



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

**March 17th 2024
Fifth 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

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.

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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*
 Don Needham
 Rea O'Neill
 Terry O'Toole
 Mark Roddy*
 Alicia S.
 Mikell S.
 Mark Segovia
 Fr. Gary Seibert, SJ*
 Vicki Simon
 Ned Spencer
 Greg Stephen
 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.

Death and Rising

By Fr. Tucker Redding, SJ



"Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." - John 12:24

A few weeks ago I was running through Forest Park and I noticed huge clouds of smoke coming from an area in the park. At first, I was worried that a fire had broken out in the park and would do great damage, especially since we have seen the devastating effects of wildfires in Texas recently. As I got closer, I noticed that officers and park rangers were observing the fire. It was set intentionally and was being closely monitored. Then I remembered from my childhood growing up on a ranch that we would sometimes use controlled fires to clear out debris and overgrowth from a field to revitalize the field and allow for new growth.

It seems contradictory that something must die in order to come to life, but we see it in nature all of the time. When we would burn a field, it looked worse, at first. It was charred and seemingly lifeless, but then new vegetation would emerge. Bright green sprouts would appear vibrantly against the ground. Burning the field both made way for new growth and provided the nutrients for growth. The same is true for us. The process of shedding off bad habits, attitudes, and sins is a process of dying to self. This process can be difficult and we don't always see the progress or the new life that is emerging, at least not right away.

Penance and reconciliation are some of the ways that we die to self. We recognize the overgrowth, the debris, present in our hearts and decide to make way for new growth and life. Like a controlled fire, penance prepares us for new growth. Shame and guilt, however, can be like a fire that has grown out of control. Not only does it burn away the debris, but it can also prevent new life from growing.

Let us approach the Lord for forgiveness and healing. Looking to shed what is holding us back, but then move forward into new life.

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, who will be selling in the vestibule after the Sunday Masses today. 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.



Maurice Muia

Living Our Faith: Meet Maurice

An SFX parishioner since: August 2010. Alexandra, my wife of two months, my mother and I had driven a U-Haul from Tallahassee and crossed the bridge to St. Louis one Sunday morning. Just like in a movie. We'd never been to St. Louis before, but College Church was on our radar. Not only was I starting graduate school at Saint Louis University, but the priest who married us in Florida knew College Church by reputation. "The Jesuits are outspoken," he said. "You'll see when you get there." We did, and it was the perfect fit for us.

Living my faith: My experience at College Church – and through all aspects of my life – has been guided by the belief that opportunities occur in the right place, at the right time. You just need to listen to what is revealed to you. After receiving invitations to join the Pastoral Council, I said yes and later served as Chair for two years during a period of change – our transition to a new model of leadership in the parish and "All Things New" in the archdiocese. I've participated in LIGHTWORKS, a faith formation program that includes Ignatian prayer, reading and discussion with fellow parishioners. I continue to be enriched by reading the daily liturgy, and enjoy being a lector at Mass and helping to spread the word to others. Being a volunteer at Hot Stuff/Cool Stuff has given me the chance to talk to and better know and understand many of the people our ministries serve.

Why I'm involved: Faith has always been an important part of my life. As I transitioned to young adulthood and started to date Alexandra, who is devout and inspiring, my faith grew. My relationship with God evolved from a sense of tradition and obligation to one of love. Being newly married, attending SLU and joining College Church was a "perfect storm." I found a place where I have become closer to God in ways I hadn't envisioned before.

Words that describe SFX: Collaborative, Intentional, Loving.

My neighborhood: After spending time in Downtown St. Louis and Maplewood, our family moved to Richmond Heights eight years ago. We love our home there. It's close to everything, including Holy Redeemer Catholic School in Webster Groves where our children attend school. We have three wonderful children: Gabriel, 10; Canelle, 8; and Arielle, 4.

Fun facts: I'm an electrical engineer by training, now enjoying my professional life as an entrepreneur. One of my long-time interests is collecting Hot Wheels – I continue to search for rare cars to add to the collection I started as a boy. A couple of them worked their way into the diorama my daughter made recently for a school project on tornadoes.

