



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 18, 2022
Fourth Sunday of 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 Terry Edelmans at terry@sfxstl.org or Julie Kilian at julie@sfxstl.org for more information.

Safe Environment Program Compliance contact Terry Edelmans at terry@sfxstl.org.

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

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Bridget Brennan
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PRAY FOR THE SICK

Margaret Baughman
 Russ Bley
 Bill Bollwerk*
 Ann Burk
 Maureen Carney*
 Alice Edler
 Steve Frank*
 Jessi Haselhorst
 Butch Henning*
 Jeanne Hermann*
 Laura Kaiser and Family
 Terry Kippenberger*
 Julianne Lister
 Carol Marshall
 Tom McDermott
 Eddie McDevitt
 Angie Menard*
 Karena Menard*
 Liz Moloney*
 Suzanne Mondello
 Nancy Partridge* & Glider
 Fr. Dick Perl, SJ*
 Mark Roddy*
 Jennifer Saunders*
 Betty Schnorbus
 Mark Segovia
 John Seibel
 Fr. Gary Seibert, SJ*
 Jean Steely
 Greg Stephen
 Colleen Starkloff
 Marjorie Woodeye
 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.

Reflection from Our Parish Life Coordinator

By Katie Jansen

During this hope-filled season of Advent, I watched a lecture about hope given by Fr. Michael Himes who passed away earlier this year. I found myself writing down word for word what he said because he said it so well! So, rather than offer a summary, I'll share some of my favorite quotes:

What is Hope: "Hope is based on God's activity in us. God loves us not because we are lovable but because God is loving. Our hope is rooted in God's activity. Hope is rooted in God's constant quest of us. The foundation of our hope is that God is always reaching out to us in love. It is because of our conviction that God is endlessly reaching out to us that we have the courage to reach out to God. Hope is the virtue of endlessly reaching out in the conviction that we are always being reached toward."

Hope vs Despair: [Talking about the temptation in the Garden of Eden] "The root of this sin is not disobedience. It is not pride. The root is despair - the inability to believe that we're as good as God says we are. It's the inability to accept that God has chosen to make us like God."

[Reflecting on Dante's inferno] "The entry to hell is hopelessness; it's despair. Satan is a monster of despair. Once one rejects the goodness of being, there are no limits to the horrors that can follow. That's despair."

[Antidote to despair] "The need to turn out, the need to give oneself away grows constantly throughout our lives. Hope is about reaching out - because we are so completely confident that there is one reaching toward us."


[Referencing the Christian Community] "We never come to God alone. We always come to God in conjunction with everybody else. God always brings us into God's love as a member of a people. It is because we are always connected to others that we are a people of hope. There is a danger in that, however. If the community disappoints us, it can badly damage our hope. If you are not disappointed in the Roman Catholic church at this time, you must be comatose. There are profound disappointments for many of us. It is the conviction that God never drops us even though we don't deserve to be held that is not only the source of our ability to live with ourselves in hope but to live with one another in hope. Any community that for 2000 years has faithfully proclaimed the standards by which it itself is condemned is a very good community to belong to."

"I love God by loving what God loves in the way God loves it."

<https://youtu.be/agMnPhI49EI>

~Advent and Christmas Celebrations~

College Church will celebrate the coming of Christ with the following liturgical offerings:

Daily Masses (Mon-Fri)	7:15 am & Noon (Dec 5—Dec 23)	
Confessions (Mon-Fri.)	10:45 until Noon	
Saturday, December 24	Christmas Eve Family Mass 4:30 pm Mass during the Night at 11:00 pm; Choir prelude at 10:30 pm	
Sunday, December 25	Christmas Day Masses at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.	
Daily Masses (Dec 26-Jan 2)	Only 7:15 am	
No Confessions	Dec 26-Jan 2	
Saturday, December 31	Mass at 5:15 pm	
Sunday, January 1	Feast of Mary, the Mother of God Masses at 8:00 and 10:30 am	

For more information, call the Parish Center at 977-7300 or visit our website at: sfxstl.org
Complimentary Parking is available in the SLU Laclede Garage

Family Christmas Eve Children's Choir and Tableau

We are greatly anticipating the performance of our young instrumentalists and vocalists in the Children's Choir for the Christmas Eve Family Mass!

