



## **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 24, 2023**  
**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 [frtim@sfxstl.org](mailto:frtim@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. Tim McMahon at [frtim@sfxstl.org](mailto: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](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 Jennifer Quick at [jennifer@sfxstl.org](mailto:jennifer@sfxstl.org) or Julie Kilian at [julie@sfxstl.org](mailto:julie@sfxstl.org) for more information.

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).

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Jen Hahn-Petruso and Aimee Wittman  
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Bridget Brennan  
314-313-0613  
[joy@canainstitute.org](mailto:joy@canainstitute.org)

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Anonymous Faculty member  
 Mary Kate Agniel  
 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](mailto:church@sfxstl.org)

Or visit [sfxstl.org](http://sfxstl.org), and find the form under "Parish Life."

**Join our prayer group on Zoom,**

Friday mornings at 9:

Contact Bridget Brennan at

[joy@canainstitute.org](mailto:joy@canainstitute.org) for info.

**Reflection from our Director of the Work**

By Katie Jansen

**"How Can This Be?"**

[This] is what I learned from Gabriel.  
 He saw in me  
 more than I saw in myself  
 and troubled my ordinariness  
 with the announcement  
 of a full and unfolding grace.  
 I became both cooperator and observer.  
 The moment I said, "Yes,"  
 I swam in rivers  
 not of my own making.  
 How little we know!  
 How much we have to trust!  
 Hold my hand.  
 I will take you to the place  
 where the spirit rejoices,  
 where lowliness becomes largeness,  
 where all space and time is pregnant,  
 where the center has no circumference,  
 where the divine child lays his head  
 upon the breast of your earth.  
 My question is the answer I found  
 when I said, "Let it be."

—John Shea, adapted from *Seeing Haloes*

**Help Decorate for Christmas!**

The Fourth Week of Advent is just a few short hours this year and the the Art and Environment Committee needs many helpers to prepare the church for our Christmas celebration! We will gather after the 10:30 AM Mass today to water and place the poinsettias, arrange the Nativity Creche and prepare the altar and Christmas wreath. We welcome help of all ages - many hands make light the work! If you have any questions, please contact Theresa Lueke at [tmlueke@yahoo.com](mailto:tmlueke@yahoo.com).

**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:

Mary Ann Shay, mother of Tina Hilliard

Jeanette Wildhagen, mother of Mary Wildhagen-Kuc

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





Elizabeth Jarboe

### Living Our Faith: Meet Elizabeth

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

My name is Elizabeth Jarboe and I am the daughter of Scott Jarboe and Aimee Wittman. My brother is Luke Jarboe, who is 16, and my sister is Katherine Jarboe, who is 9. We usually attend the 10:30 a.m. Liturgy and we like to sit in the front row on the south side of the Church.

**An SFX parishioner since:**2013. I have been a member of College Church since I was one year old! I am currently 11 and a fifth grader at New City School.

**Living my faith:** I participate in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program where I am in the Level III Atrium with Miss Janet and Miss Amy. I enjoy spending time with the other children who are in the CGS program, especially the other fifth graders

and some sixth graders.

I am also a lector and have previously participated in the Tableau and the Children's Christmas Choir, and I have read the petitions at Christmas Eve Mass. As you can see, I contribute to many activities at College Church throughout the year.

I also enjoy going to the special potluck lunches after Mass and I love Donut Sunday because I can connect with other members of the College Church community and enjoy the delicious food.

**Why I'm involved:** I love College Church because of the kind and caring community.

**Three words that describe SFX:** Community, Joyful, Family

**My neighborhood:** I live in Glendale. Some of the things I enjoy most about our neighborhood are the Pumpkin Patch at the church down the street from our house and going to the Kirkwood Public Library and the Farmer's Market. In fact, this year, we got our Christmas Tree from the Farmer's Market.

**Fun facts:** I really enjoy reading. I also am a theater person and love singing and acting. This year I am a member of the Drama Club at our school. Last year I was a participant when we did Matilda, Jr. This year we are doing Newsies, Jr. I am also very excited for the Christmas Mass because I will be reading the petitions and singing in the Children's Choir. I hope to see you there!

