



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 31, 2023
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 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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Ray Sherrock
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Pastoral Council Co-Chairs

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

Pastoral Care Ministry

Bridget Brennan
314-313-0613
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

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.

How to Enter the New Year

By Vinita Hampton Wright



If you're reading this, you lived to see the new year. This is no small matter! Your life makes a difference in the universe, whether or not you embrace your God-given power. May this prayer accompany your initial steps into the future.

God of all time,
 help us enter the New Year quietly,
 thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others,
 mindful that our steps make an impact
 and our words carry power.
 May we walk gently.
 May we speak only after we have listened well.
 Creator of all life,
 help us enter the New Year reverently,
 aware that you have endowed
 every creature and plant, every person and habitat
 with beauty and purpose.
 May we regard the world with tenderness.
 May we honor rather than destroy.
 Lover of all souls,
 help us enter the New Year joyfully,
 willing to laugh and dance and dream,
 remembering our many gifts with thanks
 and looking forward to blessings yet to come.
 May we welcome your lavish love.
 May we cast off the small, vindictive god our fears have made.
 May the grace and peace of Christ bless you now and in the days ahead.

Come to the Quiet is a silent retreat, January 5-7, at Mercy Conference and Retreat Center in Frontenac. The retreat opens with 5:30 PM supper Friday and concludes at 11:00 AM on Sunday. The cost is \$165 for a private room with a private bath. The retreat has minimal structure with optional sessions and informal spiritual companioning to help participants connect with the silence within. Dawn Stringfield, Executive Director of Mercy Conference and Retreat Center will lead the retreat. Register at www.mercycenterstl.org by January 1.

Fair Trade Sales Next 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, January 7th All sales support our sister parish, St. Peter Claver in Belize.



Martha Daly

Living Our Faith: Meet Martha

(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: 17 years. I began coming to College Church in the late 1990s for the Advent concerts, and was moved by the beauty and the brightness of the music and liturgical dance. I became a parishioner around 2006, having come from three different parishes in North County where I live.

Living my faith: I'm now a member of the Pastoral Council and the Pastoral Care Commission, and I volunteer at the ID and Birth Certificate Outreach Program on Tuesday mornings. I'm also a Eucharistic minister at College Church and SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital, both of which offer grace and blessings.

Why I'm involved: As a result of growing up in a very Franciscan family and graduating from Dominican University in River Forest, Ill., I am admittedly late to Ignatian spirituality. Recently I have found it in the Lightworks program here at College Church. I am inspired by Pope Francis' call for change, for the hope that walking together in synodality will create a more welcoming, more equal and more just Church and

community.

Three words that describe SFX: Vulnerable, Listening, Hopeful

My neighborhood: I live in Florissant, but I consider my family to be my community. It includes my daughter, my three grandchildren and now a great-granddaughter, Amelia, who is one and a half. I also count with gratitude my friends at College Church who simply amaze and inspire me. My family once included a dear friend who endured early-onset Alzheimer's and whom I cared for, gifting me the inspiration to volunteer for the Alzheimer's Association for almost 20 years.

Fun facts: Having a degree in economics, I eventually became Vice President of Sales Administration for Schaeffer Oil, a company headquartered in St. Louis. I enjoyed being part of its growth for 27 years.

I once drove a NASCAR race car nine laps around Gateway International Raceway (now World Wide Technology Raceway) reaching a speed of 120.5 mph. When I got back to the office that day, Schaeffer's chairman of the board posted a sign above my office that said, "Welcome home, Smokey!" It was pretty awesome!

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.

