



*The Roetheli family enjoying the VIP table they won at the 2023 Night of Wonders Gala at last Sunday's Pancake Breakfast.*

## **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**

**February 18th, 2024  
First Sunday of Lent**

### **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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**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Anonymous Faculty member  
 Winnie Agniel  
 Mary Kate Agniel  
 Dave Ampleman  
 Margaret Baughman  
 Maureen Carney\*  
 Tara Chandler  
 Madeline Dames  
 Tom Engelhardt  
 Steve Frank\*  
 Sue Griffard  
 Joanie Hasser\*  
 Butch Henning\*  
 Yvonne Jayasuriya  
 Terry Kippenberger\*  
 Uly Labilles  
 Donna Leach-Heimos  
 Tom McDermott  
 Eddie McDevitt  
 Angie Menard\*  
 Karena Menard\*  
 Barb Michael  
 Rea O'Neill  
 Terry O'Toole  
 Tim Plunkett  
 Mark Roddy\*  
 Alicia S.  
 Mikell S.  
 Mark Segovia  
 Fr. Gary Seibert, SJ\*  
 Ned Spencer  
 Greg Stephen  
 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.

**Getting Into Lent**

*By Fr. Tucker Redding, SJ*



I have various memories of Lent over the years, from giving up random things when I was little to taking on bigger challenges when I was growing in my faith in college. A problem much of the time is that I wasn't focused on the right thing. Sometimes the practice was more about me than it was about God.

Our faith is always about growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ and Lent is an opportunity to do that in a particular way. Throughout Lent we follow Christ all the way to the cross. We are reminded that he died and rose again for our sake. And so, we ask ourselves, what might I give in return? How might I grow closer to the one who will stop at nothing to draw nearer to me?

Traditionally, Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Here are different ways that we might think of these practices:

**Prayer:** How do we communicate with God now and how might that communication improve, either in quantity or quality? If we really don't make much time for prayer, this is a great time to try out new practices on our own. What kind of prayer speaks to you? If you already pray regularly, what might enhance that prayer?

**Fasting:** This might be what we are most familiar with: giving something up. This doesn't need to be drastic or a form of torture, but it also shouldn't be arbitrary. This is a chance to look at our attachments. Is there anything that I need to be willing to let go of for the sake of my relationship with God, others, and myself? What might help me to be a better person? A better Christian?

**Almsgiving:** Our faith is never just about ourselves and God. Love of God and love of neighbor cannot be separated. Almsgiving is a chance to focus on those in need in our community. This could be a monetary gift to those in need. Perhaps if we save money from fasting from something, the proceeds could be donated to a good cause. We shouldn't just think of this in terms of money. How can we serve? How can we draw nearer to Christ in the poor and vulnerable among us by volunteering?

Whatever we do this Lent, remember that the focus is to grow closer to Christ. It isn't meant to be a time of punishment or torture. In all that we do, let it be for the Greater Glory of God.

*Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*

**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:

James McKelley, father of Mimi Hartung

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





Emory Webre (left) welcomes the Barenz family — Tory, Cora and Andrew — to Mass at College Church. (photo by Michael Burks)

### Living Our Faith: Meet Emory Webre

(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).)

**I've been a parishioner for:** 17 years. After [my wife] Jane's Mom passed away, we began searching for a parish that would provide the liturgical experiences and faith-deepening opportunities that we had known in other places where we had lived. In 2006, after coming to SFX off and on, our friend Jerry Shen asked, "Why don't you join?" The choir's singing, the Jesuit spiritually evident in the homilies, and the participation of parishioners drew us in.

**Living my faith:** About 10 years ago, Kathy Seibel invited Jane and me to become ushers/greeters. We began handing out bulletins at the 10:30 Sunday Masses. I enjoy greeting and meeting people as they come in the door. I

introduce myself and invite them to tell me about themselves. This is evangelization in its most basic form. Little children give me a smile when I stoop down to "high five" them. And I offer a word or two of encouragement to those teens who look like they've been forced to join their parents at Mass.

I'm also a member of the Elder Prayer Companions who pray for the staff and other parish leaders, and the SFX Anti-Racism History Committee that produced the booklet, *Our Parish Racial History*.

