it a moving experience. After a reflection from different presenters like Joe Milner or Fr. Tucker, we had small group conversations at tables of no more than four or five people, which gave everyone a chance to share their thoughts on a variety of related topics.



The most profound moment for me was when we all spoke about our images of God. It turns out that the image I carry around in my head about who God is affects how I think about my gifts. Do I think God is sitting in heaven like an English professor with an editing pen, checking my work? I hear all the time that God *loves* me, but does that mean God also *likes* me?

The real gift of discerning gifts, it turned out, was taking the time to listen to each other as we let ourselves be vulnerable about these ideas. I am profoundly grateful to be part of a community that makes space available for these conversations to happen.

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED

With the hope of the Resurrection, we ask that you remember in your prayers:

Tom Schenk (brother of Rosemary Jermann)

May he and all the departed share in the peace and joy of God's presence forever.



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. All sales support our sister parish, St. Peter Claver in Belize.

Parish Men's White House Retreat, February 8-11, 2024

The parish men's retreat at the White House Jesuit Retreat Center (an easy drive to South County) begins Thursday evening, February 8, 2024 with 7:00 pm dinner and concludes on Sunday the 11th at about 1:00 pm following lunch. For early registration (now open), the White House is holding a limited number of College Church parishioner slots.



To get signed up or learn more, you can contact White House directly (www.whitehouseretreat.org, 314-416-6400) or just reach out to John Hartung (314-326-6018, jjhartung@aol.com), Bill Morrison (314-991-8599, wkmorrison534@yahoo.com) or David Schnelt (314-791-0227).

The retreat is a great opportunity to study and apply the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Retreatants have abundant quiet time to reflect and pray (in a beautiful setting) and are not asked to join in group discussions. We do, though, attend outstanding presentations by a Jesuit retreat director, may join in daily liturgy, and have many opportunities to meet individually with a priest. Accommodations and meals are excellent. No charge is specified for the retreat; retreatants are encouraged to consider any free will offering they can afford and find appropriate.

Xavier Winter Inn—Volunteers Needed!

Every winter, College Church hosts a Winter Inn, offering emergency shelter to unhoused individuals on Wednesday and Thursday nights from Dec.-Feb. The Winter Inn is run entirely by volunteers and provides hospitality on nights when temperatures drop below 20 degrees. We have hosted Winter Inn for over a decade and rely on volunteer support to offer this program.

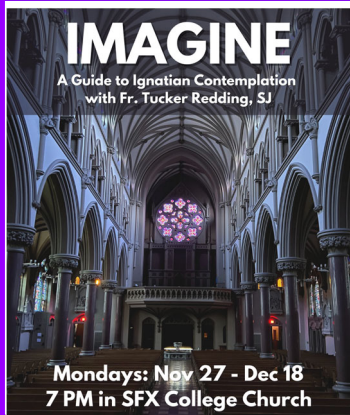


New and Returning Volunteers: Volunteer positions include Setup, Greeters/ Hosts, Innkeepers, Cleaners, Dinner Cooks and Laundry Drivers. Volunteers must register to attend a virtual training scheduled for Monday, November 13th from 7:00-8:30pm.

Register for the 11/13 volunteer training: <https://bit.ly/winterinn2023>

If the training date does not work for you, you can still volunteer! Please still register at the link above to receive the recorded training. Contact Anne Osdieck at aosdieck@gmail.com or (314) 313-0636 with any questions. Volunteers ages 13+ are welcome. Those under the age of 18 are required to be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Winter Inn relies on volunteer support each year. Thank you for considering plugging into this initiative!



Imagine: A Guide to Ignatian Contemplation with Fr. Tucker Mondays Starting November 27th

Ignatian contemplation is a form of prayer in which we use our imagination to see and interact with various scenes from scripture. St. Ignatius guides us through this prayer in his Spiritual Exercises.

This four-part series is a chance to learn about contemplation and experience it through guided exercises. Starting on November 27, we'll pray through the stories of Advent, including the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Journey to Bethlehem, and the Nativity. Feel free to come to any one or all of the evenings. For more information email sfxFaithEnrichment@gmail.com

**Mondays: Nov 27 - Dec 18
7 PM in SFX College Church**



Lara Talsky

Living Our Faith: Meet Lara

(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.)

