



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 26th, 2021
Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

LITURGY SCHEDULE

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

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

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

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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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

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

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

Infant Baptisms: Visit the Baptism page on the SFX website, www.sfxstl.org/baptism-1, for information on infant baptisms and required preparation class. Baptisms are celebrated on the first and third Sunday of the month, at 12 pm. Contact associatepastor@sfxstl.org with questions.

Christian Initiation of Adults: contact Joe Milner at 314-977-7305 or joseph.milner@slu.edu

Marriages: contact Sandy Hauck at 314-977-7303 for scheduling and preparation information.

Funerals: contact Fr. Dan White at frdan@sfxstl.org or 314-977-7300.

Disability Access: Our church has an elevator and hearing assistance system. Please see an usher for assistance.

Parish Registration: Available online at sfxstl.org/parishioner-registration or at the Parish Center front desk. For questions email church@sfxstl.org.

Youth Faith Formation: Catechesis of Good Shepherd classes are available for preschool through 6th grade level students. Traditional religious education classes are available for grades 1 through 8. Classes meet September - May on Sunday mornings. Contact Terry Edelmann at terry@sfxstl.org or Julie Kilian at julie@sfxstl.org for more information.

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

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

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

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PRAY FOR THE SICK

Mary Lou Ampleman
 Michael Anderson
 Margaret Baughman
 Bill Bollwerk*
 Kathy Bookstaver
 Mary Bruemmer*
 Sheila Byrnes
 Maureen Carney*
 Linda Castillon*
 Maureen Clever
 Marcie Corwin
 Steve Frank
 Monica Gunn
 Jessi Haselhorst
 Paul Hanson*
 Mary Jane and Butch Henning*
 Jeanne Hermann*
 Laura Kaiser and Family
 Terry Kippenberger*
 Julianne Lister
 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

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

Join our prayer group on Zoom,

Friday mornings at 9:

Contact Bridget Brennan at
joy@canainstitute.org for info.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Merry Christmas! May the birth of Christ fill you with joy. It is good to again celebrate this most holy season together after another long and difficult year. We welcome back our children's Christmas tableau for the first time in two years. It is a sign to me of the light and hope that is at the heart of Christmas.

Recently, I heard a couple parents in the Youth Faith program talk about Christmas in Poland. They grew up there in the 1980s when the country was under martial law, and Poland suffered from incredible scarcity. The best gift at Christmas was, they recalled, an orange. It reminded me of my own parents who spent their childhoods living through the Great Depression and the Second World War. They too did not have much when celebrating Christmas.

The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem is a story of deprivation and hardship. It is strange that our own expectations for Christmas are so often caught up in everything being perfect. We long for no family drama, no hard conversations, and no disappointments. All will be sparkly, shiny, and happy.

The reality is far different. Christians have celebrated Christmas in the midst of war, famine, persecution, and yes, pandemics. Many of us will celebrate this year very far from a place of perfection. That is the point. God becomes one with us in the mess and struggle of our lives. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

Octave of Christmas Mass Times and Office Schedule

December 27th through December 31st, we will offer our 7:15 am daily Mass, but no noon Masses.

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, December 27th.

Our Outreach Program (for birth certificates and IDs) will resume on Tuesday, January 4th after a two-week break.

Update on College Church House Meetings

This fall Katie Jansen and Fr. Dan began a series of house meetings with parishioners. The purpose was to discuss our parish leadership transition in light of the Church's call for synodality. We wanted to discuss the changes from the perspective of Pope Francis' desire for Catholics to deepen our participation and co-responsibility for the Church.

This fall semester we held 17 meetings that involved over 130 parishioners. They have been an extraordinary experience of prayer and discussion. Thank you for all who have participated.

We will continue to offer this opportunity to gather in the first part of 2022. The hope to engage with as many parishioners as possible so we can together listen and discern where the Holy Spirit is calling College Church. Please check the bulletin for updates on the progress of our transition.

This Sunday's Scripture Readings

First Reading:

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

Second Reading:

Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel:

Luke 2:41-52

YOUTH AND FAMILY FAITH FORMATION



Youth Faith Formation eighth-graders and some parent volunteers sort through piles of donated clothing that is a part of the annual Let's Start Christmas Party.

Let's Start is an organization for children whose mothers are incarcerated. For the past several years the College Church Confirmation class and some parents have invited Let Start children and caregivers to a Christmas Party with games, lunch and gifts of winterwear.

Due to COVID concerns there was no party this year, but families in the Youth Faith Formation program donated new clothing items for the children, and on December 11th, eighth-graders and some parents gathered to bundle all of the items for delivery, and make individual bags with cookies and crafts for the sixty-five children who would have attended.



Antiracism at College Church Examining Our Past

As we begin the parish equity review, one of the first tasks before us is to better understand the history of our church and its role in perpetuating, as well as resisting, racial oppression. The review team has been locating records from the earliest days of St. Louis - the city, the diocese, and the university. Those stories are interwoven through the history of College Church and the Society of Jesus. We can more clearly see how each thread is part of the entire fabric.

