



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 26, 2023
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/collegechurchlivestream

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, 10:30 am through 11:45 am.

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 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.

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Maurice Muia
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Pastoral Ministry

Bridget Brennan
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PRAY FOR THE SICK

Margaret Baughman
 Bill Bollwerk*
 Maureen Carney*
 Jim Costello
 Alice Edler
 Steve Frank*
 Dave Greiner
 Jessi Haselhorst
 Butch Henning*
 Jeanne Hermann*
 Campbell Hodge
 Laura Kaiser and Family
 Terry Kippenberger*
 Peggy Krebs
 Julianne Lister
 Tom McDermott
 Eddie McDevitt
 Angie Menard*
 Karena Menard*
 Liz Moloney*
 Suzanne Mondello
 Nancy Partridge* & Glider
 Fr. Dick Perl, SJ*
 Mark Roddy*
 Jennifer Saunders*
 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.

Reflection from Parishioner Aimee Wittman

Aimee is co-chair of the Pastoral Council.

Someone once shared with me an adage about parenthood that continues to resonate with me: *The days are long and the years are short.* Isn't this so true? I find myself reflecting on how this describes so many aspects of my life. As we welcome the season of Lent I have been pondering my own intentions for these 40 days of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. My heart keeps coming back to the concept of a "both/and" approach to this year's Lenten journey. In what ways am I called to both let go and lean in? I notice how many moments, which are overflowing with graces and gifts, pass by in a blur. Sometimes that blur is created externally and sometimes I am its architect, creating that very urgency and busy-ness myself. I can be so focused on getting tasks on my "to-do" list completed that I may miss opportunities "to be" with my children, spouse, and God. In what ways am I paying attention to the abundance of gifts and graces that God has so generously given to my life? How might I practice being quiet and still enough to hear the stirrings of the Holy Spirit in my heart and to know who I am called to continue to become?

What does both/and look like for me this Lent? I think it could look like experimenting with a fast from some of the urgency and busy-ness that often define my days. I also desire for it to look like more moments of slowing down, listening with an open, curious, and loving heart, and being truly present. I will set an intention of taking deep breaths to create more space for all of the blessings I continue to receive. This Lent I want to be a commitment to paying attention and offering more gratitude for the gifts and graces of my spouse, my children, my friends and family, and for opportunities to be of service to the needs and hopes of our collective communities. I am grateful to God for the gift and the invitation of these 40 days.

Lenten Opportunities: Spiritual Readings, Reflections, and Conversations

Lent is a season of repentance and renewal during which we are drawn to spiritual practices that can deepen our relationship with Jesus and one another. Faith Enrichment Commission, the Racism and Reconciliation Committee, and the Antiracism Team are collaborating to offer these opportunities for this Lenten season.

OPPORTUNITIES TO JOIN SMALL GROUPS

- 1) **Read and reflect** on *The Spiritual Work of Racial Justice: A Month of Meditations with Ignatius of Loyola* by Patrick Saint-Jean, SJ
- 2) **Read and reflect** on the Sunday Lenten readings and Gospels to develop a deeper encounter with Scripture and a more intentional preparation for Sunday Mass.
- 3) **Guided quiet spiritual prayer reflection** (with optional moments of sharing)

The small groups will begin this week! If you need additional information about the small group offerings please contact: Christina Ryan at christinaryan1955@gmail.com.

Lenten Books and Materials

The season of Lent began on Feb 22. 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.

There are several resources available online that offer daily prayer or reflection materials. Loyola Press offers a daily email. Signup is available at <https://tinyurl.com/yckxnrb5>.

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 are available in the Lower Hall after the Sunday morning masses. 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. These include Fr. John Kavanaugh, SJ., Fr. Ronald Rolheiser, OMI, and Sr. Diane Bergant, CSA. The Lent and Easter Wisdom series offer reflections from Pope Francis, St Ignatius, Thomas Merton and Henri Nouwen. There are booklets for children including the Little Purple book, reflections for teens, and some designed for seniors well. To reserve an item or for more information, please contact Joseph Milner at joseph.milner@slu.edu.

Self-sacrifice is about making room for God. In giving up something, one makes time, energy, and resources available for something greater. If one saves money from eating less, it can be used to assist someone or some cause. If one gives up time on the computer or television, there is time to spend with family or to call an elderly or lonely person. Giving up some activity can also make room for prayer and reflection. Take the opportunity of Lent to deepen your relationship with God, with loved ones, or yourself.

Young Adult Faith Group

We are calling all young adults, aged 22-38 to join the St. Francis Xavier College Church Young Adult Faith group. The group meets 2 times per month for a bible study, book club, or reflection, in addition to social activities. Please join us in the adult religious faith room, in the parish center, for a new series of meetings on March 9th at 6:30pm. The meeting will include a happy hour, speaker, and small group reflection. Please contact Claire Daaleman at cdaaleman8@gmail.com if you are interested in joining. We hope to see you there!