**Why I'm involved:** My weekly attendance and active participation makes me all the more convinced that the way to build a community of faith at SFX is not only through hearing thought-provoking homilies and singing hymns, but also by making those with whom I worship know that they are important to me and to every other person here.

**Three words that describe SFX:** Accepting, Nurturing, International

**My neighborhood:** We live in the Lindenwood Park neighborhood, near Donut Drive-In and Ted Drewes on Chippewa St. – a high calorie location! We can walk to two city libraries, two Starbucks, three bus lines, two neighborhood parks, as well as numerous restaurants.

**Fun facts:** In my vegetable gardens everywhere we have lived, there's always been a place for tomatoes, okra and butternut squash. Being from New Orleans, I love cooking, especially with my Mama's recipes. To relax, I enjoy working Sudoku puzzles and reading works of history.

As a lifelong genealogist, I've researched and published on the practice of slavery by the Religious of the Sacred Heart, drawing on records found in their national archives located in St. Louis. I have served as a member of the RSCJ *Committee on Slavery, Accountability and Reconciliation*, and am a volunteer researcher documenting the Archdiocese of St. Louis' involvement in slavery through a project entitled, *Forgive Us Our Trespasses*.

*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). You can find past parishioner profiles at [sfxstl.org/living-our-faith](http://sfxstl.org/living-our-faith).*

### 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

**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.

Thinking about joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) conference at St. Francis Xavier but unsure of what is involved? Our conference is holding **an informational session for all interested parishioners on Sunday, February 18 from 9-10a in the Parish Center Adult Faith Room.** Our conference is more than meeting the material needs of our neighbors. We also join in fellowship and friendship with one another and our neighbors to enhance our faith and bring the face of Christ to our community.

So that sufficient materials can be available, please contact Chris Deason at [mcdeason58@gmail.com](mailto:mcdeason58@gmail.com) or 636-236-9122 if you plan to attend.

**Adult Atrium Meets This Sunday, February 18!**

You are invited!

The catechists from the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) at College church invite you to an hour of quiet enjoyment, contemplation and discussion of the mysteries of our faith before the 10:30 liturgy. CGS catechists have discovered that this approach to faith formation nurtures our spirituality, as well as the child's, and we're excited to share it with you!



We'll meet 6 times during the spring semester. You are welcome to come for one session or for as many as you like.

**The 8th Grade Class invites you to join them on their Lenten Journey for Creation!**



“God looked over everything God had made; it was so good, so very good!” Genesis 1:3.

A focus of this year's 8th grade Youth Faith Formation is gratitude and care for all of God's creation. During Lent, they will pray, reflect, and act on some of the themes presented during their Fall retreat. All are invited to join them on a Lenten Journey for Creation. We can accompany them by taking some time each week to sit with the coming Sunday's Gospel reading, reflect on its connection to the goodness of creation (the people, animals, and nature around you), and build awareness and action on a theme that relates to creation each week. The weekly themes will be printed in the bulletin. Feel free to use all, part, or none of these suggestions.

Week	Gospel Reading	Creation Themes for Reflection	Awareness/Action Ideas
2/19-2/25	<b>Mk 9:2-10</b>  Read through the Gospel passage one time slowly. Now read it again. What words, images, phrases stand out to you?	Clothing sustainability  How do these themes connect with the Gospel reading?	Create an outfit made up of entirely thrifted items. Offer a fashion show for your family! Donate a few items of clothing that you no longer wear. Come up with your own idea!

**Easter Basket Project**

Parishioners are invited to help with an Easter Basket project for children served by the St. Augustine/Wellston Food Pantry and Thrift Shop. After Masses on March 3 there will be a bin in the back of church where parishioners can donate items such as wrapped candy, small toys or books,, and little hygiene items such as soap, lotion and tooth brushes. These items will be sorted and packed in Easter bags by our Level III Catechesis of the Good Shepherd students on Saturday March 9, in time for the food pantry's Easter celebration. Items can also be dropped off at the Parish Center.



## 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.*

### The Legacy of Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass was the most important leader in the movement for African American civil rights during the 19th century. He was born into slavery in Maryland probably in February 1818. Known then as Frederick Bailey, at age 8 he was sent to live with Hugh and Sophia Auld to care for their son. Sophia began teaching Frederick and her son to read but was warned that literacy would “spoil” a slave. Frederick continued learning to read by paying poor white boys with bread to teach him. At 15, he was leased to a “slave breaker,” who abused enslaved persons to make them more compliant. After several whippings Frederick fought back and won, determined to protect himself from future assaults.