As a native of the U.S. Virgin Islands, I love to entice people to go there for a visit, and am eager to share my advice for a great trip. 1. Sample the local cuisine, such as fish and fungi (the Caribbean version of polenta), pate (a savory handheld pie), local fruit (grated mangos!), or bush tea with your breakfast. 2. Take time to relax and explore one of the many beautiful beaches (try Magens Bay, Trunk Bay, Salt Pond...you can't go wrong.) And 3. Learn some local history and culture before you go (saying "good morning" to everyone you encounter is a welcome touch.)

St. Francis Xavier's parish family represents diverse backgrounds, with many warm and welcoming parishioners. Learn more by calling (314) 977-7300 or visiting sfxstl.org. You can find past parishioner profiles at sfxstl.org/living-our-faith.



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.

A Lapsed Catholic Finds Her Home

Born and raised Catholic in Brooklyn, NY, Roxie Beckles claims twelve years of Catholic education. Yet after several years away from the practice of her faith, she now feels on fire about it and through social media she aspires to help converts and those marginalized in the Church to feel respect and understanding by sharing her faith experiences as a once estranged Black Catholic woman.



But there is even more to this interesting person. Since 1997, Roxie has been a fitness instructor. Her passion for health/fitness began with dancing. She started dance classes at age 5 but hated it. Years later, inspired by films like Fame, Flash Dance, and Grease, her interest in dance was reignited. She watched Baryshnikov, Alvin Ailey, and others; she borrowed library books about ballet, then practiced on her own. One day, on her way to high school she saw a poster advertising a Joffrey Ballet performance. That summer she enrolled in the Joffrey School. From there Roxie received a scholarship to the Harlem School of Dance Theater. She later graduated from the Fordham University/Alvin Ailey BFA Program in Dance. She has performed on stages across the world and has worked with top choreographers. Roxie’s love for acting also began while at Fordham. A requirement for her degree was taking an acting class. She has appeared in numerous Off-Broadway productions and films. Eventually, she moved to Los Angeles to pursue film and television.

Since 2009, Roxie has owned an online coaching/consulting company called RoxStar Fitness. As a fitness professional, Roxie coached the children’s program for the New York Road Runners Foundation. Then she began competitive bodybuilding in 2010. Winning several Physique competitions over the next four years secured her a spot at the 2014 Olympics where she was among the top 16 competitors in the world.

Today, Roxie creates weight loss, core strengthening, and flexibility programs and is certified through The National Academy of Sports Medicine. Her personal interest is coaching women to be their best on the competition stage, designing fun and effective programs tailored to each client’s needs. She also focuses on corporate wellness, helping companies provide fitness and nutrition programs to improve employees’ health

so they can thrive and increase productivity.

Realizing The Aims of Our Racial Equity Review

A milestone in our racial equity review process is the anticipated completion of an equity survey, with expected administration to parishioners to begin in April. The survey is designed to assess our ability to recognize and grapple with issues of racism that affect our faith community and to appraise how we, even if unintentionally, continue to uphold structural racism.

Members of the Racial Equity Review Team, after lengthy and intensive formation involving the study of racial history, development of racial identity, and identification of racially unjust behavior have employed evaluative tools to offer, as part of a loving self-scrutiny, observations and impressions about our ways of being at College Church. The survey will allow us, by seeking parishioner feedback, to interrogate those observations and impressions, to deepen the view of College Church as a welcoming and inclusive community, and to develop strategies for interrupting systemic racism within our church.

To accomplish these ends, the participation of each parishioner is critical. Please watch for information about when the survey will become available and plan to share your opinion with us at this important juncture.

Significant Figures in Racial History

Fred Shuttlesworth – born March 18, 1922, in Mount Meigs, AL. Shuttlesworth was a Baptist minister and civil rights activist in Birmingham, AL. He worked with Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil rights movement. Shuttlesworth later worked to end homelessness in Cincinnati, OH.

Unita Zelma Blackwell – born March 18, 1933, in Lula, MS. As a young woman Unita organized the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee that helped Black citizens register to vote. In 1976 she became the first Black woman in Mississippi to be elected mayor (in Mayersville, MS).

Michael McDonald – lynched March 21, 1981, in Mobile, AL. McDonald was walking home from a neighborhood convenience store when he was beaten, his throat was slit, then his body was hung from a tree. McDonald was 19 years old. It was one of the last reported lynchings

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page in the U.S. Three local Ku Klux Klan members were convicted in the case.

