



## **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

### **December 3, 2023 The First Sunday of Advent**

#### **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](https://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 Edelman at terry@sfxstl.org.

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

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Pastoral Council Co-Chairs

Jen Hahn-Petruso and Aimee Wittman  
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Pastoral Care Ministry

Bridget Brennan  
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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  
 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](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 Parish Life Coordinator**

By Katie Jansen



The anniversary of the death of Dorothy Day is November 29th. As we journey to become a more synodal church, it seems appropriate that we reflect on how she accompanied people on the margins. She is an example of how Pope Francis and the Global Synod Assembly are calling us live. We are called to be “evangelized by those who suffer.” Truly listening “requires unconditional acceptance.”

Her reflection gives us a glimpse of what accompaniment looks and feels like on a daily basis: the intention it requires and the grace we can offer ourselves when we fall short.

“Despite my feeling of almost hopelessness and desperation, humanly speaking, I came through the day feeling singularly calm, peaceful, happy.

Three conclusions were the result of my praying. First: My getting into a temper helped nobody. But remaining loving toward all helped to calm them all. Hence a great responsibility rests on me. Second: It was cruel to be harsh to anyone so absolutely dependent, as they are, humanly, on my kindness. Third: It is a healthy sign that they are not crushed and humbled toward other human beings by their own miseries. I mean, going around meekly for fear of me, or being humble out of human respect. . . .

The aftereffects of last night’s and this morning’s heavy praying have been peace and joy and strength and thanksgiving, and a great deal of humility, too, at being so weak that God had to send me consolation to prepare me for the next trial.

I should know by this time that just because I feel that everything is useless and going to pieces and badly done and futile, it is not really that way at all. Everything is all right. It is in the hands of God. Let us abandon everything to Divine Providence.

And I must remember, too, that often beautiful scenery or a perfect symphony leaves me cold and dreary. There is nothing the matter with either the scenery or the music—it is myself. I have endured other miseries cheerfully at times. So I must be calm, patient, enduring, and meditate on the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

I am writing this for my consolation and courage some future day when God sees fit and thinks me strong enough to bear longer-continued crosses.

It is to remind myself so that maybe I will be stronger.” -Dorothy Day in *Give Us This Day*

**PRAY FOR THE DECEASED**

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

Jean Ursula Beirne (mother of Jim Beirne)

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](mailto:vrutterer@gmail.com) or 314-494-8986 for questions or more information.

**INTRODUCTORY RITES**

***Gathering: Christ, Circle Round Us***

*Schutte*

Verses

1. Come, O Ra-diant Dawn, splen-dor of the morn-ing light.
2. Come, O Flow'r of Love, ho - ly branch of Jes - se's tree.
3. Come, O Word of Truth, font of know-ledge from on high.
4. Come, O Gate of Hope, ho - ly door of heav-en's throne.
5. Come, O Might - y Lord, mas - ter of the stars of night.
6. Come, Em-man - u - el, cher-ished hope of Is - ra - el.
7. Come, Lord Je - sus Christ, long a - wait - ed Prince of Peace.

1. Come, Sun of Jus - tice, turn a - way the pow'r of night.
2. Come, Bough of Bless-ing, bloom for all the world to see.
3. Come, Ho - ly Wis-dom, be our faith - ful friend and guide.
4. Come, Key of Da - vid, o - pen wide the path-way home.
5. Come, Strength of Pil-grims, keep us in your lov - ing sight.
6. Come, live a - mong us, ev - er in our hearts to dwell.
7. Come, Hope of Na-tions, ev - er make our love in - crease.

Refrain

Christ, cir - cle round us. Christ, may your light sur -

round us. Shine in our liv - ing. Fill our hearts

with great thanks - giv - ing.

Text based on Advent 'O' Antiphons. Music based on *Salve Regina* (Chant, Mode V).  
Text and music © 1995, Daniel L. Schutte. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.



**ADVENT**

***LITURGY OF THE WORD***

***Responsorial Psalm 80***

***Guimont***



Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your  
face and we shall be saved.

Text: Refrain trans., *Lectionary for Mass*, © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL; verses, *New American Bible*, © 1970, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine  
Music: Michel Guimont, © 1994, 1998, GIA Publications, Inc.



