



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 17, 2023
Third Sunday in Advent

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 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.

PASTORAL STAFFParish Life Coordinator

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Choir Director, Music Ministry

Ray Sherrock
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Director of Wedding Music & Accompanist, Music Ministry

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Pastoral Council Co-Chairs

Jen Hahn-Petruso and Aimee Wittman
sfxpc@sfxstl.org

Pastoral Care Ministry

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314-313-0613
joy@canainstitute.org

PRAY FOR THE SICK

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

Prayer requests to:

church@sfxstl.org

Or visit sfxstl.org, and find the form under "Parish Life."

Join our prayer group on Zoom,

Friday mornings at 9:

Contact Bridget Brennan at

joy@canainstitute.org for info.

Rejoice!

By Fr. Tucker Redding, S.J.

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice."

This weekend we celebrate the Third Sunday in Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means "Rejoice!" And it's a good reminder.

Although Advent and Lent are both penitential seasons, focused on preparing ourselves for the joyful coming of the Lord on Christmas and Easter, these seasons are "interrupted" by these special Sundays: Gaudete in Advent and Laetare in Lent. Both words mean "Rejoice!"

These Sundays of rejoicing, these pink splashes in a sea of purple, make me think of a tension that can often be present in our faith. This is the tension between being penitential and being joyful.

Penitential seasons are a reminder that we still have work to do. That is true in a variety of ways. We are not perfect. Our society, our world, and our Church are not perfect. We must be able to recognize those imperfections, name them, and work to do something about them. This is how we "prepare the way for the Lord" in our hearts and our world. We also recognize that we are wonderfully made in the image and likeness of God. When God made everything in the first creation story from Genesis, God declared it all to be good.

These are not conflicting realities. We are called to recognize the light and the shadows. The beauty and the imperfections. If we spend all of our time looking at the imperfections, we can lose hope and develop a warped view of the world and ourselves. If we avoid the imperfections, we can develop a sense of pride and miss the opportunity to grow.

This Sunday, let's take time to rejoice. Let's take time to recognize the beauty, graces, and gifts in our lives and rejoice in the Lord. May our rejoicing fill us with the hope that we need to continue the work of preparing the way of the Lord

**Fair Trade Sales This Sunday!**

Fair trade coffee, tea, chocolate and more will be available in the vestibule for purchase after the 8 am and 10:30 am Masses on Sunday, December 3rd. All sales support our sister parish, St. Peter Claver in Belize.



Becky McKenna

Living Our Faith: Meet Becky

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

An SFX parishioner since: 1978. I had just returned to St. Louis after graduating from college and came to College Church for Mass. I was struck by the spirit and beauty of the Choir and the music. And I clearly saw the intentional design of the parish and its approach to our faith. I wanted to be a part of that. I joined the parish, and the Choir and singing have been a part of my life at SFX ever since. They've helped me make connections and deepen my faith.

Living my faith: One day at Mass I heard a lector delivering the scripture with real attention and meaning. I thought, I could do that, and became a lector myself. Eventually, I also became an Extraordinary Minister. In the early 1980s, when I was a young mother, I became a rotating Religious Education teacher which was the first version of our Youth Faith Formation program. I've also been part of a group of environmentally sensitive parishioners who started The Circle of Creation Committee, SFX's effort to teach and advocate for environmental justice.

From participation in Hot Stuff/Cool Stuff to anti-racism initiatives to three parish-sponsored trips to rebuild houses in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, my involvement at College Church has been a profound and active experience.

Why I'm involved: Over the years we've been blessed to have phenomenal leaders and role models such as Fathers Len Kraus, Charlie Bouchard and John Kavanaugh. They were amazing priests and gifted speakers who moved us and spoke the truth out loud, but they did more than preach. They challenged us to understand the spirit of our Catholic faith and put it into action. At our Midtown location, College Church brings us close to the poor and those in need. Our Birth Certificate and ID program and Xavier Winter Inn make a real difference.

Three words that describe SFX: Spirited, Intentional, Active

My neighborhood: My husband, Ken, and I have lived in Webster Groves for 38 years. It's been a wonderful home for us and it's where we raised our three, now-grown daughters, Katie, Maggie and Erin. (Note: College Church was matchmaker for Ken and Becky. They met during the recording sessions for the album, Lord of Light, produced by St. Louis Jesuits.)

Fun facts: After receiving a Ph.D. from SLU in Marriage and Family Therapy, I've worked since 1991 with hundreds of clients through my private practice in Richmond Heights. I've also been an adjunct professor at Lindenwood and Webster Universities, a tribunal court expert for the Archdiocese and a psychotherapist at numerous parochial, private and public schools.