**Pastoral Care Commission
Spotlight on Seniors
2024 Program**

Join with us to learn, to celebrate, to grow in our faith, build friendships and Community
Ballroom Lecture Series following 10:30 Mass

January 14th: Yet Another Journey into Yes, Continuing to allow God to lead us gracefully on our myriad journeys. Presented by Jesuit Father Mike Harter, S.J. Father Harter, a member of the Central-Southern Province, has served the Society of Jesus not only in our own Province but from Oregon to New York and from Canada to Australia, gracefully learning to say Yes on his own personal zig-zag journey. Currently Father Harter is a member of the support staff at St. Ignatius Hall, Florissant, serving our retired, elderly and infirmed Jesuits. Please join us for a presentation of a Yes lived in faith sprinkled with a touch of humor.

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.

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.

World Day of Peace

Every year, on January 1, the Catholic Church celebrates both the Solemnity of Mary and the World Day of Peace. Pope Paul VI, who instituted the practice in 1967, saw it as a fitting occasion, on the Octave of Christmas, “for renewing adoration of the newborn Prince of Peace and for imploring from God, through the Queen of Peace” the gift of tranquility.

The annual celebration is marked by a special message from the pope in which we are asked to reflect on the important work of building peace. In his message for World Peace Day this year, Pope Francis addresses the emergence of artificial intelligence and its ability “to make a beneficial contribution to the future of humanity” or to act as a powerful and destructive influence capable of “aggravating inequalities and conflicts.” As the applications of artificial intelligence increase, the challenges it poses, says the pope, will be “technical, anthropological, educational, social, and political.” Pope Francis reminds us that “artificial intelligence ought to serve our best human potential and our highest aspirations, not compete with them.”

As we grapple with the implications of the development and use of artificial intelligence, we are encouraged to elevate human dignity and to pursue the cause of human fraternity and peace through prayer, learning, and action. Pray for all those in need of peace in our community and throughout the world. Learn about the political and social issues that contribute to inequity and conflict. Discern the ways you might act in support of peacemaking through encounter, direct service, and advocacy.

You can learn more about the World Day of Peace through a handout developed by the USCCB, tinyurl.com/225w26ar, and read Pope Francis’s entire message for the 57th annual celebration, LVII World Day of Peace 2024 - Artificial Intelligence and Peace.



God’s Peace for the World

“Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus”
- Philippians 4:7

In 1968, the Paris Peace Talks were convened to find a way to end the war in Vietnam. It took over five years to reach an agreement because for months talks were bogged down by arguments over the shape of the table! When Saint Paul writes of a peace “that surpasses all understanding,” he describes a special kind of peace. The kind of peace that was hammered out at the Paris Peace Talks is easy to comprehend - it amounts to a cessation of war. We can understand stopping a war, but that is not the peace that is offered by God.

The peace of God far exceeds our grasp. It is much more than merely the absence of war. It is not something we can fully attain because it is still unfolding in the fullness of time. The peace of God is not just the end of this or that conflict; it is a total transformation of the conditions in our world that make war seem necessary.

In this New Year we continue to await the arrival of God’s peace. Even though it surpasses our understanding, it is still something we encounter from time to time in glimpses and flashes. We experience God’s peace enough to know that it is worth believing in, hoping for, and waiting for.

Significant Figures in Racial History

Roland Hayes – died January 1, 1977, in Boston, MA. A singer and composer, music critics hailed Hayes’ linguistic skills for singing in French, German, and Italian. In 1939, he was one of the first Black men to break the color barrier in classical music when he recorded with Columbia Records.

Grace Bumbry – born January 4, 1937, in St. Louis, MO. Bumbry attended Sumner High School. She was a leading Mezzo-soprano with a rich and dynamic voice and spent most of her career in Europe. Bumbry received a Grammy and was honored by the Kennedy Center for the Arts.

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George Washington Carver – died January 5, 1943, in Tuskegee, AL. Carver was born into slavery in 1864 in Diamond, MO. As an adult he became one of the most prominent agricultural scientists and inventors of his time. He is especially known for his research on peanut crops.