Our Christmas Eve tableau will also be a part of the Family Mass. This is a simple visual of the Gospel narrative of Jesus' birth. As a reminder, there will be a brief rehearsal for this group after mass today; costumes are provided. Please email Jennifer (jennifer@sfxstl.org) with any questions.

Mark Your Calendars!

The Art and Environment Committee will be meeting on December 22, 2023 at 8:00 AM to prepare our church for our Christmas celebration! We need a lot of help to water and place the poinsettias, arrange the Nativity Creche and prepare the altar. We welcome help of all ages (but ask that younger volunteers come with an adult to supervise)!

If you have any questions, please contact Theresa Lueke at tmlueke@yahoo.com.

Fair Trade Sales To Support Our Sister Parish

Our sister parish is St. Peter Claver in Punta Gorda, Belize, a Jesuit parish. SFX provides support primarily through our fair trade program. The proceeds from our fair trade sales and from our annual Fair Trade Christmas Market benefit St. Peter Claver.

Fair Trade items will be sold after the 8:00 and 10:30 masses today, December 18th. Make sure you stock up for your Christmas giving!





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.

Our Parish Racial Equity Review: An Update

Approximately two and a half years ago, we at College Church determined that we would become an antiracist parish, and we enshrined that intention as a priority within our parish vision. To help realize the required transformation, members of the SFX Antiracism Team and parish leaders partnered with the Crossroads Antiracism and Training Organization to initiate a scrutiny of every aspect of our parish life. We call that process of scrutiny our parish racial equity review.

Over the course of the past year, members of the Review Team's History Committee have worked to ensure that the review process is thoroughly grounded in the knowledge of the parish's founding. That grounding required the gathering of historical detail relative to College Church, the Archdiocese of St. Louis, the Society of Jesus, St. Louis University, and the City of St. Louis. Historical highlights were identified to create a brochure, timeline banners, and an introductory parish racial history video. To keep what we had learned before us and to share it with the greatest number of parishioners, History Committee members and invited guest speakers offered a series of three presentations—which concluded in November—chronicling important milestones and elevating significant historical figures.

Review team members have also engaged in extensive training throughout the year, starting with an orientation to the review process a year ago, followed by an examination of white cultural dominance as evidenced within Christianity, and undertaking a five-week intensive workshop to prepare for the work of the review. Currently, the team is being introduced to, and gaining practice with, the analytical tools that will facilitate the exchanges needed to appraise our parish life. And team members have actually begun the process of data collection. The coming months will see additional collection of information regarding our policies, practices, and offerings toward the goal of recommending change.

As important as the training—and somewhat unanticipated, as it sets this experience apart from other similar exercises—is the personal growth and interpersonal change, the noticeable difference in our way of being, that mark this journey. Please pray, during this season of Advent, for all—within our parish and beyond—who are engaged in the work of racial justice.

White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son - Tim Wise

Recently, the Racism and Reconciliation Committee at College Church, in collaboration with the Peace and Justice Committee at St. Alphonsus Liguori "Rock" Church, and the Center for Social Action at St. Louis University, hosted a community conversation on race and racism. The program began with a screening of a recorded address given by Tim Wise at the University of Tennessee – Martin. Mr. Wise has been engaged in the work of antiracism as a writer, educator, and activist for over thirty years. He was a leader in the student movement at Tulane University seeking financial divestment from companies doing business in South Africa during apartheid. After graduation he worked with several organizations on issues related to justice and was part of the movement to defeat David Duke's political campaigns. Since that time, he has written and lectured extensively on the topic of racism, particularly the harm to people of color and the benefits to white people that are preserved through systemic racism. *White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son* is the title of Wise's memoir, through which he shares multiple examples of his personal experience of privilege.

