



*Christina Ryan and Thi Nguyen at the launch of Open the Eyes of My Heart: New Faces of Holy People
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

**November 26, 2023
The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe**

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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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*
 Uly Labilles
 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 on Our Parish History Project

By Katie Jansen, Parish Life Coordinator



None of us lives or acts in isolation. We are formed by those who came before us. We are influenced by the communities in which we exist. We share our traditions, we share our values, and we share our brokenness. We share the sin of racism in our society and in our church.

As Catholics we believe that we are created to be in communion with one another and with God. Communion IS right relation. In communion is how we were created by God to live. Our faith does not begin with sin but with the oneness of human beings with God, one another and creation.

Reconciliation comes from the Latin, "to bring together again". The biblical conception is rooted in the reality that human beings are estranged from God. Scripture is the story - the history - of God's desire to heal that division or separation. The fundamental work of God is to address what is broken to bring about wholeness.

I would suggest that this is truly our deepest desire as humans. And so it also becomes the ultimate answer to the question of WHY - Why we embark on a journey to become an anti-racist parish; why we look so deeply and intentionally at our parish history and our historical context.

As members of the Catholic Church, we know that our institution has at times fallen short of loving as God loves. We have fallen short of recognizing that each person is perfectly made in the image of God. We can all acknowledge that this has caused great pain. And we truly want that pain to stop. But we are afraid to step into the space of reconciliation even though it offers us the opportunity to experience communion and God's perfect love. To be reconciled we must be able to see clearly what is broken. We must acknowledge the hurts and accept responsibility for their impact. We have to scrutinize our assumptions and perspectives and our ways of relating to one another as individuals and as an institution.

And then, assured of God's love for us, we vulnerably and courageously take steps on a long path to repair the harm that has been done. Because we know God wants more for us. We know in our bones that things could be different, better. God wants each and every one of us to experience that we were created as perfect reflections of God to live in Communion.

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED

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

Anna Roetheli (mother of Chris Roetheli)

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

Widows and Widowers

The next meeting of Widows and Widowers will be this Sunday, November 26th, at 9:15 a.m. in the break room on the first floor of the Parish Center. Interested in attending? Contact Val Rutterer at vrutterer@gmail.com or 314-494-8986 for questions or more information.

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. (We will have College Church socks and Christmas ornaments for sale, too.)





Living Our Faith: Meet Katie

(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.)

Katie Aylmer

An SFX parishioner since: 2019. I joined the parish when I was starting my career as an occupational therapist in St. Louis. Previously, while I was in graduate school, I attended Mass at SFX as well as at a few neighboring parishes. I was always drawn to the beauty of College Church, as well as to the parish community—I felt welcome even as a Wash U graduate student.

Katie Aylmer

Living my faith: In 2019, I was sitting at Mass feeling a pull to put my faith into action. I read an item about St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) in the weekly bulletin, and joined SFX's conference in 2019. (Note: The College Church Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul helps our parish neighbors by assisting with utilities, rent, furniture and food.) In 2021, I became our conference's treasurer.

I also attended a few College Church Young Professionals events after I officially joined the parish, and look forward to attending more events in the future. Sandy Hauck helped put me back in touch with the group last summer. I met Sandy when my husband, Tom, and I were planning our 2020 wedding at SFX. It was rescheduled from May to December that year due to the challenges of the pandemic, and Sandy was resourceful and wonderful to work with.

Why I'm involved: SVDP at College Church has provided me with an opportunity to be the face of God for others and, in turn, see the face of God in those we assist. I've learned so much about myself and how God is calling me in different ways to serve the community.

SFX celebrates community through all of the parish's ministries and worship opportunities. This is a powerful connection that I have not experienced elsewhere, and it has deepened and broadened my faith.

Three words that describe SFX: Welcoming, Supportive, Just

My neighborhood: I lived in the Central West End as a grad student and later as a new professional and College Church parishioner. In 2020, my husband and I bought a house in Chesterfield. We love the area! I'm often in Midtown for work, and I'm enjoying the mix of experiences that both the City and County have to offer.

Fun facts: Since graduating from Washington University I've work in the school's occupational therapy program. I love working with students, conducting research and helping patients. Giving my time and using my talents through SVDP is such a welcome opportunity. It calls on me to use a different set of skills – more administrative and numbers-focused – to assist others. In the process, I've thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and learned so much about our community, the needs of our neighbors and the many resources that are available to assist them.