Lara Talsky

I've been a parishioner for: My husband Joe and I joined the parish in the fall of 2019 soon after our move from Alton, Illinois. There are seven of us Talskys, including our five kids: Gabriel, Stella, Eva, Lydia and Julia.

Living my faith: I serve on the Youth Faith Formation Commission and in the past have assisted with CGS, which stands for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, one of two religious education programs offered here. This year, I'm part of the SFX Gala Committee. (Note: The Gala will be held on Nov. 17 at The Coronado to benefit our youth faith formation programs, among other ministries.)

Why I'm involved: Before SFX, I had never heard of CGS, and am moved by how powerfully effective it is for some of our very youngest Catholics. The program is Montessori-based and encourages children to grow in their faith through individual experience and service.

Overall, SFX has improved my life because it has created a space to meet wonderful people and form relationships that would not have happened otherwise. It's fulfilling a desire I have deep down to meet faithful folks concerned about social justice.

Three words that describe SFX: Open, Sincere, Innovative

My neighborhood: We live in Davis Place, just south of downtown Clayton. I love the walkability, parks, schools and neighbors. There aren't many (or any that I know of) large Catholic families in our neighborhood. When people see we have five children they (jokingly) ask if we are Catholic. I'm proud to say we are and share information about SFX with them.

Fun facts: I am a stay-at-home mom who daydreams her way through folding laundry and sweeping the kitchen floor. My undergraduate degree is in Theatre, and I have an MFA degree in Creative Writing. After all of the kids are in school, one of my ambitions is to bring to life a story that has been brewing in my head for the last five years by writing and producing a play.

St. Francis Xavier's parish family represents diverse backgrounds, ages and interests, with many immensely talented, deeply engaged, warm and welcoming parishioners. We come from all areas of the St. Louis region, including from over 80 zip codes. Learn more about our parish and how to become involved by calling (314) 977-7300 or visiting sfxstl.org

Advent Materials

The season of Advent begins on Dec 3. Following the Sunday morning masses, starting next Sunday, there will be Advent reflection booklets, books, and calendars available in the ballroom. The booklets include writings from various authors and the Little Blue Book is also available. There are daily reflections booklets for Advent and for all of 2024.

Come down to ballroom and find something to inspire you during the coming weeks of Advent.



Commemorating the Faithful Departed Through November

Each year, the church remembers all who have died and gone before us during the month of November. Here are parishioners and family members of parishioners we are remembering this November (if we are forgetting anyone, please let us know by emailing angela@sfxstl.org, and we will include them in the coming weeks):

Bill Bollwerk
 Judy Bradley
 Henri DeFoy
 Dorothy Marie DeLorenzo
 Thom Digman
 Laura Erickson
 Joan M. Felling
 Pat Greiner
 Mary Ann Grigone
 Khuadayer Hamdan
 Paul Hanson
 Carol Joselyn
 Rick Kalchik
 James Logan
 James Lewis Lowder
 Sr. Mary Kay McKenzie
 Arthur Mees
 Liz Moloney
 Suzanne Mondello
 Tommy Scott Moss
 Eugene Mueller
 Mary Nicholson

Greg Peterson
 Joan Rice
 Betty Schnorbus
 Tom Schenk
 Joan Seibel
 Mike Sepe
 Susan Stanec
 Francis Steffen
 Bill Tucker
 Joan Virgil
 Gloria Watson
 Diane Williams

Jesuit Fathers:
 Fr. John Apel, S.J.
 Fr. Robert Bosken, S.J.
 Fr. Ed Flaherty, S.J.
 Fr. Glenn Mueller, S.J.
 Fr. Chris Pinne, S.J.
 Fr. Gene Renard, S.J.
 Fr. James Short, S.J.
 Fr. Robert Sullivan, S.J.

May all the departed share in the peace and joy of God's presence forever.

Community Within Community

Are you interested:

- in deepening your spiritual life with other parishioners at SFX?
- in building community and connection?
- in engaging in regular fellowship?