Many of the ideas presented in Mr. Wise's video address resonated with the participants of the community conversation. Among those ideas was the value for a more complete understanding of our history. It is important to understand not only the legacy of harm that has resulted from slavery and segregation and other forms of oppression, but it is also valuable to learn from the examples of the many leaders who have worked and continue to work toward a just and equitable society. Tim Wise is one of those leaders whose efforts help guide our path forward.

If you would like to learn more about Tim Wise you can view his video address through this link: tinyurl.com/mwp7a3h3 or read his book *White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son* (2011) Soft Skull Press, Berkeley, CA.

A Filipino Christmas: A Blend of Secular and Religious Elements

The Philippines has the longest history of Christmas in Asia. While some of the secular elements come from America (e.g., Santa Claus and snowmen), the oldest

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Christmas rituals come from their Spanish heritage. Pedro Chirino, a 17th century Jesuit, described the Filipino choirs as better than those in Spain.

Giving Macy's a run for their money, the Christmas decorations go up early in September in homes, malls, and public buildings. The creche is a legacy of St. Francis Assisi and is now found round the world. As opposed to wearing Palestinian robes, the Filipino version has Mary and Joseph in tropical clothes surrounded by coconut trees.

A uniquely religious ritual includes the Simbang Gadi, a nine-day novena of pre-dawn Masses leading up to Christmas. The Filipinos believe the sacrifice of waking before sunrise adds potency to their prayers. Many Filipinos attend this novena for a specific intention.

From great-grandfathers to infants, families gather for the Christmas meal known at Noche Buena. The meal begins late in the evening of Christmas Eve and lasts until the first few hours of Christmas Day. The menu usually consists of Christmas ham and ensaymada, a light sweet bread dusted with sugar and grated cheese. Gifts are exchanged with relatives during the Noche Buena.

The most popular Christmas album, "Christmas in Our Hearts" was released in 1990 and is played continually to this day. The most popular song includes the lyrics:

"Whenever I see girls and boys selling lanterns on the street,
I remember the child in the manger sleeps,
Whenever I see people giving gifts, exchanging cards,
I believe Christmas is truly in their hearts."



Xavier Books

Today is your final opportunity to purchase spirituality and reflection books after the Sunday morning masses in the ballroom. There are materials on Ignatian spirituality, writings of Pope Francis, and daily reflection guides for 2023.



Come down and find something to enrich your spirit and inspire you in the coming year.



Journeying Together in the Spirit

We're asking our whole parish to prayerfully consider their ongoing offertory giving. This is the support that helps keep our ministries serving the community, helps us provide the Mass and sacraments, and helps us build relationships in the parish and beyond.

You can find Commitment Cards in the pews, or visit sfxstl.org/giving for the electronic Commitment Card.

We also have photos and videos from our Decade of Dan celebration linked on that page!

Pastoral Care Commission

Spotlight on Seniors

2023 Program

Join with us to learn, to celebrate, to grow in our faith and build friendships and community

Ballroom Lecture Series following 10:30 Mass

January 8th: The Spirituality of Aging with Grace, Grit & Humor Presented by parishioner and spirituality guru, Sandy Spencer.

February 12th: Wills and Healthcare Directives Presented by parishioner and attorney, Matt Perlow. He will focus on understanding and developing health care directives from a legal perspective.

March 12th: End of Life Conversation Presented by Carla Baum, Senior Healthcare Executive and Founder of *Life Decision Story.com*. Carla's focus will be on exploring end of Life decisions.

April 26th Understanding Healing Touch Presented by parishioner, Mary O'Neill. Healing Touch is a relaxing, nurturing energy therapy. Gentle touch assists in balancing your physical, emotional, mental and spiritual well-being. Healing Touch supports your natural ability to heal.

