



Photo: Maureen Hoock

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 19, 2023
Fourth 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 Jennifer Quick at jennifer@sfxstl.org or Julie Kilian at julie@sfxstl.org for more information.

Safe Environment Program Compliance contact Terry Edelmann at terry@sfxstl.org.

To reach the Pastoral Council, email sfxpc@sfxstl.org.

PASTORAL STAFF

Parish Life Coordinator

Katie Jansen
314-977-1954
katie@sfxstl.org

Canonical Pastor

Tim McMahon, SJ
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Stewardship

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Christian Initiation, Adult Formation, & Marriage Ministry

Joe Milner
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Office Manager

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Youth Faith Formation

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Regional Access Coordinator

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Director of Wedding Ministry, Young Adult Faith, and Marriage Preparation

Sandy Hauck
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sandy@sfxstl.org

Choir Director, Music Ministry

Ray Sherrock
rsherrock@desmet.org

Director of Wedding Music & Accompanist, Music Ministry

Sue Martin
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susan.martin@slu.edu

Pastoral Council Chair

Maurice Muia
sfxpc@sfxstl.org

Pastoral Ministry

Bridget Brennan
joy@canainstitute.org

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Margaret Baughman
 Samuel Belk
 Bill Bollwerk*
 Maureen Carney*
 Jim Costello
 Alice Edler
 Steve Frank*
 Dave Greiner
 Jessi Haselhorst
 Joanie Hasser*
 Butch Henning*
 Jeanne Hermann*
 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
 Robert Wilmott
 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 have 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.

Small Groups Schedule, Today and Upcoming**The Chosen**

Please join us this Sunday after the 10:30 am Mass in the Adult Faith Room for a viewing and discussion of an episode of *The Chosen*.

Widows and Widowers

The next meeting of Widows and Widowers will be on Sunday, March 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.

Alzheimer's Support Group

Caregivers of Those with Alzheimer's and Other Forms of Dementia will meet after the 10:30 am Mass in the Adult Faith Room of the Parish Center next Sunday, March 26th.

Lenten Liturgical Celebrations

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

March 26 (Sunday) Communal Penance Service, 9:00 a.m.
 Confessions are available Monday through Friday from 10:45 until Noon

Holy Week

- April 1 Passion (Palm) Sunday (Vigil) 5:15 p.m.
- April 2 Passion (Palm) Sunday 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

- April 6 Holy Thursday 7:30 p.m.
- April 7 Good Friday 3:00 p.m.
- April 8 Easter Vigil 8:00 p.m. (No 5:15 p.m. Mass)
- April 9 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.

Interested in Learning about the Catholic Faith?

If you would like to learn more about the Catholic Church, its beliefs and practices, you are invited to contact Joseph Milner, 314-977-7305 or joseph.milner@slu.edu.

Conversations offer an opportunity to ask questions about Catholic beliefs and practices. They are informal and focus on the issues which the participants deem important. All questions are welcome.



Buy Fair Trade to Support our Sister Parish!



Don't forget fresh coffee, chocolate, tea, soup, chili, corn bread, brownie mix, and more from your friendly College Church Fair Trade Committee!

All proceeds directly benefit our Jesuit sister parish, St. Peter Claver, in Belize. Order online at sfxstl.org/buy-fair-trade. Fair Trade products will also be available for purchase after the 8:00 and 10:30 Masses this week.

Ramadan Iftar Dinner 2023

College Church and Turkish American Society of Missouri would like to invite you to our Ramadan Iftar (Fast-Breaking) Dinner, graciously hosted by St. Francis Xavier (College) Church.

Ramadan Iftar Dinners bring individuals from different religious and cultural communities together to learn about the significance of the month of Ramadan within Islamic Tradition, engage in friendly table conversation, and break fast with an Iftar dinner. This is an opportunity to engage in friendly, informal, and open dialogue in hopes of assisting in the creation of a more inclusive St Louis community of different cultures and all faith traditions.