In 1838 he escaped to New York but for protection against slave-trackers, Frederick changed his last name to “Douglass.” He also married Anna Murray, a free Black woman. They moved to Massachusetts and had five children. Douglass worked for the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society which insisted on nonviolence. That put him at odds with other abolitionists.

His outstanding speaking abilities caused listeners to doubt that he had once been enslaved, so he wrote his first autobiography describing details of his life. Its popularity escalated Auld’s resolve to recapture him, so Douglass left the country. British supporters purchased his freedom and in 1847 Douglass returned home – a free man – and started his own abolitionist newspaper in Rochester, NY. His home there was part of the Underground Railroad where he hosted many escaping from slavery.

During the Civil War, Douglass advocated for inducting Black soldiers into the Union army. He met with President Abraham Lincoln three times to obtain better pay and conditions for soldiers and to discuss helping African Americans if the Union lost. After the war Douglas worked to secure rights for millions of freed Black people. He supported the 14th Amendment granting them citizenship, but realized they also needed suffrage – women did, too. He spoke on these issues throughout the country and abroad. He was appointed to several government positions and was even

nominated to be Vice-President!

His final years were spent in Washington. In 1882, Anna died from a stroke. Eventually, he married his white secretary, which estranged him from family and friends. Douglass died February 20, 1895. A common belief back then held that enslaved people lacked intelligence and the ability to function independently. Douglass’ entire life contradicted that. He was honored during the first “Negro History Week” (precursor to Black History Month) for achieving positions of prominence in U.S. government. There is not room in this column to include all his many trials and impressive accomplishments while working to attain justice for all.

For more, search “Frederick Douglass” to open several interesting articles.

### Update on Racial Equity Review

For the last two years, members of the College Church Racial Equity Review Team have been engaged in a journey of learning, reflection, and inquiry in pursuit of our goal to identify the policies and practices within our parish that uphold systemic racism. We often use the term “scrutiny” to describe our process. It has been a close, loving look at our parish community— revealing the gifts and grace in our midst, as well those aspects that are in need of healing. We have been examining all aspects of our parish using evaluative tools provided by Crossroads Antiracism Organizing and Training—our partners in this journey.

A next step in this process will be to capture the impressions, observations, and experiences of people within the parish community. One of the ways we will be collecting this information is through a survey. Detailed information on this process will be shared in the coming weeks. We hope all members of the College Church community will participate.

For more information about the parish racial equity review, contact Winnie Sullivan at [penultim@swbell.net](mailto:penultim@swbell.net) or Lisa Burks at [lmburks60@gmail.com](mailto:lmburks60@gmail.com).

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### Significant Figures in Racial History

John Berry Meachum – died February 18, 1854, in St. Louis, MO. Meachum founded the First African Baptist Church in St. Louis – the oldest Black church west of the Mississippi. He operated a school in the church basement when it was illegal to teach black children.

Elston Howard – born on February 23, 1929, in St. Louis, MO. Howard was an outstanding athlete at Vashon High School. He turned down football scholarships to play baseball in the Negro American League. Years later he played in 12 All-Star games for the Yankees. In 1963, Howard was the first Black player to be named American League MVP.

Ahmaud Arbery – died on February 23, 2020, near Atlanta, GA. Arbery was followed and eventually murdered by three white men while he was jogging through a predominantly white suburban neighborhood. He was 25 years of age.

### Upcoming Events

**February 25, 2024** 12:00 pm St. Alphonsus Liguori (Rock) Church and the SFX Racism and Reconciliation Committee are hosting a screening of the documentary film, *Crown*. The movie explores the racism and discrimination experienced by Black women in schools and the workplace based on the style of their hair.

After viewing the film, a discussion will be led by St. Louis Alderwoman Shameem Clark Hubbard, who sponsored Board Bill 222, establishing our local “Crown Act.”

All are welcome to attend the lunch, screening, and discussion which will be held at the Rock Church. Admission is free. Donations for lunch are appreciated. Please contact Wilma Locke to RSVP: [wa08locke@yahoo.com](mailto:wa08locke@yahoo.com) 314-725-3576.