*St. Francis Xavier's parish family represents diverse backgrounds, with many immensely talented, deeply engaged, warm and welcoming parishioners. Learn more about how to become involved by calling (314) 977-7300 or visiting [sfxstl.org](http://sfxstl.org).*



**Christmas Season At St. Francis  
Xavier College Church**

**Christmas Eve Family Mass**

4:30 pm

**Mass during the Night**

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 10<sup>th</sup>: 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.

**Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/SFXWalkingTogether>**



## 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.

### Christmas Lights Will Not Shine in Bethlehem

Last month, Christian leaders and municipal authorities in Bethlehem decided that, as an act of solidarity with the suffering in Gaza, there would be no Christmas celebrations in the West Bank city this year. Though religious services will be held, public festivities such as Christmas markets are cancelled and, for the first time since modern celebrations began, the Manger Square tree in the birthplace of Jesus will not be decorated.

Bethlehem was not alone in that decision. Patriarchs and heads of the churches in Jerusalem asked Christians in the Holy Land to refrain from festive Christmas activities, as have Catholic churches in Galilee. In Jordan, the Jordan Council of Church Leaders announced that festive Christmas celebrations will be cancelled. Witnessing the horrors of war and the ensuing humanitarian catastrophe, the festive spirit is crushed.

A letter to President Biden from two Palestinian Christians captures the grief and longing that underlie the decisions to cancel Christmas celebrations, “This land has been crying for peace and justice for 75 years. It is time justice is served. It is time everybody can live with dignity in this land. The Palestinian and Israeli children deserve to live, hope, and dream.”<sup>1</sup>

And a recent statement from the Society of Jesus reinforces this message:

Last week, when speaking to his weekly audience, Pope Francis urged the world to take “only one side” in the Israeli-Palestinian war—the one “of peace.” He added, “War does not solve any problem, it only sows death and destruction, increases hatred, multiplies revenge. War erases the future...”

The Society of Jesus endorses the Pope’s unconditional call for peace.

The Society of Jesus has been present at the heart of the conflict in Israel-Palestine and throughout the Middle East. Jesuits have been deeply engaged in dialogue with Jews. Fully committed to the uprooting of the teaching of contempt for Jews, anti-Judaism, and anti-Semitism, the Society of Jesus also recognizes the rights of Jews in Israel and everywhere else in the world. Never again must Jews be murdered, raped, maimed, tortured, kidnapped and threatened.

Jesuits have also been deeply engaged in dialogue with Muslims who form the majority of Palestinians together with the Christian Palestinians. They are fully committed to the building up of multicultural and multireligious societies in Palestine and throughout the Middle East. They are active in the fight against Islamophobia and racism. Palestinians have the right to live everywhere in their homeland in dignity and peace. Never again must Palestinians be murdered, buried under the rubble of their homes, expelled, starved, collectively punished and exiled.

It is time to say stop the killing and promotion of ideologies that permit it. Stop instrumentalizing religion for political power projects. Decades of violent conflict have brought nothing but ruin on the entire region and escalation of hatred. The only possible victory is the fruit of a struggle for justice and peace, equality and reconciliation.

Today, in this time of engulfing darkness and death, let us embrace the invitation to take the side of peace.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Excerpt from letter to President Biden from Munther Isaac and Tamar Hadid, read during interview conducted on 12/02/23 by Asma Khalid for National Public Radio.

<sup>2</sup>From *Compassion*, the newsletter of the Central and Southern Jesuit Province, December 2023.

### Kwanzaa

A Celebration of Unity and Reflection Kwanzaa is a pan-African and African-American cultural festival celebrated from December 26th to January 1st. Professor Maulana Karenga, who teaches African Studies at California State University – Long Beach, introduced the festival in 1966 to counter the commercialism of Christmas. Kwanzaa comes from the Swahili word meaning “first fruits.”

Seven principles comprise the celebration:

- Unity – maintaining the unity of family, community, nation, and race;
- Self-Determination – define ourselves, name ourselves, create and speak for ourselves;
- Collective Work – build and maintain our community. Make our brothers’ and sisters’ problems our problems;
- Collective economics – build and maintain our shops, stores, businesses, and profit from them together;
- Purpose – build and develop our community and restore our people to their greatness;

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- Creativity – leave our community more beautiful than we inherited it; and
- Faith – believe in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and believe in the righteous.



As Professor Karenga said, "During Kwanzaa we study, recall, and reflect on our history and the role we play as a legacy to the future."

