



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 12th, 2021
Third Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday**

LITURGY SCHEDULE

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

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

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

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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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

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

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

Infant Baptisms: Visit the Baptism page on the SFX website, www.sfxstl.org/baptism-1, for information on infant baptisms and required preparation class. Baptisms are celebrated on the first and third Sunday of the month, at 12 pm. Contact associatepastor@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. Dan White at frdan@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 Terry Edelmann at terry@sfxstl.org or Julie Kilian at julie@sfxstl.org for more information.

Liturgy of the Word for Children: Suspended until further notice due to the pandemic. Contact Terry Edelmann at terry@sfxstl.org.

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

Mary Lou Ampleman
 Michael Anderson
 Margaret Baughman
 Bill Bollwerk*
 Kathy Bookstaver
 Mary Bruemmer*
 Sheila Byrnes
 Maureen Carney*
 Linda Castillon*
 Maureen Clever
 Marcie Corwin
 Steve Frank
 Monica Gunn
 Jessi Haselhorst
 Paul Hanson*
 Mary Jane and Butch Henning*
 Jeanne Hermann*
 Laura Kaiser and Family
 Terry Kippenberger*
 Julianne Lister
 Carlita Logan
 Jim Martin
 Tom McDermott
 Sr. Mary Kay McKenzie
 Karena Menard*
 Mary Mondello
 Suzanne Mondello
 Tom Mulvihill, Sr.
 Nancy Partridge* & Glider
 Mark Roddy*
 Dennis Saunders*
 Jennifer Saunders*
 Mark Segovia
 Fr. Gary Seibert, SJ*
 Louis M. Sherrock
 Vicki Simon
 Lucille Sims
 Greg Stephen
 Colleen Starkloff
 Judy Taylor*
 Brent Thompson
 Patricia Wittman
 Lisa Zimmerer*

* 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.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The rose-colored vestments (not pink, mind you) tell us today is *Gaudete* Sunday. This is one of two Sundays featuring rose. The other is during Lent known as *Laetare* Sunday. Both are Latin words for "rejoice". To keep them straight just remember the L-words go together: Lent and *Laetare*.

Joy permeates today's Scriptures. Zephaniah tells us, "Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Jerusalem." Saint Paul commands us, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again: rejoice!" Neither are very subtle about the need for joy. This is not a suggestion or request but something we must do. One does not get to opt out.

This might seem excessive to us. It is fair to say in certain parts of the Church joy is viewed with skepticism, and the manifestation of it is suspect. All too often Catholics fit the description of God's Frozen Chosen. Gloom and doom seems more in keeping with how most people experience Christians.

Pope Francis famously said, Christians must not look like they are always coming from a funeral. Yes, joy is not simply an emotion but it should make us different inside and out. If we are indeed joyful followers of Christ, our lives must reflect that reality. *Gaudete* Sunday requires us to throw decorum to the wind and rejoice in God's goodness.

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED

With the hope of the Resurrection, we ask that you remember in your prayers all those who have recently died, including:

Fay Efken (mother of parishioner Chuck Efken)

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



YOUTH AND FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Children invited to “Candlelight Procession” at 4:30 Christmas Eve Mass.

All children attending the 4:30 Christmas Eve Mass are invited to participate in a “Candlelight Procession” at the beginning of the Liturgy. The lector will invite children to the back of church to assemble. Candles can be made at home, using the cardboard center in a paper towel roll, and decorating it with colored paper and designs.



Tissue paper can be inserted in the roll to look like a flame. There will be some premade candles available at church. If you have any questions contact Terry Edelman at terry@sfxstl.org. (Pictured: paper towel roll candles before being decorated.)

Children’s Choir

As a reminder, our Children’s Choir for the Christmas Eve Family Mass will practice **Sunday, December 12, 12-1:30 in the ballroom and Saturday, December 18, 9-10:30 in the church.** The Instrumental Ensemble will practice at those days and times in the Adult Faith Room.