***Gospel Acclamation***

***Mayernik***



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - i - a!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - i - a!

Music © 2007, Luke Mayernik. Published by TRINITAS. All rights reserved.

**Show us Lord, your love;  
and grant us your salvation.**

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*Presentation of the Gifts (10:30): As the Watchman*

*Joncas*

Refrain



As the watch-man waits for the dawn, so do I long for you, my God.

Text based on Psalm 63. Music and refrain text © 1981, 1982, Jan Michael Joncas Trust.  
Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.



*Holy, Holy, Holy: A Community Mass*

*ICEL/Proulx*

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.  
 Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Text: ICEL, © 2010  
 Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx, © 1971, 1977, 2006, 2010 by GIA Publications, Inc.

*Memorial Acclamation B: A Community Mass*

*ICEL/Proulx*

When we eat this Bread and drink this  
 Cup, we pro - claim your Death, O Lord, un -  
 til you come a - gain.

Text: ICEL, © 2010  
 Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx, © 1988, 2010 by GIA Publications, Inc.

*Amen: A Community Mass*

*ICEL/Proulx*

A - men, a - men, a - men.

The musical notation is on a single staff in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a final measure containing a quarter rest followed by a quarter note.

Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx, © 1971, 1977, 2006, 2010 by GIA Publications, Inc.

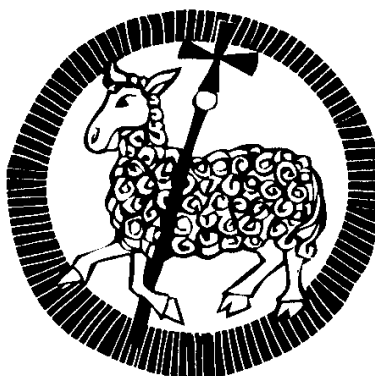
*Lamb of God: A Community Mass*

*ICEL/Proulx*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sins of the world, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of  
God, you take a-way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

The musical notation is on four staves in 2/4 time, key of B-flat major. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with various rests and phrasing marks. The time signature changes to 3/4 in the second measure of the first staff and back to 2/4 in the third measure of the first staff.

Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx, © 1971, 1977, 2006, 2010 by GIA Publications, Inc.





**COMMUNION RITE**

*Communion: Creator of the Stars of Night*

**CONDITOR ALMI SIDERUM**

Verses



1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, Your  
 2. In sor - row that the an - cient curse Should  
 3. When this old world drew on toward night, You  
 4. At your great Name, O Je - sus, now All  
 5. Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, Re -  
 6. To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, And



peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light, O  
 doom to death a u - ni - verse, You  
 came; but not in splen - dor bright, Not  
 knees must bend, all hearts must bow: All  
 deem us for e - ter - nal day; De -  
 God the Spir - it, Three in One, Praise,



Christ, Re - deem - er of us all, We  
 came, O Sav - ior, to set free Your  
 as a mon - arch, but the child Of  
 things on earth with one ac - cord, Like  
 fend us while we dwell be - low From  
 hon - or. might. and glo - ry be From



pray you hear us when we call.  
 own in glo - rious lib - er - ty.  
 Mar - y, blame - less moth - er mild.  
 those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.  
 all as - saults of our dread foe.  
 age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

To refrain

Refrain



Come, O Lord, and bring your light, O ra - diant



star, our hearts' de - light. O God - with - us, Em - man - u -



el, with your love, the dark dis - pel.

**COMMUNION RITE**

*Meditation (10:30 a.m.): Wait for the Lord*

*Taizé/Berthier*

Ostinato Refrain

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Spanish: *Con - tem - pla - ré tu vi - da en mi.*

Polish: *Pan blis - ko jest, o - cze - kuj Go.*

Italian: *Cri - sto Ge - sù io spe - ro in Te.*

Vietnamese: *Hãy biết đợi Chúa Đây ngày gần rồi*

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

*Con - tem - pla - ré, Se - ñor, tu a - mor.*

Pan blis - ko jest, w Nim ser - ca moc!

*Sei tu Si - gnor la pa - ce del cuor.*

Chờ mong Thiên Chúa: tâm trí kiên cường.