Widows and Widowers

The next meeting of Widows and Widowers is this Sunday, February 26, at 9:15 a.m. in the break room on the first floor of the Parish Center. Interested in attending? Contact Val Rutterer at vrutterer@gmail.com or 314-393-8986 for questions or more information.

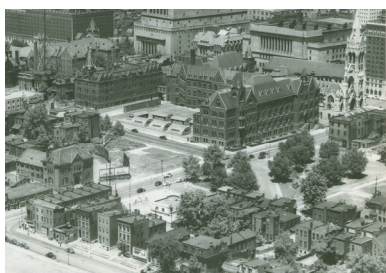


Antiracism at College Church

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.

Mill Creek Valley and College Church

Significant in our parish racial history is a neighborhood known as “Mill Creek Valley,” home to 20,000 people, 95% of them Black. It’s where Josephine Baker and Scott Joplin grew up. In addition, there were about 800 businesses of all sorts, including grocery stores, bakeries, dry cleaners, and a YMCA. There were office buildings housing banks, movie theaters, nightclubs and restaurants, schools, hospitals, and churches – all the ordinary kinds of places we take for granted in our own neighborhoods. Mill Creek Valley had developed as a distinct region for African American culture and economy.



Yet, there were rundown sections with dilapidated buildings badly in need of repair. Some houses did not always have running water or in some cases electricity. But instead of

fixing up the places that needed help and making life better for those who lived there, the mayor and city planners at the time were determined that because of the neighborhood’s prime central location, if St. Louis were ever to make economic progress, Mill Creek Valley would have to be eradicated. So, under the guise of “urban renewal,” demolition began in 1959 and continued into 1960. Few buildings were spared. Nearly 40 black churches were lost. For many of us, this happened in our lifetime . . . this doesn’t go back to pre-Civil War days. This was a modern-day event.

The main interest for College Church is that it happened right across the street from the front doors of our church building! The northwest border of Mill Creek Valley was Lindell Blvd. and Grand Ave. It went south to the railroad tracks that run under the Grand viaduct. And the neighborhood went east to Jefferson Street in some places, to 20th Street at other places. Thus, many of the Mill Creek Valley residents lived literally at our doorstep. Imagine if the city planners had truly “renewed” this part of the urban landscape instead of destroying it, how different our parish would be today.

The population sign as you enter the city of Ferguson, MO, reads “21,000.” Mill Creek Valley was only slightly smaller than that. Suppose the entire city of Ferguson had to move because everything in their lives was going to be

demolished. That’s basically what happened to the people living in Mill Creek Valley.

Historical memory is essential in the Jewish community so that the Holocaust is never repeated. For us, knowing our city and our parish’s racial history is important so that the blunders of the past are not repeated; so that thousands of lives are never again upended, especially among our brothers and sisters of color who are most vulnerable in so many ways.

Black History Month: Meet Frankie Muse Freeman

During the month of February, Black History Month, we will share the stories of St. Louisans who were racial justice trailblazers, but whose names may be a bit less familiar.

Named after her grandfather, Frank Muse, Marie Frankie Muse was born in 1916 and grew up in Danville, Virginia. At the age of 16, she enrolled at the Hampton Institute, going on to later obtain a law degree from Howard University. In 1948, following her graduation from Howard, she moved with her husband, Shelby Freeman, to his hometown of St. Louis.



Unsuccessful in her efforts to join several local law firms, Freeman set up her own practice in the Jefferson Bank Building and began a brief stint as a criminal defense attorney.

By 1950 she had begun her work as legal counsel to the NAACP, which had filed suit the previous year against the St. Louis Board of Education in a push for equal educational opportunity in the city’s public schools. In 1954, Freeman became the lead attorney in the case of Davis et al. vs the St. Louis Housing Authority, the decision that ended racial discrimination in the city’s public housing. In 1955, Freeman became the first associate general counsel of the St. Louis Housing Authority and Land Clearance Authority, and by 1958, she was a charter member of the Missouri advisory committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Freeman represented the civil rights activists who demonstrated against employment discrimination at the Jefferson Bank in the 1960s.

President Lyndon Johnson appointed her to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission in 1964, making her the first

Continued on next page

woman to hold that post and the only black person on the commission at that time. She served as Inspector General of the Community Services Administration during the presidency of Jimmy Carter, and, later, helped form a bipartisan Citizens Commission on Civil Rights.

Freeman received honorary degrees from many universities, including St. Louis University and Washington University, and she was inducted into the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta. A bronze statue in Freeman's honor stands in Kiener Plaza, near the Old Courthouse. Frankie Muse Freeman died in 2018 at the age of 101.

February Figures in Black History

Born February 27, 1897 – contralto Marian Anderson in Philadelphia. She performed opera as well as Spirituals with renowned orchestras in major venues throughout the United States and Europe.