Welcoming Divinity Amongst Us: The ‘Son of Man’ Texts in the Gospels

The faith and the tradition of the Church, our Creeds, in the homilies we hear at Mass, all of these have proclaimed Jesus as the Son of God. Yet, when we return to the Gospels, we discover that the manner in which Jesus spoke of himself most frequently was as ‘Son of Man.’ In this Advent season Scripture study, we will look at how the ‘Son of Man’ was understood in apocalyptic literature, and how this apocalyptic ‘Son of Man’ informs how Jesus was received in the Gospel narratives. Was the ‘Son of Man’ a comment on Jesus’s humanity? Or was it a revelation of his divinity?

This Scripture study is meeting every Sunday in Advent in the Lower Adult Faith Room after the 10:30 am Mass.

This Sunday’s Scripture Readings

First Reading:

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Responsorial Psalm:

Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6

Second Reading:

Phillipians 4:4-7

Gospel:

Luke 3:10-18

Advent Books

A variety of spirituality and reflection books are available in the ballroom after the Sunday morning masses. There are materials on Ignatian spirituality and from the writings of Pope Francis. There are also a few Advent booklets still available. Come down and find something to enrich your spirit.





Antiracism at College Church An Advent Litany for Racial Equity

By Christina Ryan

Sisters and brothers, we've begun our new liturgical year with the season of Advent—a time of expectant preparation and waiting for the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We also mark the beginning of another important journey: accompanying one another on our Racial Equity Review. For several years now as a parish, we have been reflecting more and more deeply on how the sin of racism hurts our sisters and brothers of color, and how it strips all of us of our humanity and our identity as children of God. The work of our Antiracism Team, Racism and Reconciliation Committee, and Pastoral Council, along with your support and prayers, have brought us to this point, where we move beyond educating and reflecting on ourselves as individuals to scrutinize the specific policies and practices at College Church that have caused and preserved systemic racism.

As we start this journey, let us attend to the familiar and beautiful story of the Annunciation. Let us hear how the ordinary life of a young woman, our Blessed Mother, was made extraordinary and sacred by her assent to God's invitation. And, following that example, let us respond to the invitation before us. God summons us to use the potential already within us to repair—and make whole—ourselves and our Church. In that spirit, we pray:

Let us reflect on how the sin of racism strips all of us of our humanity and our identity as children of God.
Response: Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us continue to inform ourselves about the sin of racism, its roots, and its historical and present-day manifestations at College Church. *Lord, graciously hear us.*

Let us prepare ourselves to hear God's voice and hear the truth, even when we would rather not hear it.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Like our Blessed Mother saying yes to the angel Gabriel's invitation, let us open our eyes, hearts, and minds to the extraordinary and sacred. *Lord, graciously hear us.*

Like our Blessed Mother, let us listen to the Holy Spirit telling us to be not afraid of how our lives will profoundly change. *Lord, graciously hear us.*

Like our Blessed Mother asking, "How can this be?," let us accept that the Holy Spirit will guide us in our

understanding and in our reconciliation and help us to become closer to God's vision for our Church. *Lord, graciously hear us.*

Let us not run or hide but face with courage the specific policies and practices that have caused and preserved inequitable outcomes in decision-making, power-sharing, and inclusion of people of color at College Church. *Lord, graciously hear us.*

Let the Holy Spirit guide us toward the transformative change of becoming an antiracist parish and compel us to see this change as an opportunity for reconciliation and for hope-filled celebration of all people's gifts. *Lord, graciously hear us.*

Lord, we know racism is a sin and spiritual disorder that has taken root in the garden of our souls. We pray for your grace to convert us through the Holy Spirit so that we can walk by faith toward justice, hope, love, and healing for the glory of your Kingdom. We ask the Holy Spirit to enter our lives, change our hearts, and allow us to see what we would rather not see. Lord, we ask that you bless us as we go on this journey, and may we be grounded and rooted in Your Word.

Amen.