I have been certified to lead team-building programs for groups that have included elementary students as well as first-year medical and business school students. We did mobile initiatives and high ropes course elements at a 50-foot tall Alpine Tower structure in team exercises that built trust, support, communication and decision-making skills – all while building individual physical strength and coordination in the beautiful outdoors.

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.

Saturday, Vigil Mass, Fourth Sunday of Advent Dec 23, 5:15 pm

Sunday, December 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday masses 8:00 and 10:30 am

Christmas Eve Family Mass 4:30 pm

Mass during the Night at 11:00 pm
with Choir prelude at 10:30 pm

Monday, December 25 Christmas Day

Mass at 10:30 a.m.

Daily Masses (Tuesday—Fri, Dec 26—Jan 1) Only 7:15 am

No Confessions or Noon Mass Dec 26—Jan 1

Saturday, December 30 Mass at 5:15 pm

Sunday, December 31

Sunday masses 8:00 and 10:30 am

Monday, January 1 Feast of Mary, the Mother of God

Mass at 10:30 a.m.

For more information, call the Parish Center at 977-7300

or visit our website at: <https://sfxstl.org/>

Complimentary Parking is available in the SLU Laclede Garage



**Pastoral Care Commission: Spotlight on Seniors
Ballroom Lecture Series Following 10:30 a.m. Mass**

January 14th: Ageism: The quirks of the aging; process? Don't panic, you're normal! Presented by Dr. Alec Pollard, Ph.D. Dr. Pollard is on the staff at The St. Louis Behavioral Medicine Institute, an affiliate of SLU. Dr. Pollard is the former Director of the SLBMI as well as the founding Director of the Center for OCD & Anxiety-related Disorders. Expect an engaging presentation on the ordinary experiences of aging!

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

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



SAVE THE DATE!

Walking Together

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

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

College Church Ballroom

Every member of SFX Parish is invited to participate in this important discussion about our journey to become a synodal parish. Join other members of the SFX family to hear updates on our priorities and progress, express your views and questions, and enjoy fellowship. More details about the meeting and how you can help to shape its content will be announced soon.

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.

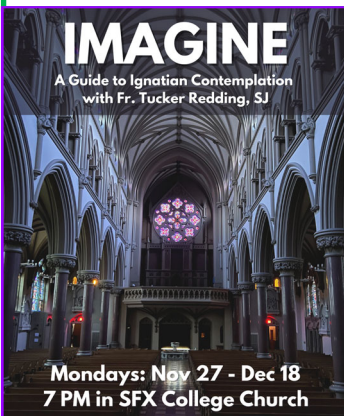
Here's how you can participate:

- 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 Redding, SJ

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

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



SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
 -- HELPING NEIGHBORS STARTS AT HOME --

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) at St. Francis Xavier is a vital work of our parish serving Neighbors in Need. This continues our sharing of who we are and what we do. We recently completed our year-end reporting to the greater St. Louis SVdP Council.

Year ended September 30, 2023	
Number of Neighbors helped	47
Total Donations	\$44,141
including \$8,429 from St. Francis Xavier parishoners	
Total Cost of Service to Neighbors	\$50,142
including food, clothing & bedding vouchers & utility assistance	
Members of the St. Francis Xavier SVdP Conference	8

Today, single-mother families are five times more likely to live in poverty than two-parent families. Many of the Neighbors in Need that reach out to St. Vincent de Paul at College Church are single mothers. They don't live far from us. For instance, after experiencing discrimination, M.C. decided to relocate to St. Louis with her three kids whose ages range from a few months to 4 years. Her first priority was to find a job, but that also entailed having access to quality, affordable childcare. However, with no car, no income, no friends, and only minimal government help for day care, M.C.'s prospects of finding a job are going slowly. Fortunately, SVdP has been able to help her with monthly rent, some furniture and two food vouchers. Sometimes a little help and some loving encouragement is all that it takes for our Neighbors in Need to get back to being able to pay utilities, rent and food. At other times, situations are more complex and SVdP can help with immediate basic needs and point to other resources in the area.

We thank you for your continued support which enables us to stabilize and support Neighbors in our local community.

The SVdP Conference at St Francis Xavier welcomes new members who cultivate empathy and feel called to bring love to people in need. If interested, please contact our current president, Chris Deason, mcdeason58@gmail.com

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Corner

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is seeking adoption of families in need this Christmas. Please prayerfully consider assisting one of following families with delivery by to parish center by December 19th. Please contact Chris Deason at mcdeason58@gmail.com .