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.

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>

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.

The Giving Tree 2023: Gloves!

Given the huge number of requests for sturdy gloves that our Outreach Program has received in recent years, this year's Giving Tree will focus exclusively on providing for this particular need.

Here's how you can participate:

...Please take a paper ornament from the Giving Tree, located near the front of the south aisle toward the south transept.

...Purchase the listed item: either men's or women's heavyweight gloves.

...Return the wrapped item with the ornament attached to it by Sunday, December 17th

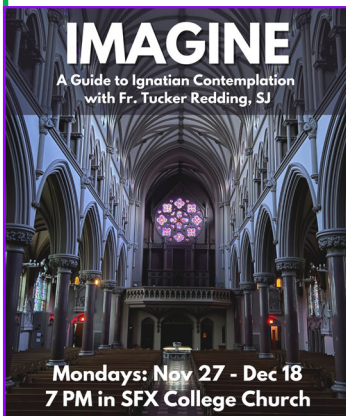
... Gifts may be returned to either a labeled receptacle in the vestibule of the church or to the parish center front office at 3628 Lindell Blvd. Please do NOT leave gifts under the tree.

...Gifts will then be distributed to guests of our State ID and Birth Certificate Program and neighbors supported by our St. Vincent DePaul Society.



Contact Christine Dragonette with any questions at christine@sfxstl.org or (314) 977-7309.

Thank you so much for your generosity!

**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**



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.

The History Committee is excited to share their just published volume of *Our Parish Racial History*. The booklet is an outgrowth of our parish equity review. Its contents extend the stories presented in the brochure and on the banners and add to our understanding of the people and events that have shaped the spiritual community we are today. In addition to an expanded look at the context in which College Church was founded and grew, the booklet contains interviews with longtime members of this community, as well as reflections on the importance of knowing—and being grounded in—our history. Please contact Winnie Sullivan to obtain a complimentary copy of the booklet: penultim@swbell.net.

The portraits displayed in church this week are part of a parish project called *Open the Eyes of My Heart: New Images of Holy People*. It is a portion of a larger collection of images of saints and holy people that represent diverse races, ethnicities, countries of origin, patronages, historical periods, and artist styles, which will be installed in the Parish Center. This artwork invites us to reflect on how we envision the communion of saints and to broaden our recognition and celebration of who is holy.

Visiting Sojourner Truth's Grave Site

November 26 marks the 140th anniversary of the death of abolitionist, Sojourner Truth. I knew very little about her, yet I was always fascinated by her name. Someone recently donated a book to our parish library about this amazing woman. She was born into slavery in upstate New York sometime in the late 1700s. Her birth name was Isabella Baumfree, but she was known as "Belle." At age 9, Belle was separated from her family and sold to a series of slaveowners, all of whom mistreated her badly. Eventually she married an enslaved man and bore 5 children, including one from a rape by her owner.

In 1799, New York state began abolishing slavery. Belle's

owner reneged on his promise to free her even after completing all agreed upon conditions. So, with infant daughter in hand, she escaped in 1826. Soon she learned that her 5-year-old son had been illegally sold to a slaveowner in Alabama. She sued in the New York courts for his freedom and was apparently the first Black woman in that state to win a case against a white man.



Belle moved to New York City and became Christian. Then on Pentecost Sunday 1843, she adopted the name, "Sojourner Truth," because she believed God was calling her on a journey to preach the truth about slavery. She drew great crowds wherever she spoke. She also became involved in the women's rights movement and spoke at the first National Women's Rights Convention in 1850. She usually spoke extemporaneously to such gatherings and at one event she began, "Children, I have come here like the rest of you, to hear what I have to say!"

After a long life of untiring struggle, Sojourner retired in Battle Creek, MI, where her daughters lived and cared for her until her death in 1883. Frederick Douglass delivered one of her eulogies.

Earlier this fall I travelled to Michigan City, Indiana, to see the graves of my great-great grandparents. While planning my trip I discovered that Battle Creek is only about an hour's drive beyond Michigan City. So, I took a side trip and visited Sojourner's gravesite, as well. I prayed over her grave, asking her to help guide our anti-racism efforts here at College Church.