**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).**

### Lenten Books and Materials

The season of Lent began on Feb 14. Lent comes from the old English word for springtime, a time of new beginnings and new life. Christians are invited to return to their roots, their baptismal relationship with God. This can be done through prayer, reflection, and self-sacrifice that lead to conversion of mind and heart. Self-sacrifice is about making room for God. There are Lenten bowls for adding change each day to help feed the poor of the world on the tables near the entrances to the church.



There are several resources available online that offer daily prayer or reflection materials. Loyola Press offers a daily email. Signup is available at <http://tinyurl.com/lentloyola>

Sacred Space has daily reflections from the Irish Jesuits: <https://www.sacredspace.ie/>

Pray as you Go is an audio reflection from the British Jesuits: <https://pray-as-you-go.org/home/>

Reflection materials will be available in the Ballroom after the Sunday morning Masses starting today. These include: the Little Black Book with a scripture verse and a reflection on a person, event or practice that invites us to deeper faith; Daybreak is a series that presents passages from the writings of particular authors arranged for reflection during Lent. Each booklet features a different author. There are booklets for children including the Little Purple book, reflections for teens, and some designed for seniors well. To reserve an item, please contact Joseph Milner at [joseph.milner@slu.edu](mailto:joseph.milner@slu.edu)

### Fair Trades Sale Reminder

Don't forget fresh coffee, chocolate, tea, soup, chili, corn bread, beans, brownie mix, gift boxes, and more from your friendly College Church Fair Trade Committee. All proceeds directly benefit our Jesuit sister parish, St. Peter Claver, in Belize. To view Fair Trade products, or to order online, go to <https://sfxstl.org/buy-fair-trade>. Orders must be picked up at College Church.

## Circle of Creation Green Corner

The Circle of Creation Committee applauds the 8<sup>th</sup> graders in their choice to embrace the theme of Care For Creation throughout their Confirmation year and especially during their Lenten Journey. These young leaders have invited the entire SFX Parish community to accompany them on this journey. They have chosen weekly themes based on the Gospel readings and related awareness/action ideas to implement each week, as found elsewhere in the Bulletin.



This week's Theme For Reflection is "Clothing Sustainability." To supplement ideas from the 8<sup>th</sup> graders, here are a few ideas from the Circle of Creation Committee:

1. Think before you throw a favorite item of clothing into the laundry! If it is not dirty or smelly, hang it up or fold it and put it away. Your item will last longer and you will help save water and energy!
2. Offer to help a sibling, friend, or neighbor sort and dispose of clothing to be donated or recycled.
3. Cut favorite torn or stained items into square or varied shapes and use fabric glue to mount them on cardboard to create art for your room!
4. Plan a clothing exchange/swap with friends, neighbors, or extended family.

Earth Friendly Tips provides an article on [Easy Ways to Reduce Paper Towel Use](https://earthfriendlytips.com/easy-ways-to-reduce-paper-towel-use/) [https://earthfriendlytips.com/easy-ways-to-reduce-paper-towel-use/] and also explains why this is so important, including major savings of water and trees from the manufacture of paper towels and minimizing methane release from used paper towels in landfills. When clothing is too worn or dirty to donate, cut it up into rags which can be used for cleaning around the house instead of paper towels or disposable disinfecting wipes. To avoid cross contamination, you could even designate rags for different parts of the house, e.g., green for kitchen countertops, red for the bathroom, white for dusting furniture, etc.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Back to Nature: Tree Planting on Woodland Slopes on Saturday, March 16, 9:00 AM – Noon

Ages: 12 and up; Caution: Steep creek banks

Crestwood Park 9739 Meadowfern Dr St. Louis, MO 63126

Information and registration [volunteer.openspacestl.org/need/detail/?need\\_id=892302](https://volunteer.openspacestl.org/need/detail/?need_id=892302)

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.

### February 17-18

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

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

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

### February 24-25

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

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

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

### This Sunday's Scripture Readings

#### First Reading:

Genesis 9:8-15

#### Responsorial Psalm:

Psalms 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

#### Second Reading:

1 Peter 3:18-22

#### Gospel:

Mark 1:12-15

### 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.