Save The Date

Ignatian Spirituality and Antiracism: A Call to Conversion

With the support of a grant from the Jesuits' Central and Southern Province, College Church will be hosting a speaker series exploring the gifts of Ignatian Spirituality in the transformational work of antiracism. We have invited some of the most knowledgeable and engaging speakers from around the U.S. to share, from their individual perspectives, their experiences with grounding the work of racial justice in Ignatian Spirituality. Make plans to join us through Zoom for this three-session series of consequential and thought-provoking presentations.

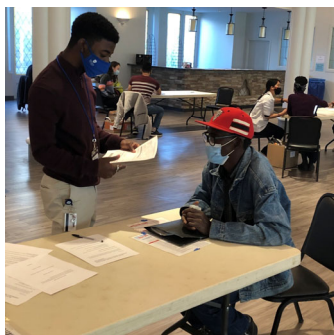
February 9, 16, 23 - 7:00 – 8:30 CST

Information on speakers and registration to come soon.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Christmas Appeal

Every year at Christmas, we reach out to our parish community for specific support that helps to sustain our work over the coming year through the Social Ministry Christmas Appeal. This year is no different. As the cornerstone program of Social Ministry, the Outreach Program for ID and birth certificate assistance particularly relies on your end of year contributions.



We are proud that our program offers a unique service, providing the only large scale, consistent identification assistance in the region. This year, we are also grateful to have hired a Mobile Outreach Coordinator who is exploring ways to make IDs and birth certificates more accessible in the region as a whole. Your donation will ensure the sustainability of our onsite program each Tuesday, as well as build the groundwork for expansion of identification access in St. Louis.

The second collection on the weekends of December 5th and 12th will go to Social Ministry. You can also give online anytime by visiting: <https://bit.ly/socialministryappeal>.

Contact Christine with any questions at christine@sfxstl.org or (314) 977-7309. Thank you so much for your ongoing support!

Happy Holidays from the Sister Parish / Fair Trade Committee!

Our committee will be selling in-person after the 10:30 Sunday mass through Christmas.

This year we're offering our fresh roasted coffee, tea, chocolate bars, soup gift boxes, cornbread mix, brownie mix, and so much more. Proceeds go to our sister parish St. Peter Claver in Belize. We are sponsoring several high school students for the next four years of school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Wishing you a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Giving Tree 2021

Please consider supporting our Social Ministry Outreach Program guests through the Giving Tree. We have a Christmas tree near the front of the south aisle decorated with paper ornaments.

To participate, take an ornament and purchase the listed gift, wrap it, attach the paper ornament to the gift, and drop it off to the bins located in the center vestibule of the church or the parish center office by this Sunday, December 12th.

With the cold approaching, program guests will appreciate your gift of warm winter items such as socks, gloves, and scarves. Thank you for your support!

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 nearly a decade and this will be our second year during the pandemic offering shelter in a COVID-safe environment for both volunteers and guests.

Winter Inn relies on volunteer support each year. Thank you for considering plugging into this initiative! Please contact Jasmine Brown at outreach@sfxstl.org or (314) 977-7311 to learn more about volunteering.

Did you know that the SFX Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has been providing emergency assistance with Neighbors in Need in our parish boundary for 175 years?



What do you do besides talk to prove the faith you claim is in you? This cynical question by a fellow Sorbonne student prompted Frederic Ozanam to begin the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in 1846.

A few years ago, SFX parishioner Kathy Danzo invited me to join our parish conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Various images entered my mind: watching the movie "Monsieur Vincent" in my high school religion class, the thrift stores around town, and the "Poor Box" common to every Catholic church. I was seeking ways to become more involved in the parish, and to reach out to those who are materially poor, so I attended a meeting that day.