If so, the Faith Enrichment Commission wants your feedback! We are considering a community offering for early 2024. We need your help! Please follow this link or the QR code for a very short form to give us your feedback: <https://forms.gle/c7p5NKTYney2RqWK6>





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.

Black Catholic History Month

November is Black Catholic History Month. It was instituted by the National Black Clergy Caucus in 1990 and is a time we celebrate the long history and proud heritage of Black Catholics. It is an opportunity to reveal the stories of faith and fidelity that enrich the entire Catholic Christian community.

College Church will celebrate Black Catholic History Month this year by presenting the Diverse Religious Imagery Project in the Ballroom after Sunday Masses today. Please join us in the ballroom to view the images and to reflect on your experience. It is also Donut Sunday, so refreshments will be served.

On November 19th we will share the soon-to-be-published volume of *Our Parish Racial History*. This booklet extends the stories presented in the current materials and adds to our understanding of the people and events that have shaped the spiritual community we are today. All are invited to the Ballroom after the Sunday Masses on November 19th to hear more about the development of this project and to receive a complimentary copy of the booklet.



Many other events in celebration of Black Catholic History Month are being sponsored by St. Louis University and throughout the St. Louis Community. Please see the Upcoming Events for more information.

Open the Eyes of The Heart: New Images of Holy People

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us, “Sacred art draws man to adoration, to prayer, and to the love of God” (CCC 2502). This project, *Open the Eyes of My Heart: New Images of Holy People*, shares imagery and artwork on saints and holy people made in the image of God with the hope that we reflect on how representation and being made in the image of God is shown and experienced in our Church.

Conversations about diverse imagery at College Church began in 2018 among parishioners in the Social Ministry Commission and Antiracism Team with an eagerness to invite in additional images that could better represent our community. The project

began with discussions about artwork in the religious education classrooms. Christina Ryan, co-lead on the project, explains why this topic of imagery was personal to her. “When my son, who is Black, was a toddler, I began a quest for religious materials and artwork that would look like him. This was much more difficult than I expected. The search also made me confront my own biases. I realized that my perception of heaven and divine was whitewashed, inspired by the Precious Moments dolls I collected as a child, the porcelain snowbaby angels that hung on my Christmas trees, and the countless images I have seen over the years in religious education and art history books, stained glass windows, Sunday bulletins, and family members’ homes. I began to grasp that who we see and who we don’t see in religious imagery makes a statement about our faith values and who has the privilege of being depicted as holy.”

Thi (pronounced tee) Nguyen, a parishioner and parent of two elementary-school children, was equally passionate about highlighting representative religious imagery in the church. She previously co-organized a diocesan event to celebrate cultural representations of our Blessed Mother for “Month of Mary” (2021, SFXSTL Antiracism Team), and an archdiocesan-hosted series on Divine Imagery and Art (2022, Archdiocesan Racial Harmony Committee). Thi shares, “Growing up, my parents placed a portrait of a Vietnamese martyr on our mantel beside a depiction of Our Lady of La Vang. The church we attended in rural Texas had Spanish and English masses, so I was able to gaze upon images of Our Lady of Guadalupe, too. Looking back, these images prompted curiosity about why people use different pictures of Mary and what it could mean to them. It gave me an environment to explore empathy. And also, when it was time to select a saint for my confirmation, I was given a book of [White] saints. My aspiration in curating these images is that when we hear the words ‘saint’ or ‘Catholic,’ we might envision all of God’s people as implied in that shared language.”

Together, Thi and Christina moved the project forward. They toured the church and parish spaces, imagining what was possible, and began researching artists and artwork. They learned about community

Antiracism at College Church

Continued from previous page

efforts and needs through meetings with SFX staff and members of the Arts and Environment Commission, Youth Faith Commission, and Pastoral Council. Ultimately, the discussions led to a decision to create a “wall of saints” that would represent diverse ethnicities, countries of origin, patronages, historical periods, individual stories, and artist backgrounds. Christina and Thi then gathered with a subcommittee of parishioners to discern the final selection of images.