By: David Werthmann

Significant Figures in Racial History

Moses Dickson – died November 28, 1901, in St. Louis, MO. Dickson was a soldier in the Civil War, a minister, and an abolitionist who founded the Knights of Liberty, an anti-slavery organization. He helped people escape slavery via the Underground Railroad. Dickson also helped found Lincoln University of Missouri, a historically Black university in Jefferson City.

Antiracism at College Church

Continued from previous page

Shirley Chisholm – born November 30, 1904, in Brooklyn, NY. In 1968, Chisholm became the first Black woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1972 she became the first African American to run for the office of U.S. President. Chisholm died in 2009 and was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

James Baldwin – died December 1, 1982, in France. Baldwin was an African American professional writer whose works won great acclaim. His writings cover complex psycho-social dilemmas, especially around themes of race and class. His characters usually face both interior and exterior obstacles as they search for self-acceptance.

Current and Upcoming Events

December 3 and December 9 4:00 pm The Community Gospel Choir of St. Louis will perform a free Christmas concert: *Go Tell It!* The performance on the 3rd will be held at the Northside SDA Church, 9001 Lucas and Hunt Rd. December 10th will be held at the Kirkwood United Methodist Church, 201 W. Adams Ave.

December 8 11:00 am - 2:30 pm Join the Catholic Mobilizing Network for this introductory workshop on restorative justice to learn basic concepts related to the application of restorative justice in ministry. The meeting will be held virtually, and the experience is interactive. For more information and to register go to:

tinyurl.com/5bwzhhbhy



JOIN THE CHANGE Social Ministry Christmas Appeal

Most of us have heard Margaret Mead's quote, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

That's just what happens each Tuesday morning as College Church opens its doors to serve the needs of guests seeking assistance through our ID and Birth Certificate Program.

As we enter the season of gratitude, please remember why this now 30-year-old program exists. Lack of ID hits hard for any person — yet it cuts most deeply for particular groups, including the unhoused or housing and financially insecure, those leaving incarceration and those who have experienced intimate partner violence, among others.

The second collection on the weekends of December 3rd and 10th will go to Social Ministry. You can also give anytime by sending in a check made out to St. Francis Xavier with "Social Ministry Appeal" in the memo or visiting: bit.ly/SocialMinistryAppeal (case sensitive link).

Before the doors open each Tuesday, SFX staff and volunteers gather in prayer to center into Christ's call for compassion. Today, we share one of their prayers — and ask that you join them in Spirit and generosity.

"Lord, we thank You for this day. Let us give it back to you in service to others. May we see Your Face in the faces of the guests we are about to greet, and welcome them with joy and gratitude for their coming, May our guests feel Your loving presence as we work with them today. Grant us humor and patience, and give us the wisdom and perseverance to sort out difficulties when they arise. You know our guests' deepest hopes and dreams. Help them achieve fulfillment and guide them in pathways to stability and peace. And, as always, thank You for giving us an opportunity to be of use to your people. Amen."

Circle of Creation Green Corner

At your St. Louis Public Library branch, look for the STL Recycles display and get a voucher for a FREE in-home blue recycling bin and a STL City Recycles bookmark.

ONESTL is promoting the [November 28, 2023 Sustainability Lab @ T-REX](https://onestl.org/news/648-november-28-2023-sustainability-lab-t-rex) [onestl.org/news/648-november-28-2023-sustainability-lab-t-rex] which will provide information on home energy rebates, incentives from Ameren, and tax incentives for climate action. More information about [Funding and Incentives for Climate Action](https://onestl.org/get-involved/regional-climate-action/take-climate-action) [onestl.org/get-involved/regional-climate-action/take-climate-action] is provided for individuals, businesses, and local governments.

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/vead3y8I7UaTKbzqVI5lCw2

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.

Public Electronics Recycling events

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

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

November 25-26, 2023

Saturday
5:15 pm Fr. McMahon, SJ

Sunday
8:00 am Fr. Redding, SJ

10:30 am Fr. Redding, SJ

December 2-3, 2023

Saturday
5:15 pm Fr. Redding, SJ

Sunday
8:00 am Fr. McMahon, SJ

10:30 am Fr. McMahon, SJ

This Sunday's Scripture Readings:

First Reading:

Ez 34:11-12, 15-17

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6

Second Reading:

I Cor 15:20-26, 28

Gospel:

Mt 25:31-46

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.