



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 4, 2022
Second Sunday of Advent

LITURGY SCHEDULE

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

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

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

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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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sandy@sfxstl.org

Choir Director, Music Ministry

Ray Sherrock
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Director of Wedding Music & Accompanist, Music Ministry

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Pastoral Council Chair

Maurice Muia
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Pastoral Ministry

Bridget Brennan
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PRAY FOR THE SICK

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

Prayer requests to:

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

Join our prayer group on Zoom, Friday mornings at 9:
 Contact Bridget Brennan at joy@canainstitute.org for info.

Reflections from our Parish Life Coordinator



By Katie Jansen

The working document for the Continental Stage of the Synod on Synodality has been released. It includes a summary of the most common hopes and concerns that Catholics throughout the world shared in sessions like the house meetings we held here at College Church and in parishioners' houses. You can find the full document here. <https://bit.ly/continental-stage>

This is from the section titled Listening to the Scriptures. What a great image of the Church!

"Enlarge the space of your tent, spread out your tent cloths unsparingly, lengthen your ropes and make firm your pegs" (Is 54:2).

"To the people in exile the prophet's words evokes the experience of the exodus, when they dwelt in tents, and announces the promise of the return to the land, a sign of joy and hope. To prepare, it is necessary to enlarge the tent, acting on the three elements of its structure. The first is the tent cloths, which protect from the sun, wind and rain, delineating a space of life and conviviality. They need to be spread out so that they can also protect those who are still outside this space, but who feel called to enter it. The ropes that hold the cloths together are the second structural element of the tent. They must balance the tension needed to keep the tent from drooping with the softness that cushions movement caused by the wind. That is why if the tent expands, the ropes must be stretched to maintain the right tension. Finally, the pegs are the third element: they anchor the structure to the ground and ensure its solidity, but remain capable of moving when the tent must be pitched elsewhere.

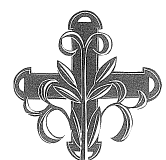
Listened to today, these words of Isaiah invite us to imagine the Church similarly as a tent, indeed as the tent of meeting, which accompanied the people on their journey through the desert: called to stretch out, therefore, but also to move. At its center, stands the tabernacle, that is, the presence of the Lord. The tent's hold is ensured by the sturdiness of its pegs, that is, the fundamentals of faith that do not change but can be moved and planted in ever new ground, so that the tent can accompany the people as they walk through history. Finally, in order not to sag, the structure of the tent must keep in balance the different forces and tensions to which it is subjected: a metaphor that expresses the need for discernment. This is how many reports envision the Church: an expansive, but not homogeneous dwelling, capable of sheltering all, but open, letting in and out (cf. Jn. 10:9), and moving toward embracing the Father and all of humanity."

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED

With the hope of the Resurrection, we ask that you remember in your prayers:

Rick Kalchik (brother of Sylvia Efken)

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



Advent and Christmas Celebrations

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



Daily Masses (Mon—Fri, Dec 5—Dec 23) 7:15 am & Noon
Confessions (Mon—Fri.) 10:45 until Noon

Thursday, December 8 Immaculate Conception Holyday
7:15 am, Noon, and 5:15 pm in the Church

Sunday, December 11 Advent Penance Service Noon

Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve Family Mass 4:30 pm
Mass during the Night at 11:00 pm
with Choir prelude at 10:30 pm

Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day
Masses at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Daily Masses (Mon—Fri, Dec 26—Jan 2) Only 7:15 am
No Confessions Dec 26—Jan 2

Saturday, December 31 Mass at 5:15 pm

Sunday, January 1 Feast of Mary, the Mother of God
Masses at 8:00 and 10:30 am

For more information, call the Parish Center at 977-7300

or visit our website at: <https://sfxstl.org/>

Complimentary Parking is available in the SLU Laclede Garage

Family Christmas Eve Children's Choir and Tableau

We are inviting young instrumentalists and vocalists to be a part of our Children's Choir for the Christmas Eve Family Mass!

The rehearsals for this group will be on:

- Sunday, December 4, 12:00-1:30, in the church
- Sunday, December 11, 12-1:30, in the church
- Saturday, December 17, 9-12:30, in the church

We do ask that instrumentalists, at a minimum, be in their second year of school ensemble instruction, as they will be reading and learning the music outside of rehearsal time. Please let us know as soon as you can if your child is interested; we'll need to hear from all musicians by Tuesday, November 29. If your child would like to participate in the choir, please email Julie (Julie@sfxstl.org).