Born of the conviction that representative religious art is a statement of the values of our faith, the hope is that *Open the Eyes of My Heart: New Images of Holy People* will start conversations that celebrate the saints among us and deepen our understanding of who is celebrated as sacred. We invite parishioners to view the images and do their own research into the details of the lives of these remarkably holy—and human—people. Please join us in the ballroom after Mass where the images will be displayed, and we can reflect on the opportunity they offer to “open the eyes of our hearts.”

- ..# How do images of holy people show us holiness in our everyday lives?
- ..# What media and experiences influenced my default images of Catholic faith?
- ..# How is my understanding of holiness enlarged, challenged, confirmed, contradicted, or otherwise affected by what I see and ponder?
- ..# Which images inspire and motivate me to learn more about the holy person pictured?
- ..# Does the identity of Jesus live somewhere in these images, whether individually or collectively?
- ..# How might these images affect my ability to encounter holiness in my life today in the present?

Diwali

The Hindu Festival of lights called “Diwali,” marks the Hindu New Year. It begins every year between mid-September and mid-November – this year November 12. The celebrations last five or six days. The word Diwali means “row of lights” in the ancient language of Sanskrit. It symbolizes spiritual “victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.” Thus, during the festival, people illuminate their homes, temples and workspaces with oil lamps, candles, or lanterns.

Diwali is often commemorated with fireworks and by decorating floors with colorful powders or sands in Sanskrit-type designs. Hindus have a ritual oil bath at dawn

each day of the festival. The festival is an annual homecoming period both for families and local communities. Many towns sponsor parades and fairs with music and dance performances. Some people send Diwali greeting cards during the season, often with something sweet (food is a major focus). Another part of the festival is remembering one’s ancestors.



Primarily a Hindu festival, variations of Diwali are also celebrated by other faiths such as the Jains, Sikhs, and some Buddhists. Each group venerates a particular god or goddess of their faith. Many honor “Lakshmi,” the Hindu goddess of wealth. People hope that the lights and lamps will help Lakshmi find her way to their homes, bringing prosperity in the new year! Such mythical tales shared on Diwali vary widely depending on the region and each particular tradition. Yet all share a focus on righteousness, self-inquiry, and the importance of knowledge as the path to overcoming the “darkness of ignorance.” Re-telling these myths remind listeners of the Hindu belief that good will ultimately triumph over evil.

Diwali originated in India but today it is celebrated in countries around the world. In fact, the city of Leicester in the U.K. holds the largest Diwali celebration outside India. Every year thousands of people gather in the streets to enjoy colorful light shows, music, and dancing! Isn’t it interesting to compare the similarities in how Diwali is celebrated to the ways we Christians celebrate our Christmas/New Year’s holidays?

Current and Upcoming Events

November 12 8:45 and 11:30 Join us in the Ballroom after the 8:00 am and 10:30 am Masses to view and discuss the diverse images of saints and holy people that will be installed in the Parish Center.

November 12 1:00 – 5:00 pm The St. Louis Archdiocesan Office of Racial Harmony is hosting a Black Catholic History Month celebration with guest speaker Cheryl Archibald, Parish Life Coordinator of St. Vincent DePaul and St. Pius V Catholic Churches and a panel presentation from the Archdiocesan implementation team of the National Black Catholic Congress. The event will be held at Pallottine Renewal Center, 17270 Old Halls Ferry Rd. 63034 Please RSVP if you will attend a light dinner. racialharmony@archstl.org or 314-792-7430.

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



Gala News!

This Friday, November 17th, is our gala!

Our silent auction page is now live, and you can bid whether or not you attend. We'll be adding items over the coming days and weeks, so be sure to check back regularly and start placing your bids.

Visit 2023sfxgala.givesmart.com and choose "View Items" under the heading "Browse, Bid and Buy."

We're especially excited to offer the SLU Basketball President's Box this year. You and your guests will be in the President's Suite for Billiken Men's Basketball on Tuesday, **November 28** vs Utah State. Suite capacity is 50 and includes food and drinks during the game.

Donated By Saint Louis University,
Dr. Fred Pestello



2023sfxgala.givesmart.com



Have you returned your Living Our Faith Commitment Card?

