



## **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 19th, 2021  
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](https://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:associatepastor@sfxstl.org) with questions.

Christian Initiation of Adults: contact Joe Milner at 314-977-7305 or [joseph.milner@slu.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://sfxstl.org/parishioner-registration) or at the Parish Center front desk. For questions email [church@sfxstl.org](mailto: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](mailto:terry@sfxstl.org) or Julie Kilian at [julie@sfxstl.org](mailto: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](mailto:terry@sfxstl.org).

Safe Environment Program Compliance contact Terry Edelmann at [terry@sfxstl.org](mailto:terry@sfxstl.org).

To reach the Pastoral Council, email [sfxpc@sfxstl.org](mailto:sfxpc@sfxstl.org).

**PASTORAL STAFF**Pastor

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Director of Wedding Music & Accompanist, Music Ministry

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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\*  
 Karen Mitts  
 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](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.

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Traveling to and from the Windy City can provide wildly different experiences of waiting. Chicago has many charms, but O'Hare Airport is not one of them. It seems designed to crush your soul if you have the (frequent!) misfortune of waiting out a delay. Everything about the space builds feelings of helplessness, drudgery, and despair.

Compare this to waiting for a train Chicago's Union Station. The extraordinary architecture of the great hall facilitates a waiting that is joyful and life-giving. The immense space calls to mind a Gothic cathedral and renders the simple act of waiting for a train enjoyable. Dare I say, even sacred? The architect of Union Station, in stark contrast to the airport, understood waiting is an essential part of any journey, and how we wait has deep significance.

This year we get nearly all the Advent season possible. Since Christmas is on a Saturday, we have almost four full weeks. That means a lot of waiting and preparing. Our inclination is to rush into Christmas. I get it. It is a wonderful season, and the wider culture has been doing Christmas since about November 15th. But Advent is no O'Hare Airport. It invites, for a few more days, to wait with joy and anticipation. Linger a bit longer in this time because it has a unique beauty. It reminds us there is much that is holy in our preparation.

**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:

Kathleen "Kathy" Borges (mother of parishioner Margie Borges)

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



### Christmas Celebrations

We will celebrate the coming of Christ with the following liturgical offerings:

#### December 24

Christmas Eve Family Mass 4:30 pm with  
Children's Tableau preceding mass  
Mass during the Night at 11:00 pm  
with Choir prelude at 10:30 pm

#### December 25

Christmas Day Liturgy 10:30 a.m.  
There will be no 5:15 pm mass on Dec 25.

**January 1** Feast of Mary, the Mother of God  
10:30 am in the Church

For more information, call the Parish Center at 977-7300  
or visit our website at: [sfxstl.org](http://sfxstl.org)  
Complimentary Parking for the Family Mass is available in  
SLU's Laclede Garage and the SLU lot at Lindell and Spring

### 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 pre-made candles available at church. If you have any questions contact Terry Edelman at [terry@sfxstl.org](mailto:terry@sfxstl.org). (Pictured: paper towel roll candles before being decorated.)



### 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:

Micah 5:1-4a

#### Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

#### Second Reading:

Hebrews 10:5-10

#### Gospel:

Luke 1:39-45

### Resources for the Loss of a Child

The Pastoral Care Committee of the parish provides support and resources for mothers, fathers, grandparents, and families who have experienced the loss of a child due to miscarriage or the death of a child at birth. If you would like more information or would like to speak to someone about your experience, please call Joan at 314-962-2833 for further information, connection or conversation. All contacts are held in strictest confidence.



## 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.

### Las Posadas

The Christmas season is filled with many traditions and rituals commemorating Jesus's birth and the experiences of the Holy Family. Our gratitude for the divine gift is expressed through varied cultural celebrations throughout the world.

One such celebration is known as Las Posadas. This nine-day custom has been celebrated in Mexico for over 400 years and recalls Mary and Joseph's search for lodging as they traveled to Bethlehem. "Posadas" is Spanish for "hotel" or "inn." From December 16th through the 24th, posaditas, some dressed as Mary, Joseph, or angels, walk from house to house asking, usually in song, for a place for the Queen of Heaven to give birth to Jesus. At house after house they are turned away. When they finally receive welcome, all celebrate with traditional foods, music, and a pinata in the shape of a star.

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*Enter, holy pilgrims,  
receive this corner, for though  
this dwelling is poor, I offer it  
with all my heart.*

Individual practices differ and have evolved over time. The Augustinian friars of San Agustin de Acolman, near Mexico City, are believed to have organized the first posadas. In 1586, Pope Sixtus V issued a papal bull granting the establishment of what was called ‘Misas de Aguinaldo’ or ‘Christmas bonus masses’ between December 16 and 24. Current celebrations may include daily Mass or culminate nine days of processions with midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. Today, posadas may be held in homes, in neighborhoods, and in schools.

This beautiful custom, in all of its forms, helps us to imagine the Holy Family and their search for safety and shelter. No doubt they were relieved to find rest, even in such meager and humble accommodations. Let us also reflect on the inn keeper who made room for a family that others had turned away and who recognized holiness in the face of strangers. Welcome holy pilgrims, receive this corner, for though this dwelling is poor, I offer it will all my heart!