During Kwanzaa seven candles traditionally are displayed on a table with three red candles on the left, three green candles on the right, and one black candle in the center. Each day one candle is lit starting with the black candle and then alternating between the red and green candles. The red candles represent the struggle, the green candle the land, and the black candle Africa. The communal feast is called Karamu and draws on the cultures of the Caribbean, Africa, and South America. The food served includes fried okra, plantains, fried chicken, black bean soup, baked ham, and gumbo. The feast is not just about the food—it is a time to sing, to pray, and celebrate African heritage. The last day of Kwanzaa is a time for reflection. People ask themselves: Who am I? Am I really who I say I am? Am I all I ought to be?

### Significant Figures in Racial History

Jane Aileen Gordon Kaiser – born December 27, 1912, in St. Louis, MO. Gordon-Kaiser was a descendant of Thomas Jefferson with a woman whom he enslaved.

When Kaiser's children were old enough to attend school, she challenged the St. Louis archdiocesan school system to admit her son. Though unsuccessful, her efforts motivated the transfer of Archbishop Joseph Ritter to St. Louis, who integrated the Catholic schools.

Sister Thea Bowman, FSPA – born December 29, 1937, in Yazoo City, MS. Bowman became a Franciscan Sister and made major contributions to the ministry of Black Catholics, including the production of an African American Hymnal. She died of cancer in 1990, and her cause for sainthood has been introduced at the Vatican.

### Current and Upcoming 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](http://mohistory.org/mlk-celebration)

**January 14 2:00 – 3:30 pm** The St. Louis Art Museum will host the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. The program will highlight the richness of the Black experience in America and feature an original theatrical work inspired by photographs by Moneta Sleet Jr. in the Museum's collection. It is a free event. Check their website or more information. [slam.org/event/2024-rev-dr-martin-luther-king-jr-celebration-boldly-embracing-a-legacy-of-greatness/](http://slam.org/event/2024-rev-dr-martin-luther-king-jr-celebration-boldly-embracing-a-legacy-of-greatness/)

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

### Society of St. Vincent de Paul Corner

Once again the SFX parish family has shown its generous spirit! The four families for whom we sought Christmas assistance were adopted. We delivered the gifts to the families on December 20th. Many thanks for your participation. Be assured that you have brightened this Christmas for these single moms wanting to surprise their kids Christmas morning.

For anyone still wanting to participate, there remains a need for gift cards from discount stores (e.g. Walmart, Target). These allow our Neighbors to choose exactly what they need, which in turn encourages greater empowerment and hope.

Gift cards can be dropped off at the church office, with the notation "for St. Vincent de Paul". Thank you for joining us in service to our Neighbors.

## 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 [secure.everyaction.com/vead3y8I7UaTKbzqV15ICw2](https://secure.everyaction.com/vead3y8I7UaTKbzqV15ICw2)

**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](https://vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html)

Open Space STL lists opportunities for volunteer service through various organizations, providing information and registration [volunteer.openspacestl.org/need/](https://volunteer.openspacestl.org/need/)

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

### Public Electronics Recycling events

[mrc-recycling.squarespace.com/electronics-recycling-events](https://mrc-recycling.squarespace.com/electronics-recycling-events)

January 20, 8:00 – 11:00 AM  
359 Old Meramec Station Road  
Manchester, MO, 63021  
hosted by City of **Manchester**

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

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

### December 23-24

Fourth Sunday of Advent Masses

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.

Christmas Masses

4:30 pm Family Mass Fr. Redding, S.J.

11 pm Mass during the Night Fr. Redding, S.J.

### December 25

Monday

10:30 am Fr. McMahon, S.J.

### December 30-31

Saturday

5:15 pm Fr. Reale, S.J.

Sunday

8:00 am Fr. Redding, S.J.

10:30 am Fr. Redding, S.J.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

### January 1, 2024

10:30 am Fr. Redding, S.J.

### This Sunday's Scripture Readings

#### First Reading:

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

#### Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

#### Second Reading:

Romans 16:25-27

#### Gospel:

Luke 1:26-38

### Bulletin Articles

Email bulletin articles to Camille Smith, at [bulletin@sfxstl.org](mailto:bulletin@sfxstl.org), before Thursday at noon 10 days before the bulletin date.

### College Church Accessibility

As a reminder, **assistive listening devices** are available for our liturgies. Please let the ushers know if you would like to use one.