Our goal this year for our *Living Our Faith* campaign is full participation! Even if you are keeping your offertory giving the same this year, please return a Commitment Card to let us know. And, of course, we welcome your pledges for increased support. Every gift, big or small, helps us *Live Our Faith* through the ministries of St. Francis Xavier College Church. As parishioner Maurice Muia says, "At College Church we use our richness, our God given gifts to serve with our talents, some professional and some personal. This is done, because this is what our God and Savior Jesus Christ calls us to do."

You can fill out an online Commitment Card by using the QR code below.



Then, visit sfxstl.org/giving if you'd like to enroll in online giving or update your gift. If you have any difficulties with our online giving platform, please reach out to Angela at angela@sfxstl.org or (314) 977-74304.

Thank you, and God bless you for your generosity!

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER COLLEGE CHURCH
FAIR TRADE
CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER
 AT ZEE BEE MARKET MAPLEWOOD

ONLINE 24/7 THESE TWO DAYS ONLY AT WWW.ZEEBEEAMARKET.COM
 (ALL PURCHASES DELIVERED BY SFX TRADE VOLUNTEERS)
 OR
 SHOP IN-PERSON ONLY AT THE MAPLEWOOD STORE
 AT 7270 MANCHESTER RD, MAPLEWOOD, MO 63143

FRIDAY, NOV 10TH - 11:00-6:00
SATURDAY, NOV 11TH - 11:00-6:00
 SPECIAL WINE & CHEESE HAPPY HOUR EVENT
 FROM 4:30-6PM ON FRIDAY!



ONLINE SHOPPERS MUST STATE THAT THEY ARE SUPPORTING THE COLLEGE CHURCH FUNDRAISER WHEN CHECKING OUT AND SELECT "PICK UP" FROM EITHER STORE.

VOLUNTEERS WILL PROVIDE LOCAL DELIVERY FOR ONLINE ORDERS. NO SHIPPING AVAILABLE FOR ORDERS THROUGH THIS FUNDRAISER.

BASKETS FOR THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE IN THE BACK OF CHURCH



Anyone who has brought food for the Youth Faith Formation Thanksgiving Drive can put it on a barrel in the back of church. If you still want to help but don't have your food today, you can drop it off at the parish office this week.

Food requested are items to complete a Thanksgiving Dinner – canned vegetables and gravy, mashed potato or stuffing mix, or macaroni and cheese mix. No perishable food or glass jars. All food donated will be delivered to the Wellston Thrift Shop and Food Bank for Thanksgiving.

If you have any questions, please email Terry Edelman at terry@stxstl.org.

Advent Materials



The season of Advent begins on Dec 3. Following the Sunday morning masses, starting next Sunday, there will be Advent reflection booklets, books, and calendars available in the ballroom. The booklets include writings from various authors and the Little Blue Book is also available. There are daily reflections booklets for Advent and for all of 2024. Come down to ballroom and find something to inspire you during the coming weeks of Advent.

Thanksgiving Day Eucharist

November 23 is our American holiday, Thanksgiving. Our grateful ancestors paused from all the challenges of life to give thanks for all their blessings and opportunities. The Eucharistic liturgy is also our Catholic way of giving thanks. We recall all that God has done for us and ask God to continue to bless us. As you plan your Thanksgiving day, please consider sharing in the Thanksgiving Day Eucharist at College Church. There will be one mass that morning at 9:00 am and no Confessions.

On Friday, November 24, we will have our 7:15 am mass and confessions as per usual, but no noon mass.

Kairos Call to Action

Scripture...Current Events

Connect the Dots

"My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it." Luke 8:21 It is the 'do' part of Jesus' comment that challenges us. What, where, when, how and why are not always easy to discern. We will offer you the US response to Kairos Palestine curriculum at College Church. The course will be 6 weeks, 2 hours on Saturdays 3 pm-5 pm. (conveniently timed for 5:15 Mass.) We plan to begin after the holiday season. The class will be co-facilitated by Lea Koesterer and Bob Suberi. More details to come. If you want to keep yourself informed and engaged through this study, please email: **Lea Koesterer** at st.louisfriendsofbethlehem@gmail.com

Financial Update for Fiscal Year End June 30, 2023

Before we conclude the Living Our Faith offertory giving campaign and look forward to the new calendar year, I want to share a series of updates about our financial situation. In today's message, the first of three, I am providing details about our financial status at the end of our last fiscal year, which ended on June 30, 2023.