Our Christmas Eve tableau will also be a part of the Family Mass. This is a simple visual of the Gospel narrative of Jesus' birth. We are seeking angels, shepherds, and a few animals; costumes are provided. There will be two brief rehearsals after mass on December 11 and December 18. Please email Jennifer (jennifer@sfxstl.org) if your child would like to participate.



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.

December Multicultural Holiday Celebrations

December is a festive month, replete with a host of multicultural celebrations. Some commemorate religious events or persons, some celebrate cultural values, and some honor seasonal change and the promise of annual rebirth. Following is an incomplete list of some of those holiday celebrations:

- ..# Saint Nicholas Day – Dec 6 (Christian)
- ..# Advent - 4 Sundays before Christmas Day – Nov. 27- Dec. 18, 2022 (Christian)
- ..# Hanukkah - 25th day of Kislev – Dec. 18-26, 2022 (Jewish)
- ..# Fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe – Dec 12 (Mexican; Christian)
- ..# St. Lucia Day – Dec 13 (Swedish, Norwegian; Christian)
- ..# Soyal – Dec. 21 (Zuni and Hopi)
- ..# Dongzhi – Dec. 21 (East Asian)
- ..# Yalda – Dec. 21 (Iranian)
- ..# Christmas Day – Dec 25 (Christian)
- ..# Kwanzaa – Dec 26 - Jan 1 (African American)
- ..# Boxing Day (St. Stephen's Day) – Dec 26 (English, Canadian, Australian)
- ..# Omisoka - Dec 31 (Japanese)
- ..# New Year's Eve – Dec 31

Las Posadas

One Advent tradition celebrated in many Latin American communities is known as Las Posadas. This beautiful ritual has been performed 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.

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, in communities throughout Mexico, Latin America, and the United States, Las Posadas may be celebrated 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 with all my heart!

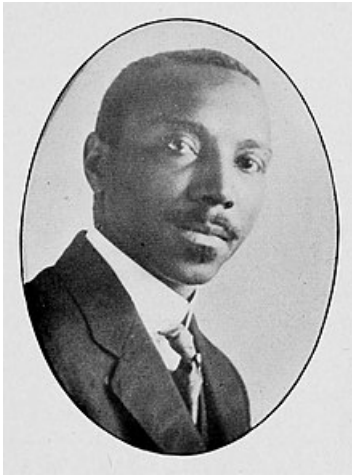
Due to an error in the collation of the bulletin from November 13th, some of the material in that issue was omitted in some bulletins. That week, this column included the story of Thomas Wyatt Turner, one of the leaders featured in our celebration of Black Catholic History Month. It is reprinted this week for any who may have missed the earlier publication.

Thomas Wyatt Turner

Thomas W. Turner was born in 1877 in southern Maryland where his family worked as sharecroppers. He was baptized Catholic as an infant and grew up celebrating Mass in a racially segregated gallery of the church.

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After being denied entry to Catholic schools, Turner completed his secondary education in county schools and an Episcopal school. Offered a college scholarship if he converted to become Episcopalian, Turner chose to remain Catholic. His college education included a bachelor’s and master’s degrees in botany. He completed some graduate study in science at Catholic University before the initiation of Jim Crow segregation, however he soon ran out of funds. He went on to earn a Ph.D. from Cornell University, the first black person to do so in any field of study. He was also the first African American student to earn a Ph.D. in botany in the United States. During his career, he taught science at Tuskegee Institute and other secondary schools, including a high school in St. Louis. Later he served as professor of botany at Howard University and at Hampton Institute.

Throughout his career, Thomas Wyatt Turner advocated for justice in society and in the Catholic Church. In 1909 he became a founding member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and served as the first secretary of the Baltimore branch. Dr. Turner frequently appealed to the Catholic University of America to accept black students, and he petitioned the U.S. bishops to provide better education for black children at all levels. In 1924 he founded an organization called the Federated Colored Catholics. This group wrote letters to bishops protesting discrimination in Catholic churches, schools, hospitals, orphanages, seminaries, and convents. They worked to increase access to Catholic education, promote black vocations, especially to the priesthood, and to expand participation in the Church and in civic affairs. While the FCC disbanded in 1952, it laid a foundation for other national Black Catholic organizations such as the National Black Catholic Congress that continue to this day.

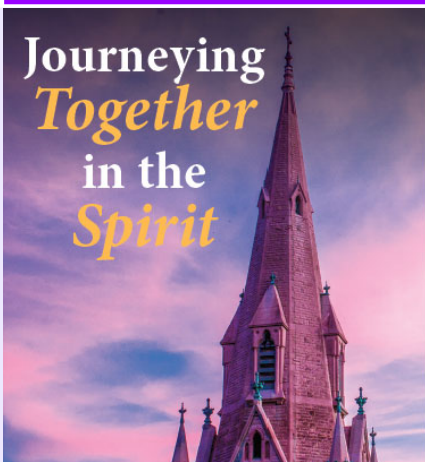
In May of 1976, the Catholic University of America awarded Turner an honorary Doctor of Science degree. He passed away in 1978 at the age of 101.