Text: Isaiah 40, Philippians 4, Matthew 6-7; Taizé Community, 1984  
 Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994  
 © 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent



**CONCLUDING RITE**

***Recessional: The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns***

***MORNING SONG***



1. The King shall come when morn - ing dawns And  
 2. Not, as of old, a lit - tle child, To  
 3. The King shall come when morn - ing dawns And  
 4. And let the end - less bliss be - gin, By  
 5. The King shall come when morn - ing dawns And



light tri - um - phant breaks, When beau - ty gilds the  
 suf - fer and to die, But crowned with glo - ry  
 earth's dark night is past; O haste the ris - ing  
 wea - ry saints fore - told, When right shall tri - umph  
 light and beau - ty brings. Hail, Christ, the Lord! Your



east - ern hills And life to joy a - wakes.  
 like the sun That lights the morn - ing sky.  
 of that morn Whose day shall ev - er last.  
 o - ver wrong, And truth shall be ex - tolled.  
 peo - ple pray: Come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1857–1925, alt.  
 Tune: MORNING SONG, CM; John Wyeth, 1770–1858; arr. by Robert J. Batastini, b.1942



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Carlita Logan

### Living Our Faith: Meet Carlita

(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](mailto:angela@sfxstl.org).)

An SFX parishioner since: 1975. I was moved to tears when the Choir director sang “How Can I Keep from Singing” at an Advent concert. It hit home and told my story so powerfully, so I asked her if I could join the Choir. She said yes. After the epic snowfall of 1983 I moved to California, and returned to St. Louis nearly 30 years later to be with family. I rejoined the parish and the Choir in 2012.

*Living my faith:* I’ve been a member of the Choir for my entire time at College Church. I also participate in the Race and Reconciliation ministry and have volunteered in the Birth Certificate and ID Program.

I’ve been a pediatric nurse for most of my career, and have a special interest in caring for children battling cancer. Drawing on my graduate studies in creation theology and music therapy, I’ve helped children tell their personal stories in words and music. I’ve sung their songs in the hospital and sometimes at their funerals, and often made CDs so that their musical legacies live on.

*Why I’m involved:* College Church lives its values. For example, if there’s an instance of racial discrimination or inequity, the parish is willing to call it out, examine it and -- it’s real -- do something about it. College Church feels safe to me.

Most of all, College Church is now my family. When my brother died, SFX friends came to his funeral, even though he wasn’t Catholic. After my recent surgery, parishioners delivered meals for two months. We celebrate birthdays and special occasions, and we’re there for one another.

*Three words that describe SFX:* Open, Embracing, Loving

*My neighborhood:* I live in University City with my nine-month-old dog, Bailey. He’s all legs – tall and lanky -- and enjoys taking walks. He’s loves people and we make friends everywhere we go. Eighty percent of the neighbors on our street are Orthodox Jews, and they are kind, tolerant and accepting. We look out for each other.

*Fun facts:* A few years ago I realized I wouldn’t be content to have an “idle” retirement, so I began a new career chapter. I set up the office of the school nurse at The Leadership School, St. Louis County’s first charter school, in Pagedale. That experience opened a door to a school nurse position at Henry J. Givens School in Webster Groves, where I work now. I love the district and the school’s commitment to equity and diversity and being a safe place that respects the needs and individuality of children and teachers alike.

I’ve faced discrimination several times in my education and career, but I’ve received exceptional help along the way. After I was unfairly terminated by a hospital in California, and unable to get EEOC assistance for my case, I wrote to President Obama explaining the situation. I was taken aback when I received a letter from him saying that his team reviewed the case and agreed the action was unjust. The EEOC reopened the case, I received pro bono assistance from a sympathetic attorney, and the presiding judge helped to ensure a fair settlement. What a difference that made.

*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](http://sfxstl.org).*

### *Advent Materials*



Following the Sunday morning masses, 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. We will also be selling College Church socks and ornaments.



## 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](https://bit.ly/SocialMinistryAppeal) (case sensitive link).**

### 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.

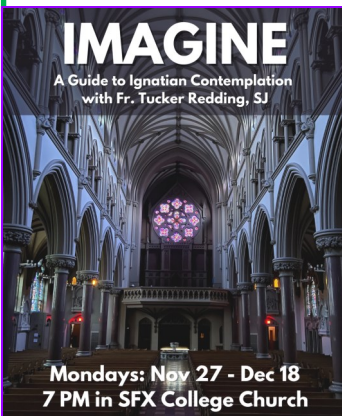
Here's how you can participate:

- 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](mailto:christine@sfxstl.org) or (314) 977-7309.