To support this fact-finding mission, members of the Antiracism Team, the Parish Equity Review Team, and the Racism and Reconciliation Committee visited the Collection of the Western Jesuit Mission at the St. Louis University Museum of Art. This exhibit portrays Catholic life and the frontier experience of the Jesuit missionaries who came to this area in 1823. Fr. Jeffrey Harrison, SJ, the coordinator of the Slavery, History, Memory, and Reconciliation project in St. Louis, accompanied the group and provided some of the stories and perspectives of the indigenous people and African Americans whose experiences are not represented in the artifacts displayed. There was no mention of enslaved men and women whose unpaid labor built the facilities, farmed the land, and served the priests and seminarians whose legacy is preserved in this installation.

There were many new insights among members of the group, as revealed through the feedback from some of the participants:

“It is an awakening to realize that these individuals have not been included in the historical narrative until now.” Mary Kellogg

“Omissions in documented history lead to blindspots for succeeding generations.” Mary White

“There is so much I know so little about, like the Jesuit suppression. I am hoping that we will be able to provide some reconciliation to those families affected and that we can get more actively antiracist as a parish.” Joan McGinnis

“I keep thinking about all the stories that have yet to be told and also who is doing the telling. We have opportunities to make more rich the stories we hear - I'm thinking of it like a symphony that's been missing parts for multiple instruments. We don't have to erase the parts that are already there; we need to add those

additional voices which will make what we hear more complex, but also more complete and more powerful and more beautiful.” Christina Ryan

“I found it interesting that the Jesuit community has acknowledged their past role in racism, and the intent to make reconciliation/reparations.” Larry Morini

The effort to understand our history will be continuing and will be an essential foundation to build the path forward.

Kwanzaa – A Celebration of Unity and Reflection

Kwanzaa is a cultural festival celebrated from December 26th to January 1st. The festival was introduced by Professor Maulana Karenga, who teaches African Studies at California State University – Long Beach, in 1966 as a response to 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.
- Creativity – leave our community more beautiful than we inherited it.
- Faith – believe in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and believe in the righteousness and victory of our struggle.



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As Professor Karenga said, “During Kwanzaa we study, recall and reflect on our history and our 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 candles the land and the black candle Africa.

The communal feast is called Karamu and draws on the Caribbean, African and South America heritage. 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?

History Highlights: The Camp Jackson Affair

The State of Missouri was awash in opposing sentiments and allegiances in the lead-up to, and during, the Civil War. In March 1861, the Missouri Constitutional Convention voted to stay in the Union and not to arm either side in the war. But by the time the Civil War began in April 1861, the heightened discord over slavery made the state a battleground, in which armies from both sides of the conflict were posted. One month after the start of the war, Missouri Governor Claiborne Jackson, who sympathized with the Southern states but agreed to maintain Missouri's neutrality, called up several units of secessionist militia, under the leadership of Brigadier General Daniel M. Frost, for maneuvers. These exercises were to take place about five miles north of the St. Louis Arsenal, in an area known as Lindell's Grove, which was set up as Camp Jackson by the militia, in an area now encompassed by the campus of St. Louis University.

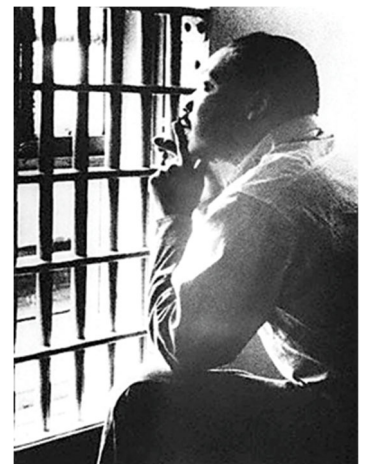
The newly appointed Union commander in St. Louis, Brigadier General Daniel Lyon, saw those maneuvers as an effort by Confederate sympathizers to gain control of the federal arsenal in St. Louis, the largest of any of the armories in the slave states. On May 10, 1861, Lyon captured the militia, but while marching its members back to the arsenal for parole, the streets along the route filled with secessionists, and a riot ensued. Lyon's troops opened fire, killing 28 people and wounding about 90 in what became known as the Camp Jackson Affair—the sole Civil War clash fought in the St. Louis area. The violence ended with the imposition of martial law. The arsenal remained in federal hands throughout the Civil War, with St. Louis as a Union stronghold.

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



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 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 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 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 to keep up to date on all of our resources related to caring for creation!



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.

January 1-2, 2021

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

Bulletin Articles

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

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.

Online Giving Reminder

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

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

Thank you for your support!

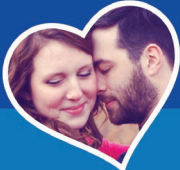


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