Xavier Books

A variety of spirituality and reflection books are available in the ballroom after the Sunday morning masses. There are materials on Ignatian spirituality, writings of Pope Francis., daily reflection guides for 2023.



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



Journeying Together in the Spirit

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

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

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

Fair Trade Sales To Support Our Sister Parish

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

Fair Trade items will be sold after the 8:00 and 10:30 masses on December 4, 11, and 18. So make sure you stock up for your Christmas giving!



Social Ministry Christmas Appeal



Each year at Christmas, we reach out to our parish community for support that helps to sustain our work over the coming year through the Social Ministry Christmas Appeal. This year, our appeal is especially urgent because in the last fiscal year we served more people than we have ever served before in the history of our Birth Certificate and Missouri State ID Program. We don't expect the need for our program to decrease in the coming months. With your support, we hope to continue to help all those who are in need of this service.

We are proud that our Tuesday Birth Certificate and ID Program, coordinated by Jasmine Brown, offers a unique service, facilitating access to vital documents so that people can access employment, housing. Regional Access Coordinator Madeline Powers has also worked to develop training and support resources for other organizations in the state of Missouri to start ID and Birth Certificate clinics. Our program saw 3,861 people through our doors in our last fiscal year. At an average cost of just \$23 per person, our weekly program can provide this life changing service for thousands more in the coming year.

The second collection on the weekends of December 4th and 11th will go to Social Ministry. You can also give online anytime by sending in a check with "Social Ministry Appeal" in the memo or visiting: bit.ly/SocialMinistryAppeal (case sensitive link).

Contact Christine with any questions at christine@sfxstl.org or (314) 977-7309. Thank you so much for your ongoing support!

The Giving Tree 2022: Gloves!

Given the huge number of requests for sturdy gloves that our Outreach Program has received in recent years, this year's Giving Tree will focus exclusively on providing for this particular need. Here's how you can participate:

- Please take a paper ornament from the Giving Tree, located near the front of the south aisle toward the south transept.
- Purchase the listed item: either men's or women's heavyweight gloves.
- Return the wrapped item with the ornament attached to it by Sunday, December 11th.
- Gifts may be returned to either a labeled receptacle in the vestibule of the church or to the parish center front office at 3628 Lindell Blvd. Please do NOT leave gifts under the tree.

...# Gifts will then be distributed to guests of our State ID and Birth Certificate Program on Tuesday mornings.

Contact Christine Dragonette with any questions at christine@sfxstl.org or (314) 977-7309.

Thank you so much for your generosity!



Circle of Creation Green Corner



Important information for Saint Louis City residents about avoiding contamination of their recycling bins is available at [Saint Louis City Recycles](#). Some of this information is relevant to County residents as well.

Did you know?

Foil-embossed gift wraps and greeting cards and foil-lined envelopes are not recyclable. They shine, but eventually they are just going to end up in the landfill. REALSIMPLE provides a helpful article on [How to Be Environmentally Friendly During the Holidays](#).

If you are looking for reusable eco-friendly household and cleaning and personal care items, you might try googling the following: reusable eco-friendly “whatever” (e.g., tissues, paper towels, Q-tips, sponges, whatever).

Public Electronics Recycling events
[sponsored by Midwest Recycling Center \(MRC\)](#)

Dec. 3 from 8:00 AM to Noon
900 TR Hughes Boulevard
O’Fallon, MO, 63366
hosted by City of **O’Fallon**

Dec. 3 from 9:00 AM to Noon
1 Detjen Drive
Saint Louis, MO, 63126
hosted by City of **Crestwood**

Dec. 17 from 8:00 AM to Noon
2505 South Brentwood Boulevard
Brentwood, MO, 63144
hosted by City of **Brentwood**

The next ones are not until February of 2023.

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

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Dec 8 is the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Our masses that day are 7:15 am, Noon, and 5:15 pm. All masses are in the Church.

December 3-4, 2022

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

December 10-11, 2022

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

This Sunday’s Scripture Readings:

First Reading:

Isaiah 11:1-10

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

Second Reading:

Romans 15:4-9

Gospel:

Matthew 3:1-12

Bulletin Articles

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

Online Giving Reminder

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. You can also reach this link through the QR code here.



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