Thank you so much for your generosity!



### Imagine: A Guide to Ignatian Contemplation with Fr. Tucker Mondays of Advent, 7 pm in College Church

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. We'll pray through the stories of Advent, including 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](mailto: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.*

### Advent in Other Cultures

Advent can get lost in the hustle and bustle of the coming Christmas season. Yet Advent is meant to provide time for reflection on the events that led up to our Savior's birth. It may help to learn how diverse cultures around the globe prepare during these weeks leading to Christmas.

The final push toward Christmas in VENEZUELA begins December 16, with a series of morning Masses. In the Tropics it is warm during Advent, so the streets are closed to traffic and people roller skate to church. Along the route, children dangle long strings from their windows hoping passing skaters will tug on them.

Yuletide starts December 1st in GHANA, with shops, streets, and homes decorated in twinkling lights and ornaments. People in Ghana celebrate doubly because Christmas falls at the same time as the cocoa harvest.

During the last days of Advent in MEXICO, Las Posadas reenacts Mary and Joseph searching for shelter in Bethlehem. Each evening a child dressed like an angel leads a procession to church. Along the way they stop at homes of families who turn them away because the "Inn is full." On the ninth night someone finally welcomes them in, and a fiesta celebrates the Holy Family finding a place to stay.

Presents are not customary in some AFRICAN cultures. Rather, people donate toys and needed goods to orphanages. African Christmas trees are not pine or fir – everything from Cypress trees to mango and palm trees are adorned with bells and candles.

Christmas in CHINA, called Sheng Dan Jieh, means "Holy Birth Festival." Chinese Christians adopted many customs from missionaries. They light their homes with colorful lanterns and decorate their windows with evergreens and paper pagodas. Each ornament on their Christmas "tree of light" symbolizes happiness.

Most EGYPTIAN Christians belong to the Orthodox Church and celebrate Christmas on January 7. Advent lasts 43 days, starting November 25, and is like Lent with strict fasting. On Christmas Eve Coptic Christians attend church services sometimes lasting until dawn. Afterward they feast on food not allowed during Advent.

Few in INDIA are Christian, yet most decorate their homes with greenery, mango leaves, and strings of lights, while the "Star of Bethlehem" is hung inside the

house. Small gifts are exchanged during the Advent/Christmas season even among non-Christians.

In post-Soviet RUSSIA, Christmas rituals are allowed only in conjunction with New Year's festivities. Trees are decorated for the New Year, and New Year's parties are held. Saint Nicholas has been replaced by Grandfather Frost and his helper, the Snow Maiden, who distribute gifts.

Instead of Santa, Old Man Bayka walks the streets of LIBERIA begging for presents. Rather than wishing Merry Christmas, the locals say, "My Christmas on you," meaning "give me something nice for Christmas."

Although not a Christian country, Western influence has impacted JAPAN. They have Christmas markets, Christmas cakes, and a Christmas dinner of Kentucky Fried Chicken! With no holiday traditions of their own, Japanese people look forward to "finger lickin' goodness." A KFC ad campaign has made it a Japanese Christmas staple.

### St. Louis Equity Summit 2023

Following the death of Michael Brown in 2014, the Ferguson Commission published the results of their regional study along with recommendations to advance racially equitable systems and policies that ensure all people in the St. Louis area can thrive. A nonprofit organization called Forward Through Ferguson was established to begin to realize this desired change. They continue to work for systemic change by supporting individuals and organizations, empowering people of color to lead, and transforming the existing conditions of racial inequity into communities where race will no longer predict outcomes.