Upcoming Events

March 17 4:00 pm The Jesuit Antiracism Sodality (JARS) is hosting *Stations of the Cross to Overcome Racism*. This virtual prayer will be led by Fr. Tom Clark, SJ, pastor of Immaculate Conception parish in Baton Rouge, LA along with members of JARS. To register, go to: forms.gle/JPGYp9H3nbhfSHXEA

March 20 7:00 pm In prayer for an end to gun violence, a special Stations of the Cross will be held at St. Cletus Parish, 2705 Zumbuhl Rd, St Charles, MO 63301

March 20 7:00 pm A Mass for Racial Unity will be held at St. Josephine Bakhita at the Sts. Teresa and Bridget location, 2401 N. Grand Blvd. Several parishes and parish choirs will be participating, including our own College Church choir.

March 22 9:00 am–5:00 pm College Church is hosting a workshop presented by Crossroads Antiracism Organizing and Training: *Animating Antiracist Ways of Being*. In this day-long experience, participants will increase their understanding of how systemic racism operates within organizations and practice identifying and imagining solutions. For a complete description of the event, go to:

crossroadsantiracism.org/register/ As the host institution, College Church can send 4 participants at no charge. If you are interested, please contact Lisa Burks, Imburks60@gmail.com or Winnie Sullivan, penultim@swbell.com

March 24 1:00 – 4:00 pm **Black Women Poets: Vision and Voice** will be held at the Mercy Retreat and Conference Center, 2039 North Geyer Road, 63131 Noeli Lytton will share works of brilliant, jubilant, tender, bold poets--all Black women who fill our hearts with universal human desires, resilience, and triumph--Lucille Clifton, Maya Angelou, Audre Lorde, Gwendolyn Brooks, and Amanda Gorman. Cost \$25. Register at mercycenterstl.org by March 21.

April 3 5:00 pm Rachel L. Swarns will discuss her book, *The 272: The Families Who Were Enslaved and Sold to Build the American Catholic Church*. The event will be at the SLU Center for Global Citizenship on the West Pine Mall. She will do a book signing at 5:00 p.m. and her talk will begin at 6:00 p.m. For more information, email CASDEI@slu.edu.

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

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
3/18-3/24	Mark 14:1-15:47 Read through the Gospel passage one time slowly. Now read it again. What words, images, phrases stand out to you?	* The Agony in The Garden How do these themes connect with the Gospel reading?	* Consider signing up for the College Church summer social justice camp to learn more about sustainable gardening happening in our region. * Plant a garden * Consider donating to a program like SEED Saint Louis that supports neighborhood gardens. * Take a “creation walk,” a mindful walk to slow down and appreciate God’s creation around you. * 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.

**Encounters on the Way to the Cross
Lenten Offerings at College Church**

- * **Imagine: A Guide to Ignatian Contemplation** 7pm held in the church, the audio recordings may be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/9nn2cbsb>
- * **Our Parish Racial History**, the recommended readings and reflection questions may be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/2yu6wnnd>
- * **Stations of the Cross** Fridays at 12:30pm (after the noon Mass) during Lent

For more information email:
sfxFaithEnrichment@gmail.com

Lenten Liturgical Celebrations

The St. Francis Xavier (College) Church parish family invites you and your friends to celebrate with us these important liturgical celebrations, and the Sacred Triduum of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

March 17 (Sunday) Communal Penance Service, 9:15 a.m.
Confessions are available Monday through Friday from 10:30 until 11:45.

Holy Week

- March 23 Passion (Palm) Sunday (Vigil) 5:15 p.m.
- March 24 Passion (Palm) Sunday 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
- March 28 Holy Thursday 7:30 p.m.
- March 29 Good Friday 3:00 p.m.
- March 30 Easter Vigil 8:00 p.m. (No 5:15 p.m. Mass)
- March 31 Easter Sunday 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

(The College Church Choir will sing at both Easter Liturgies)


For more information, please call the Parish Center at 977-7300
Complimentary parking is available in the Laclede garage.

Year-to-Date Offertory Report as of January 31, 2024

	Current Year	Current Year Budget	Prior Year
Offertory Gifts			
Offertory - Envelopes	177,000	117,000	125,600
Offertory Loose	22,100	20,750	20,600
Holy Day Offertory	10,900	1,700	1,600
Sunday Offertory-Electronic	233,750	242,400	235,400
Total Offertory Gifts	443,750	381,850	383,200
Gifts-Unrestricted			
Gifts-Unrestricted	37,650	48,150	40,300
Gifts-Stock/RMD/Charitable Trust	55,050	7,200	5,000
Total Unrestricted Gifts	536,450	437,200	428,500

Thank you for your generous financial support of our many ministries - ID Program, Religious Education, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Liturgy and Music, Antiracism and others. It is through your sustained support that our parish continues to thrive.