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

December 31 2:00–5:00 pm The Office of Racial Harmony of the Archdiocese of St. Louis invites young adult people of color to a celebration of Kwanzaa at St. Alphonsus Liguori “Rock” Church. For more information and to register for this free event go to: racialharmonystl.org/yapocform

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/

February 23, 2024 7:30 pm The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and the IN UNISON Chorus—marking its 30th year in 2024—is offering a one-of-a-kind celebration of Black History Month at the Stifel Theater. See their website for more information and to purchase tickets. <https://www.stifeltheatre.com/events/detail/lift-every-voice>

For more information, or to become part of anti-racism ministries, contact Winnie Sullivan penultim@swbell.net or Lisa Burks Imburks60@gmail.com

DO YOU HAVE A FEW HOURS EACH WEEK TO MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE? St. Francis Community Services – Southside Immigrant Services Center, located at 4222 Delor St. (63116) needs tutors and helpers for their “After School Program”! Designed for youth in kindergarten through 5th Grade, the Program runs Mondays through Thursdays from 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. You can help for just one day or more, flexible hours. You will assist children with homework, reading, and other weekly assignments. If interested, contact Jazmin at Jpintor@ccstl.org or (314) 632 - 6704.



Our parish is located in the
Northern Vicariate of the
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

Very Reverend Scott Jones, V.E. | Episcopal Vicar

Connect With the Northern Vicariate Office:

6052 Waterman Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63112
314-792-6510

Website:

<https://www.archstl.org/northern-vicariate>

Subscribe to Flocknotes:

<https://northernvicariate.flocknote.com/news>



Available Ad Space

Build your business and help us grow a vibrant faith community!

Bob Swagman from LPi, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our bulletin. Please consider purchasing an ad, sponsoring a charity, or in Memory of a Loved One. Your participation makes our bulletin successful, and you attract customers!

BENEFITS OF ADVERTISING

- Local, targeted community advertising for **one full year, at one low price.**
- A **FREE** ad listing on parishesonline.com.
- **FREE**, professional ad design, and 4 free ad changes per year.

Bob Swagman 636-346-2058



BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER



Parish Men's White House Retreat, February 8-11, 2024

The parish men's retreat at the White House Jesuit Retreat Center (an easy drive to South County) begins Thursday evening, February 8, 2024 with 7:00 pm dinner and concludes on Sunday the 11th at about 1:00 pm following lunch.

To get signed up or learn more, you can contact White House directly (www.whitehouseretreat.org, 314-416-6400) or just reach out to John Hartung (314-326-6018, jjhartung@aol.com), Bill Morrison (314-991-8599, wkmorrison534@yahoo.com) or David Schnelt (314-791-0227).

The retreat is a great opportunity to study and apply the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Retreatants have abundant quiet time to reflect and pray (in a beautiful setting) and are not asked to join in group discussions. We do, though, attend outstanding presentations by a Jesuit retreat director, may join in daily liturgy, and have many opportunities to meet individually with a priest. Accommodations and meals are excellent. No charge is specified for the retreat; retreatants are encouraged to consider any free will offering they can afford and find appropriate.

Kairos Call to Action

Scripture.....Current Events

Connect the Dots

"My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it." Luke 8:21
It is the 'do' part of Jesus' comment that challenges us. What, where, when, how and why are not always easy to discern. We will offer you the *US response to **Kairos Palestine*** curriculum at College Church. The course will be 6 weeks, 2 hours on **Saturdays 3 pm-5 pm. January 20-February 24, 2024**. The class will be co-facilitated by Lea Koesterer and Bob Suberi. More details to come. If you want to keep yourself informed and engaged through this study, please email: **Lea Koesterer** at st.louisfriendsofbethlehem@gmail.com



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

**Circle of Creation
Green Corner**



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/vead3y817UaTKbzqVI5ICw2

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/>].

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.

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.

Public Electronics Recycling events
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 on the Parish website to keep up to date on resources related to caring for creation, including public electronics recycling events.

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.

January 6-7

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

Sunday
8:00 am Fr. McMahon, S.J.

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

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 2:22-40

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.