Such goals were evident at the Racial Equity Summit held at the America's Center in November. The event was organized by representatives from Forward Through Ferguson, the Clark-Fox Policy Institute at Washington University in St. Louis, University of Missouri - St. Louis, Freedom Community Center, Gladiator Consulting, Invest STL, Key Strategic Group, the St. Louis Community Foundation, A Red Circle, St. Louis Regional Health Commission, and the United Way of Greater St. Louis. With the theme of *Together We Rise: The Power of Community*, this conference provided opportunities to "elevate, collaborate, and activate the the people, practices, and resources necessary to achieve racial equity." Information was presented that increased awareness of inequities in our region and deepened understanding of systems and structures that create and perpetuate them. Disparities in health care,

*Continued from previous page*

public safety, education, and literacy were among the issues addressed. Ongoing efforts to increase equity in many different aspects of our community were shared.

Among the many black leaders in attendance were a panel of youth leaders—some still in high school—who work in their schools and in the community to advance equity. Some serve as members of the St. Louis County Youth Advisory Council or the St. Louis City Board of Alderman Youth Council where they are informing and impacting local government. Others are part of organizations such as The Little Bit Foundation and Transform 314. They each shared how they use their personal strengths and talents to create positive change.

August of 2024 will mark ten years since the death of Michael Brown and the protests that recommitted many people in the St. Louis area—including members of the College Church community—to advocate for racial justice. As our parish progresses through our own individual and collective journey toward antiracism, it is valuable to recognize that the work begun by Forward Through Ferguson continues through the collaborative efforts of many individuals and organizations. It can help inform our path forward and call us to consider how we can support the leadership of people of color and work in collaboration to increase equity and racial justice.

### **Mandela Book Review**

*Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela*, Little, Brown, and Co., copyright©1994, \$19.99

At more than six hundred pages, *Long Walk to Freedom*—the story of the life of Nelson Mandela—is a long read. But the account is so compelling, and Mandela’s simple, elegant prose is so accessible that the experience comes to resemble sitting in a room with the great freedom fighter and hearing his voice. In the book Mandela shares the details of his boyhood, as a descendant of the royal line of the Thembu tribe, living in rural South Africa and preparing to become an advisor to the tribal leader. He describes his education in Methodist mission schools and how that experience formed him to naïvely admire European systems of governance with no sense of the oppression his people had suffered at the hands of the English and Dutch settlers. He details his postsecondary education, his study of law, and his eventual move to Johannesburg—a move that catalyzed his gradual awakening as a political person. With membership in and, over time, leadership of the

African National Congress, whose political activism sought parity for Africans with the white minority, Mandela was inevitably brought into conflict with the South African government’s increasingly repressive Nationalist Party. Finally, after several arrests, he was incarcerated for twenty-seven years, eighteen of which were spent doing hard labor in the maximum-security prison on Robben Island. The book concludes with Mandela’s release from prison and his efforts, as they combined with international pressure and sanctions, to transform South Africa into a multiracial democracy. More than the documenting of historical milestones, *Long Road to Freedom* offers insight into the political and moral evolution of one of the most iconic leaders of our time.

— Winnie Sullivan

### **Significant Figures in Racial History**

Daniel Rudd – died December 3, 1930, Rudd believed the Church was a powerful force for promoting equality. He founded a Catholic newspaper as an instrument for opposing discrimination and injustice. He also founded the “Colored Catholic Congress,” a precursor to the National Black Catholic Congress.

Nelson Mandela – died December 5, 2013. Born in South Africa, Mandela was an anti-apartheid revolutionary for which he spent 20 years in prison. After apartheid ended, he became the first black, and the first democratically elected president of his country in 1994.

### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> will be held at the Northside SDA Church, 9001 Lucas and Hunt Rd. December 10<sup>th</sup> will be held at the Kirkwood United Methodist Church, 201 W. Adams.

**December 5** 1:00 – 2:15 pm The Ignatian Solidarity Network is hosting a webinar entitled, *Injustice in the Holy Land: Israel-Palestine and Catholic Social Teaching*. The presentation will explore the context and history that shape hardships faced by Palestinian Christians, and discuss how Catholic Social Teaching can inspire our efforts to advocate for peace and justice for all people in the Holy Land. For more information and to register for this free event, go to [tinyurl.com/yzm9hnk](https://tinyurl.com/yzm9hnk).