T. is a single mom seeking toys and warm winter clothing for her BOY age 10, Twin BOY and GIRL age 9, and clothing and diapers for her baby GIRL.

M. is a single mom in need of diapers 3-6 month for her NEWBORN.

J. is a single mom seeking clothes for her 18 month old BOY and 5 year old GIRL.

S. is a single grandmother seeking clothing for her 10 year old granddaughter GIRL size ladies large, petite.



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 Prayer

The hopefulness evoked by the season of Advent is the same that lights our way forward as we continue the journey of our parish racial equity review. For several years now, we have been reflecting on how the sin of racism hurts all of us, stripping us of our humanity and blinding us to our shared heritage as children of God. As we continue this journey together, let us recall 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 remain open 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, let us respond to each invocation: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us reflect on how the sin of racism strips all of us of our humanity and our identity as children of God.

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

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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, 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.

- Christina Ryan

The Light and The Hope of Advent

The season of Advent is a time of anticipation and longing. Through some of the darkest days of the calendar year, we light the candles of the Advent wreath with faith and hope and expectation of Emmanuel. God is with us. We carry this light to others—sharing our material, personal, and spiritual gifts.

So, Advent is a fitting time to focus on the hope and promise in our work for racial justice. In the midst of the inequity we find in our world, we can see many who commit to bringing light where it is needed.

One example of such light may be seen in the work of the St. Louis Black Authors of Children's Literature. This organization was founded by Mr. Julius B. Anthony. Responding to the racial disparity in literacy rates, the group is committed to fostering awareness of the importance of early literacy by creating opportunities for all children to have access to Black children's literature. Understanding that, in addition to quality instruction in reading, children achieve academically when they see themselves represented in the material they read. When children see themselves and their experiences reflected in their books, they build self-awareness, self-confidence, as well as love of self and others.

To realize these outcomes, the St. Louis Black Authors

Continued from previous page

of Children's Literature have developed the *Believe Projects*. Through this initiative, to date, ten Literacy Labs have been created in elementary schools and educational centers throughout the St. Louis area. In these nurturing learning spaces, students access culturally relevant literature. In addition to books, The Believe Project also provides literacy learning experiences through theater performances, visits with authors, musicians, and visual artists. They are measuring the connections between exposure to culturally responsive literacy experiences and reading proficiency and they are seeing growth.



To learn more about this hope-filled work, see the website: stblackauthors.com/

Significant Figures in Racial History

Francisco "Chico" Mendes – assassinated December 22, 1988, in Xapuri, Brazil. Mendes was a rubber tapper, trade union leader and environmentalist. He fought to preserve the Amazon rainforest and advocated for the human rights of Brazilian peasants and Indigenous peoples. He was shot by a local rancher.

Martyrs of Acteal – died on December 22, 1997, in Chiapas, Mexico. While forty-five indigenous townspeople, including children and pregnant women, were attending a prayer meeting of Catholic pacifists in the small village of Acteal in Chiapas, a right-wing paramilitary group murdered them all. The Mexican Government did not admit responsibility for the massacre until 2020.

Henry Highland Grant – born into slavery on December 23, 1815, in New Market, MD. Grant escaped from his enslaver in 1824. As an adult he became a Presbyterian minister and was a passionate preacher against slavery. He was also a member of the American Anti-Slavery Society. After the Civil War he helped people displaced by the war and helped the Federal Government develop programs for formerly enslaved people.

Current and Upcoming Events

December 16 3:00 pm The Legend Singers Choral Ensemble will present a free Christmas concert at the First Baptist Church of Ferguson, 333N. Florissant Rd. 63135 This ensemble was founded in 1940 by Mr. Kenneth Brown Billups with the mission to preserve the music and performance practices of African Americans. See their website for more information about the ensemble and the performance. legendsingers.org/our-events

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

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

Living OUR Faith

NOTE OF GRATITUDE

St. Francis Xavier College Church

God's love certainly unites us!

Thank you for your generous response to our "Living Our Faith" program. Your commitment to St. Francis Xavier College Church allows us to continue living and growing in mission, community, and witness.

God's work is never done! United in God's Love, we can accomplish great things together to serve God and plan for the future of our parish and the continuation of critical ministries and service programs.

Thanks to your active participation in the life and mission of our parish, St. Francis Xavier continues to grow as a vibrant, engaged, and faith-filled stewardship community!