College Church has operated at a deficit of approximately \$100,000 the past two years. This year's deficit is on track to be about the same if we do not take action.

The primary reasons for this deficit are:

1. Our offertory collections have remained flat over the last five years. Like most parishes, we have fewer parishioners now than we did before the pandemic.

	ACTUAL Jul 22 to Jun 23	ACTUAL Jul 21 to Jun 22
411 - Offertory	\$665,600	\$693,600
415 - Unrestricted	\$78,900	\$82,600
43 - Restricted Gifts	\$152,100	\$116,600
Offertory Revenue	\$896,600	\$892,800
44 - Program Fees	\$27,000	\$48,700
45 - Investment	\$1,100	\$300
46 - Grant Revenue	\$72,000	\$35,800
47 - Other Revenue	\$260,600	\$312,400
49 - Merchant Acct Fees	-\$17,800	-\$19,000
Total Income	\$1,239,500	\$1,271,000
51- Personnel	\$730,300	\$684,700
52 - Supplies	\$43,500	\$40,900
53- Fees & Services	\$181,000	\$258,500
54- Occupancy	\$256,800	\$258,200
55 - Trfrs Other Parishes/Diocese	\$138,800	\$124,000
Total Expense	\$1,350,400	\$1,366,300
Other Expense	\$0	\$0
Net Income/(Loss)	-\$110,900	-\$95,300

2. We continue to see some growth in our parish, but we have not gotten back to the same size we were pre-pandemic. We have experienced a 5% cost increase due to inflation. We are pleased to report that due to thoughtful cost cutting and controls, this is below the 7-9% increase that most organizations are facing, but it still adds to our deficit.

During the pandemic, we were able to take advantage of one-time Covid relief funds. They sustained us during that difficult period. But now we need to find a longer term solution.

Our parish has money in reserve that can fill our deficit, but it will run out within two years at our current rate.

In the coming weeks, I will share the plans coming from our Finance Committee, Development Commission and Pastoral Council to improve our financial situation. I will share updates on our Living Our Faith campaign and progress on our Gala. You will also see our first quarter financial report.

I want to thank all of you for your support of College Church. I am continually reminded by each of you that within this parish there is an abundance of gifts and generosity. I am truly grateful for the ways you share your gifts with our parish.

If you have further questions, please contact me at katie@sfxstl.org.

Circle of Creation Green Corner

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 [se-cure.everyaction.com/vead3y8I7UaTKbzqV15ICw2](https://cure.everyaction.com/vead3y8I7UaTKbzqV15ICw2)

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

The final film of the **Fall 2023 Franciscans For Earth Eco-Series** is “Seeking Asylum, A Mother’s Journey” and will be shown via Zoom on Tuesday evening at 6:30 PM Central Time on November 14. Registration is available at fsolph.org/events. *Smithsonian Magazine Smart News September 18, 2023 brings this informative article “[Humans Have Exceeded Six of the Nine Boundaries Keeping Earth Habitable.](#)”*

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.

Public Electronics Recycling events

mrc-recycling.squarespace.com/electronics-recycling-events

November 18, 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM
359 Old Meramec Station Road
Manchester, MO 63021
hosted by City of **Manchester**

December 2, 9:00 AM to Noon
Electronics Recycling and Food Drive
13201 Clayton Road
St. Louis, MO 63131
hosted by Principia School

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.

November 11-12, 2023

Saturday
5:15 pm Fr. Redding, SJ
Sunday
8:00 am Fr. McMahan, SJ
10:30 am Fr. McMahan, SJ

November 18-19, 2023

Saturday
5:15 pm Fr. Daly, SJ
Sunday
8:00 am Fr. McMahan, SJ
10:30 am Fr. McMahan, SJ

This Sunday’s Scripture Readings:

First Reading:
Wisdom 6:12-16

Responsorial Psalm:
Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

Second Reading:
I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Gospel:
Matthew 25:1-13

Online Giving Available

<https://www.osvhub.com/sfxstl/>

Thank you for your gift!



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.