Died February 23, 2020 – Ahmaud Arbery, age 25, was murdered by three white men while jogging through a predominantly white neighborhood in suburban Atlanta, GA.

Upcoming Events

Pillars of the Valley is a permanent art installation on the Brickline Greenway near the St. Louis SC Stadium at Market and 22nd Street. It was created by artist Damon Davis as a tribute to the residents of the Mill Creek Valley and the thriving community they created. It is now open for public viewing. For more information, go to: greatriversgreenway.org/bg-pillars-of-the-valley-event.

February 26, 2023 12:00 pm St. Alphonsus Liguori (Rock) Church is hosting a screening of the movie, *Till*. This film focuses on the activism of Mamie Till-Mobley in the wake of her son's brutal murder. All are welcome to attend the lunch, screening, and discussion. Admission is free. Donations for lunch are appreciated.

February 26, 2023 3:00 pm The St. Charles Lwanga Center is hosting a screening of the PBS special *The Black Church: This Is Our Story. This Is Our Song*. Email Lwangastil.extra@gmail.com by 1:00 pm on Friday, February 26th to RSVP for this free Zoom event. Email info@lwangacenter.org for additional information.

Saturday, March 4, 2023 The EyeSeeMe African American Children's Bookstore is hosting a presentation on "The Importance of Incorporating African American History in All Subjects." It will explore how understanding and acknowledging the contributions and experiences of African Americans can enrich our understanding of the past and present. It will be held from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at their bookstore at 6951 Olive Blvd., University City, MO 63130. Admission is FREE. The first 20 to register and attend will receive a free paperback book of your choice. More information at: contact@eyeseeme.com

Thursday, March 30, 2023 College Church is hosting a webinar featuring theologian, Christian ethicist, and community organizer Maureen O'Connell. She will discuss *Undoing the Knots: Five Generations of American Catholic Anti-Blackness*, and share ideas about working toward freedom from the entanglements with racism. More information coming soon.



College Church is Hiring!



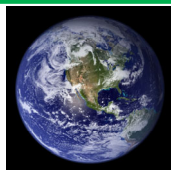
Parish Accountant

The Parish Accountant is an hourly position that is 15-20 hours per week. The Parish Accountant is a member of the parish administrative staff and provides day-to-day fiscal and operational services.

For more information, scan QR code or
go to sfxstl.org/job-postings



Circle of Creation Green Corner



The Director of Integral Ecology at the Ignatian Solidarity Network invites you to a **No-Buy Lent**. “During this holy season in which we pray, fast, and practice almsgiving,” consider giving up **“buying non-essential items in order to make space for the sacred and to give the planet a rest.”** Learn more: <https://tinyurl.com/48bhfrw>.

In the effort to avoid single-use disposable items, please make it a habit to have with you your RBC (**Reusable Beverage Container**) wherever you go, but in particular, at Parish meetings and events. Thank you.

Just what you have been waiting for: the opportunity to meet with the members of the College Church Circle of Creation Committee (CCC) and consider joining. The next in-person meeting (feel free to wear mask, if you like, Fran will) is scheduled for noon on Sunday, March 26, in the SFX Ballroom (below the Church). In general, CCC will meet at noon on the fourth Sunday of the month. Our purpose is to provide educational opportunities for the parish to learn about and act in the interest of environmental justice. Please see the Green Corner on the parish website.

Public Electronics Recycling events sponsored by Midwest Recycling Center (MRC): <https://mrc-recycling.squarespace.com/electronics-recycling-events>

March 4, 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM
3964 Castleman Ave
St. Louis, MO 63110
hosted by **St. Margaret of Scotland/Troop 110**

March 4, 8:00 AM to Noon
2505 South Brentwood Boulevard
Brentwood, MO, 63144
hosted by the City of **Brentwood**

March 4, 9:00 AM to Noon
401 South Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63131
hosted by **Our Lady of the Pillar**

March 11, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
3353 Roger Place
St. Louis, MO 63116
hosted by **Circa Properties**

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. <https://sfxstl.org/circleofcreation>

February 25-26, 2023

Saturday
5:15 pm Fr. Stewart, SJ Pastoral Director St. Louis University High School

Sunday
8:00 am Fr. McMahan, SJ
10:30 am Fr. McMahan, SJ

March 4-5, 2023

Saturday
5:15 pm Fr. Boudreaux, Provincial Assistant for Pastoral and Spiritual Ministries. UCS Province.

Sunday
8:00 am Fr. Rozier, SJ Assistant Prof. and Department Chair of health management and policy, SLU
10:30 am Fr. Rozier, SJ (see above)

This Sunday's Scripture Readings:

First Reading:
Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

Responsorial Psalm:
Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17

Second Reading:
Romans 5:12-19

Gospel:
Matthew 4:1-11

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

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