### **Lift Every Voice**

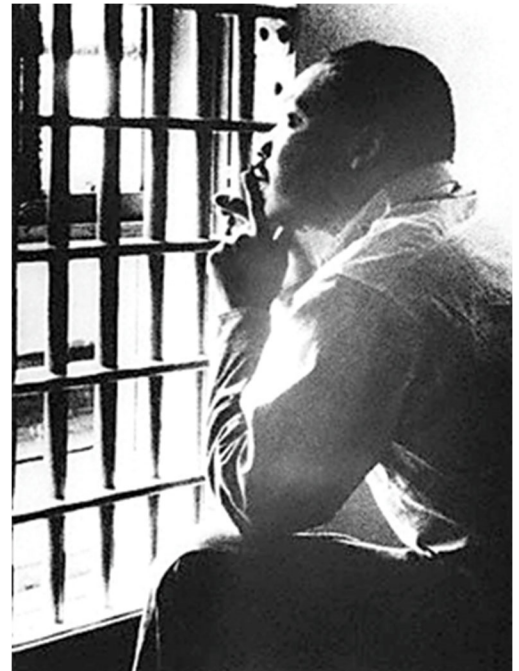
The Office of Racial Harmony in the Archdiocese of St. Louis will be hosting a discussion forum on Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “Letter from a Birmingham Jail.” Writing in response to the “Call for Unity” from eight white clergymen who criticized the Civil Rights demonstrations, Rev. Dr. King’s compelling words continue to challenge and inspire us, as people of faith, to take action in bending the “long arc of the moral universe toward justice.”

You are invited to participate in four weekly sessions: January 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. Held through Zoom, each session will include excerpts from the letter, a brief reflection, and small group discussion.

Registration is required. Please contact Joyce Jones in the Office of Racial Harmony to enroll and to receive the Zoom link: [joycejones@archstl.org](mailto:joycejones@archstl.org)

Link to "A Call for Unity" AND "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" (PDF)  
[tinyurl.com/callforunitybirminghamletter](http://tinyurl.com/callforunitybirminghamletter)

YouTube Video: Reading of the letter from a Birmingham jail  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_cT397uOak](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_cT397uOak)



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 9th, February 16th, February 23rd*  
*7:00pm-8:30pm 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.

You can also give online anytime by visiting: <https://bit.ly/socialministryappeal>.

Contact Christine with any questions at [christine@sfxstl.org](mailto: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.

### 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](mailto:outreach@sfxstl.org) or (314) 977-7311 to learn more about volunteering.

### Parish Men's White House Retreat, February 10-13, 2022

Thanks to College Church's leadership, staff and many parishioners, we have ongoing opportunities to study The Spiritual Exercises, created by the Jesuits' founder, St. Ignatius. One excellent opportunity is a retreat based on the Spiritual Exercises, at the White House Jesuit Retreat Center in South County.

The retreat has fabulous presentations by a Jesuit retreat director, daily liturgy, many opportunities to meet individually with a priest, ample silent time for prayer and reflection in a beautiful natural setting, comfortable accommodations and delicious meals. Our Parish Men's Retreat begins Thursday, February 10th with 7:00 pm dinner and concludes on Sunday the 13th at 2 pm following lunch.

We invite you to prayerfully consider participating. More information (including COVID precautions) and registration is available at [www.whretreat.org](http://www.whretreat.org) or by calling John Hartung (314-326-6018), Bill Morrison (314-991-8599) or David Schnelt (314-791-0227).



## Circle of Creation Green Corner

Visit [sfxstl.org/circleofcreation](https://sfxstl.org/circleofcreation) to keep up to date on all of our resources related to caring for creation!



### 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.

### December 25-26, 2021 (Holy Family)

No Saturday 5:15 pm Mass  
Sunday  
8:00 am Fr. White, S.J.  
10:30 am Fr. White, S.J.

### Bulletin Articles

email bulletin articles to [church@sfxstl.org](mailto:church@sfxstl.org) before Thursday at noon 10 days before the bulletin date.

### The Ignite Campaign

Our fall and winter fundraising campaign, Ignite, is drawing to a close. We want to thank everyone who has donated to this special fundraising effort, in which we have been offering support to all of our church's ministries and activities. Thanks in a special way to parishioner volunteers Lucinda Payne-Santiago and Susan Werremeyer for helping us envision what we could do in lieu of a gala, thanks to Carly Manshum for the design of the Ignite logo, and thank you to those who have participated in our video interviews to help tell the stories of College Church's ministries.



We are still accepting donations and offering raffle tickets (both online and in the back of church; also you automatically get one entry in our raffle when you make a donation); the campaign will end December 31st, and we will have our drawing in early January.

To learn more, visit: [ignitecampaign.givesmart.com](https://ignitecampaign.givesmart.com).

### 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](https://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!

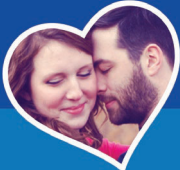


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