We sincerely thank you for putting your faith into action through your sacrificial giving.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Katie Jansen
Parish Life Coordinator

Fr. Tim McMahon, SJ
Canonical Pastor



Highlights

148
families returned a
card and committed to
supporting our parish

\$26,683
in one-time gifts to
support us living
out our mission

\$44,299
in additional
offertory commitments
(contributions not yet realized)

*If you have not already done so, please renew your commitment to our parish today.
Imagine the impact of our mission if we had 100% participation!*

Our Mission

*To proclaim the Good News of
Jesus Christ.*

- Actively and regularly participating in the Mass
- Inviting others to learn more about our faith through our words and example
- Volunteering in our Youth Faith Formation programs and liturgical ministries

Our Community

We are a visible sign of the Body of Christ.

- Joining our intercessory prayer group
- Bringing Communion to home-bound parishioners
- Joining a small faith sharing group

Our Witness

*We are called to share the love of
God in action.*

- Volunteering with our Outreach program or Winter Inn
- Practicing corporal works of mercy in our daily lives
- Giving sacrificially as a faithful Christian steward

Come to the Quiet

A Guided Silent Retreat led by Dawn Stringfield



January 5 - 7, 2023

Do you find yourself inundated by the never-ending barrage of noise in the world?

Is it difficult to still your mind because of the constant internal chatter?

What would it be like to have a weekend of silence to be present to the moment?

How would it feel to unplug the cell phone, tablet, and laptop and allow yourself time and space to listen more deeply to the Spirit within and around you?

If you see yourself in these questions, then "Come to the Quiet" of Mercy Conference and Retreat Center for a guided silent retreat. Mindfully walk the labyrinth and take in the natural beauty of our 72 acres, soak up the sacred space of our main chapel, read, reflect, journal, pray or simply rest.

The "Come to the Quiet" retreat begins in silence with dinner, Friday, January 5 (served by Ava Culinary 5:30-6:30pm) and concludes Sunday, January 7 at 11:00am.

This is a residential retreat. The cost is \$165, which includes private room with private bathroom and all meals. Number of participants is limited. This special price is available thanks to an anonymous donation.

Please register and pay online at www.mercycenterstl.org by 5:00 p.m. on January 1.

- Refund policies may be found on our website.
- If assistance is needed with Come to the Quiet information or registration or if you would like to discuss options for coming early to extend your time with a private silent retreat, please contact Dawn at dstringfield@mercycenterstl.org or 314-909-4656.
- Visit our website for more information and to register: www.mercycenterstl.org

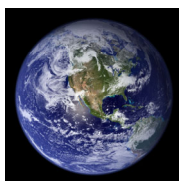
This retreat has minimal structure and is guided rather than preached or directed. Optional sessions are offered to help participants connect with the silence within. Participants are welcome to meet with the retreat director for informal spiritual companionship. All faith traditions welcome.

Come to the Quiet retreat will be facilitated by Dawn Stringfield who has been a contemplative most of her adult life, practicing forms of centering prayer and meditation for over 30 years. Dawn ministers as Executive Director of Mercy Conference and Retreat Center.

MERCY CONFERENCE
AND
RETREAT CENTER

2039 North Geyer Road
Saint Louis, MO 63141
www.mercycenterstl.org
314-966-4686

Circle of Creation Green Corner



[Earth911](https://earth911.com) [earth911.com] provides a helpful article "[How to Entertain Sustainably During the Holiday Season](#)"

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.

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/vead3y8l7UaTKbzqVl5lCw2](https://cure.everyaction.com/vead3y8l7UaTKbzqVl5lCw2)

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

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

Open Space STL lists opportunities for volunteer service through various organizations, providing information and registration volunteer.openspacestl.org/need/

Great Rivers Greenway lists events at various Greenway locations. You can look at greatriversgreenway.org/events/ for volunteer opportunities.

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

sfxstl.org/circleofcreation on the Parish website to keep up to date on resources related to caring for creation, including public electronics recycling events.

December 9-10, 2023

Saturday
5:15 pm Fr. McMahon, SJ

Sunday
8:00 am Fr. Redding, SJ

10:30 am Fr. Redding, SJ

December 16-17, 2023

Saturday
5:15 pm Fr. Redding, SJ

Sunday
8:00 am Fr. McMahon, SJ

10:30 am Fr. McMahon, SJ

December 23-25, 2023

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

Sunday
8:00 am Fr. Dan Daly, S.J.

10:30 am Fr. Dan Daly, S.J.

This Sunday's Scripture Readings

First Reading:

Isaiah 61:1-2A, 10-11

Responsorial Psalm:

Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54

Second Reading:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel:

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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.