**For more information, or to become part of antiracism ministries, contact Winnie Sullivan [penultim@swbell.net](mailto:penultim@swbell.net) or Lisa Burks [Imburks60@gmail.com](mailto:Imburks60@gmail.com)**

**First Quarter Financial Report**

For the quarter ended 9/30/2023, the parish reported a net loss of \$98,000. This loss exceeded our budgeted loss by \$52,000 but improved by \$6,000 from the previous year. This variance is largely due to revenue which is under budget by approximately \$34,000 but over the prior year by approximately \$34,000. When we analyze the budget to actual difference in revenue, the reasons for this unfavorable variance are:

**Unrestricted Revenue:** Seasonal fluctuations in contributions were stronger than our budgeted expectations. In the prior year, the parish saw some significant seasonality in contributions with lower giving in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2022-23. The parish

Profit & Loss Budget Performance FY24 Actual Results	FY24 Q1 Actuals	FY24 Q1 Budget	FY23 Q1 Actuals
<b>Income</b>			
Unrestricted Revenue	156,452	163,043	140,781
Restricted Offerings & Gifts	26,451	50,873	29,320
Program Fees	6,448	1,561	7,448
Investment Income	475	1,875	97
Grant Revenue	20,500	56,303	10,810
Other Revenues	65,713	37,061	54,116
Merchant Account Fees	(3,428)	(4,500)	(3,594)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>272,611</b>	<b>306,216</b>	<b>238,978</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Personnel Costs	182,449	195,992	179,286
Supplies	5,606	9,099	10,937
Fees & Services	61,838	46,379	58,153
Occupancy	87,879	68,666	64,876
Tfrs Other Parishes/Diocese	32,463	32,112	29,886
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>370,235</b>	<b>352,248</b>	<b>343,137</b>
<b>Net Loss</b>	<b>(97,624)</b>	<b>(46,032)</b>	<b>(104,159)</b>

anticipated some seasonality in budgeting but did not expect it to be as significant as the prior year. Further analysis is underway to gauge future trends.

**Restricted Revenue:** An anticipated major donation for September 2023 was not received, but the parish expects this contribution to be received in a subsequent quarter.

**Grant Revenue:** An anticipated grant for the Social Ministry program was not received this quarter. Social Ministry still expects this gift to be received this fiscal year.

**Other Revenues:** There was a favorable variance of \$28,000. This is mainly attributed to wedding revenues. This is considered a timing variance, with annual revenues projected to align with the budget.

Expenses were over budget by approximately \$18,000. This was predominantly due to timing issues noted below:

**Personnel Costs:** Favorable variance to budget of approximately \$14,000 is due to the Archdiocese's shift to a bi-weekly payroll. Since the parish is on a cash basis of accounting, this variance is expected to be reduced over the year.

**Fees and Services:** Unfavorable variance is related to the timing of professional fee payments. The budget distributes these costs evenly over each month, but the costs are recognized upon actual payment. This resulted in higher expenses as compared to the budget.

**Occupancy:** There were four months of rent paid in this quarter because we prepaid October rent. This resulted in a negative variance that is anticipated to reverse next quarter.

The College Church St. Vincent de Paul conference is seeking parishioner adoption of the following Neighbor families this Christmas: A single mother is seeking Christmas toys for her three young children. A disabled grandmother is seeking clothing for her granddaughter who lives with her. A single mom who is new to this country seeks diapers for her baby for 3 to 6 months size. If you are able to help, please contact Chris Deason at 636-236-9122 or mcdeason@gmail.com Thank you!



### 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/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](https://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/](https://volunteer.openspacestl.org/need/)  
 Great Rivers Greenway lists events at various Greenway locations. You can look at [greatriversgreenway.org/events/](https://greatriversgreenway.org/events/) for volunteer opportunities.

**Public Electronics Recycling events**  
[mrc-recycling.squarespace.com/electronics-recycling-events](https://mrc-recycling.squarespace.com/electronics-recycling-events)

December 9, 8:00 AM to Noon  
 2505 South Brentwood Boulevard  
 Brentwood, MO, 63144  
 hosted by the City of **Brentwood**

**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.

### December 2-3, 2023

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

### December 9-10, 2023

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

#### This Sunday's Scripture Readings:

**First Reading:**  
 Isaiah 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7  
**Responsorial Psalm:**  
 Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19  
**Second Reading:**  
 I Cor 1:3-9  
**Gospel**  
 Mk 13:33-37

#### 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](mailto: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.