Year to date donations currently exceed budget expectations based upon the receipt of two major unplanned gifts and the generous Christmas giving.





College Church is Hiring!

Director of Parish Engagement

The Director of Parish Engagement is full-time position. The overarching role of the Director of Parish Engagement is to facilitate and support parishioner engagement and giving of time, talent, and treasure.

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

LISTENING SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF OUR CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

The Archdiocese of St. Louis cordially invites individuals from all walks of life to participate in an in-person listening session. All are welcome to attend!

This session will provide an opportunity for everyone to express their thoughts, ideas, and concerns regarding various aspects of their faith journey and the challenges they may face in today's world.

**Questions?
Contact:**
Rev. Mitchell Doyen
Synod Committee Chair
314-803-4523
mitchelldoyen@archstl.org

NO RSVP NEEDED

Details for the listening session:

- **Saturday, March 23, 2024**
- **9:00 – 11:00 AM**
- **Cardinal Rigali Center
(Fleur de Lis Room)**
- **20 Archbishop May Dr. 63119**
- **No RSVP needed**

Circle of Creation Green Corner



The CCC is proud of our 8th graders who have chosen Care For Creation as the theme of their Lenten Journey! Elsewhere in this bulletin you will find an informational box with the Gospel reading for the upcoming week, along with the weekly theme they have chosen and some actions they might take based on that theme. They have invited the Circle of Creation Committee to submit additional ideas for thought or activities.

The theme for the upcoming week is the **Agony in the Garden**. Here are some thoughts from the CCC:

- 1.) Jesus asked the Apostles to accompany him to Gethsemane and keep watch so he would not be alone. Is there someone you know (a classmate, a neighbor, or an extended family member, perhaps) who might be feeling lonely? A visit, phone call, card, letter, or just a friendly “Hi” from you could brighten their day!
- 2.) Attend the St. Louis Earth Day Festival (see information below) to have fun and learn more about how you can truly care for this garden of Earth, our Common Home. Share what you learn with others

Mark your calendar. Earthday365 is cosponsoring the **St. Louis Earth Day Festival** on the weekend of April 20-21, 2024 at Forest Park. earthday-365.org/festival/

Consider having a meatless meal, not just once a week during Lent, but throughout the year to help decrease greenhouse gases in the environment. [The diet that helps fight climate change](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1737570466430548) [facebook.com/watch/?v=1737570466430548]

We previously featured here a Cleanup at Greenwood Cemetery on March 23, 2024. Due to a scheduling conflict, this event will NOT take place this spring. But you can participate in the **2024 Confluence Trash Bash**, sponsored by the Open Space Council in cooperation with Great Rivers Greenway and other groups. This is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, at many sites throughout the St. Louis area. To see what you may expect and to check the **Cleanup Site – Grading Scale**, go to openspacestl.org/confluence-trash-bash/. Then go to volunteer.openspacestl.org/need/?agency_id=132647 for a list of sites and their Grade of Accessibility.

Another volunteer opportunity which is coming up even sooner, on the evening of **March 22** from 5:00 to 6:45 PM, is the first of this year’s nine [Revamp the Riverfront](http://stlaquariumfoundation.org/events/revamp-the-riverfront/) efforts to prevent plastic pollution from entering the Mighty Mississippi and eventually our oceans. [stlaquariumfoundation.org/events/revamp-the-riverfront/]

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.

March 16-17

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

Sunday
8:00 am Fr. McMahan, S.J.
10:30 am Fr. McMahan, S.J.

March 23-24

Saturday.
5:15 pm Fr. Frank Reale, S.J.

Palm Sunday
8:00 am Fr. Redding, S.J.
10:30 am Fr. Redding, S.J.

This Sunday’s Scripture Readings

First Reading:
Ezekiel 37:12-14

Responsorial Psalm:
Psalms 130:1-2, 4-4, 5-6, 7-8

Second Reading:
Romans 8:8-11

Gospel:
John 11:1-45

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.