Small Groups for Seniors

Registration required

Contact Bridget Brennan at 314-313-0613 or joy@canainstitute.org to register

Beginning Thursday January 19th, parishioner, Peg Woodworth will host a **small faith group gathering** at her home in University City. **Group will meet monthly on 3rd Thursdays from 2:00—3:30.** Parishioners, Anita Blattenberger will co-facilitate the group. Join with other parishioners to reflect on our life's journey, our prayer lives and build community with other parishioners.

Beginning Sunday, January 29th after the 10:30 parishioner, Mary O'Neill will facilitate a **weekly small group** on based the film series, **The Chosen**. Group will meet most Sundays after the 10:30 in the Adult Faith Room. Mary will begin with Season I. (Season I runs 8 weeks. Adjustments will be made so as not to conflict with Ballroom Series.)

Beginning Feb.5th after the 8:00 Mass **Sister Sally Rude, RCSJ** will offer a guided prayer experience **after the 8:00 a.m. Mass** on the **first Sunday** of each month. We will reflect on the readings of the day, asking God to deepen our awareness of God's love and call to each of us.

Support Group

Widow and Widowers Support Group meets **fourth Sundays** after the 8:00 Mass in Parish Center.

For information or questions about any of the above programs please contact Bridget@ joy@canainstitute.org or 314-313-0613. More events will be announced as the year unfolds. Stay tuned!

Circle of Creation Green Corner



Did you know?

Kind Box is a reusable container program for Green Dining Alliance restaurants in the St. Louis area that allows consumers to lessen their waste. Among other benefits, choosing Kind Box reusable containers will remove single-use containers from the waste stream, removing them from landfills, streets, waterways, and incinerators. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/5n7t7528> and see how the program works.

REALSIMPLE provides a helpful article on [How to Be Environmentally Friendly During the Holidays](#). Additionally, an article on The Art of Furoshiki provides an alternative to gift wrapping paper: <https://lastobject.com/blogs/news/the-art-of-furoshiki>.

A parishioner provides these suggestions: When choosing gifts, think of ways to buy fewer new things. Have a family gift exchange where each person draws the name of a single person to receive a gift. Give an experience (for example, tickets to a theater or dance performance, a visit to a local museum or restaurant, or membership in a local institution). Shop thrift and antique stores for one-of-a-kind gifts that don't take new resources to make. Heifer International and other organizations allow contributors to "give" animals like rabbits, goats, heifers, llamas, and chickens to needy families, so they can feed themselves and earn extra income. Homemade baked goods and other edibles are always appreciated. Shop local craft fairs and artisans to find unique gifts, without the transportation costs that contribute to global warming. Remember you can also shop our own SFX Fair Trade Online (<https://sfxstl.org/buy-fair-trade>)

Are you overwhelmed by paper junk mail and wish you could make it stop? Junk mail is a huge waste of our natural resources and our time. Sign up for Catalog Choice and start reducing your junk mail today! [Register at https://www.catalogchoice.org/](https://www.catalogchoice.org/).

Senior citizens 60 and over may want to consider the work of Third Act which is a national effort to organize older Americans to help protect our climate and safeguard our democracy. We're stepping up and using our strengths as a generation to get to work taking collective action for progressive change, building a skilled, joyful, committed base of volunteers along the way. Learn more by visiting <https://thirdact.org/>.

Have you been following the Solving Plastic series on YouTube? Tune in to learn how we can end the plastic pollution crisis for real! <https://tinyurl.com/5brtn54v>.

Visit the College Church Circle of Creation Committee's [Green Corner](#) on the Parish website to keep up to date on resources related to caring for creation, including public electronics recycling events.

December 17-18, 2022

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

December 24-25, 2022

Saturday	
5:15 pm	TBD
Sunday	
8:00 am	TBD
10:30 am	TBD

This Sunday's Scripture Readings:

First Reading:

Isaiah 7:10-14

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalms 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Second Reading:

Romans 1:1-7

Gospel:

Matthew 1:18-24

Bulletin Articles

Email bulletin articles to Angela Pancella at angela@sfxstl.org before Thursday at noon 10 days before the bulletin date.

Online Giving Reminder

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