I had been touched by the movie as a student (especially the scene where Vincent is transformed by sleeping among the poor), and I appreciated the work of the Society, yet I held a limited view that the Society of St. Vincent de Paul seemed a one-dimension charity, and somewhat outdated. Gradually I have come to see how *in tune* this ministry is Pope Francis' call to listening and encounter with our brothers and sisters who are poor. I have also come to cherish prayer and friendship with fellow members of the conference. I have witnessed more fully how our parish doors open to an area of St. Louis that struggles with poverty and loneliness, and that how we can reach out in Jesus' call to love one another.

When our parish Neighbors reach out to us in moments of financial crisis, we enter into relationship with them. Most Neighbors are not Catholic. 99% of our Neighbors identify as Black. Many live alone and experience loneliness. Because many Neighbors experience generational poverty, the lack a financial safety net threatens to turn one moment of need into a spiraling crisis. As our treasury allows, we provide *immediate* emergency assistance with rent, food, utilities, beds, cars

(essential to reaching some places of employment), and other basic needs. We pray with our Neighbors, and offer hope and pathways for them to gain agency in their lives. Within the Society is *Voice for the Poor*, an advocacy group that seeks to name and heal systemic causes of poverty.

I am so grateful to Kathy for the invitation to be a part of this spiritual and social ministry. I thank God for the privilege to walk with our brothers and sisters who are poor through St. Vincent de Paul.

Some facts about the Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

- The Society was founded in 1833 by Sorbonne student Blessed Frederic Ozanam, whose writings influenced the social encyclical *Rerum Novarum*, and who inspired Dorothy Day. Blessed Frederic continued to lead in SVDP as a Sorbonne professor, and as a husband and father.
- Since 1846 the College Church conference has been helping Neighbors in Need in our parish boundary.
- The Society is an international organization located in over 140 countries.
- We have in our parish members of the Daughters of Charity, whose Sister Rosalie Rendu, DC, helped Frederic understand how to help the very poor of Paris.

We are seeking new members!

Are you a college student who is seeking meaningful relationship and community in St. Louis? Do you have time to give to the poor in our parish area? We welcome you.

We also appreciate the gift of your financial donations and your prayer.

To join us, please contact Kathy Danzo at kdanzo508@gmail.com or phone 314-602-2548

To donate, please see the St. Vincent de Paul area on the SFX donation website, or you may send a check to the parish office for SVDP.

We appreciate the gift of your prayer for our ministry.

Catherine Swanstrom

Circle of Creation Green Corner

Upcoming Electronics Recycling event hosted by the City of Brentwood
December 18, 2021 8:00 AM to Noon
2505 South Brentwood Boulevard
Brentwood, MO, 63144



Visit sfxstl.org/circleofcreation for more resources.

December 11-12, 2021

Saturday
5:15 pm Fr. White, S.J.
Sunday
8:00 am Fr. Daly, S.J.
10:30 am Fr. Page, S.J.

December 18-19, 2021

Saturday
5:15 pm Fr. White, S.J.
Sunday
8:00 am Fr. Page, S.J.
10:30 am Fr. Page, S.J.

Bulletin Articles

email bulletin articles to church@sfxstl.org before Thursday at noon 10 days before the bulletin date.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24:

4:30 pm Christmas Tableau followed by Family Mass
10:30 pm Choir prelude, Mass at 11 pm

Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25

10:30 am Mass

Please note: we are not taking reservations for this year's Masses. (Plan to arrive early!)

There will be no Saturday 5:15 pm Mass (for the Sunday vigil) on December 25th. Our Masses on December 26th, the Feast of the Holy Family, will be 8 am and 10:30 am.

Online Giving Reminder

Over the past several years (even before the pandemic!), we've been inviting our parishioners and friends to consider supporting College Church through online giving. If you set up weekly or monthly gifts, it saves the trouble of writing out checks, and it means our ministries can better rely on stable funding.

Many of our parishioners have begun to contribute to College Church through our online link, which can be found at the top of our website, sfxstl.org. We wanted to make it more convenient to reach this site, so we have made a QR code for it.

Thank you for your support!

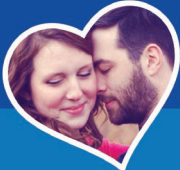


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