Date: 7:00pm on Saturday, April 1st, 2023
 RSVP by March 24th, 2023

Venue: St. Francis Xavier (College) Church Ballroom
 3628 Lindell Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63108

If you'd like to join us please visit this link: <https://tinyurl.com/ramadansfx>.



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.

March is Women's History Month

Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to American history and culture and has been observed annually in the month of March since 1987. It is a time to reflect on the often-overlooked roles and achievements of women in every area of our society.

Dr. Fredda Witherspoon - Community Leader and Social Activist

By Lisa Burks



(Photo: Fredda Witherspoon, 1947, St. Louis University, *The Archive*)

I knew her as Dr. Witherspoon, a senior member of the counseling faculty at St. Louis Community College—Forest Park, where I was a recent addition to the department. My memories of her are of a woman in constant motion. She always seemed to be planning a program or event, and I knew her to be active in the community. It was clear that she was deeply respected, particularly by our African American colleagues, but it would be many years before I understood the significant role she played in the history of civil rights and racial justice in St. Louis and her connection to the story of our parish racial history.

It was 2010, after a tornado damaged several homes in the historic Lewis Place neighborhood, that I learned of the part Fredda Witherspoon and her husband, civil rights attorney Robert Witherspoon, played in ending the practice of restrictive covenants. To challenge these neighborhood agreements, they arranged for fair-skinned African Americans who could “pass” as white to purchase homes in Lewis Place and then transfer the property to black families who would reside there. The Witherspoons' work paved the way for the landmark case of *Shelley v Kraemer* through which the US Supreme Court struck down restrictive covenants throughout the country.

Fredda Witherspoon would go on to break other barriers. In 1944, she was one of the first five African American students admitted to St. Louis University. Having already earned a bachelor's degree in business, she studied social work at SLU and completed a master's degree in 1947. She also completed master's degrees at the University of Chicago and Washington University, there earning a Ph.D. in Guidance and Counseling.

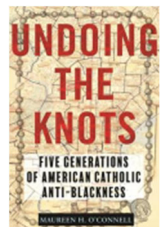
Dr. Witherspoon held numerous leadership roles at the state and local levels and served the community in multiple ways. Upon her death in 1996, James Bufford, then president and CEO of the Urban League remarked, “Dr. Witherspoon was a consummate mobilizer of people. She could bring people together better than anyone I knew.” (St. Louis Post Dispatch, August 15, 1996) She was elected to serve as the first black president of the Board of Directors of the St. Louis Metropolitan YWCA. She was a member of the board for the local chapter of the NAACP for 32 years and served as president of their Missouri State Conference. In addition to her 27 years of work as a professor at St. Louis Community College, she served on boards for the Girl Scouts of Greater St. Louis, the Missouri Historical Society, and the St. Louis Ambassadors—to name just a few. She also made time to serve as the youth director of the West Side Baptist Church. Today, Dr. Witherspoon has service awards and scholarships that are bestowed in her honor. Her contributions and legacy will continue to impact our region into the future.

Parish and Community: A Conversation with Maureen O'Connell

Theologian, Christian ethicist, and author Maureen O'Connell discusses some of her thoughts on our entanglements with racism—individually and as a church community. In this preview of her upcoming webinar, we can begin to imagine a racial healing that can come from an honest examination of our history and an openness to personal and communal transformation. You will find more details about this event and registration information in a flyer in this bulletin.

You can access a video of this discussion through this link: tinyurl.com/sfxmaureen

Copies of her book, *Undoing the Knots: Five Generations of American Catholic Anti-Blackness* may be purchased online and picked up after the 8am or 10:30am Mass on March 19th and 26th or at the March 30th event. Contact Christine Dragonette for additional information: christine@sfxstl.org



March Figures in Black History

Born March 25, 1942 - singer Aretha Franklin in Memphis, TN. She was a singer, songwriter, pianist, actress, and civil rights activist. She became known as the “Queen of Soul.”

Died March 18, 2017 – Rock and Roll Singer, Chuck Berry in Wentzville, MO. A graduate of Sumner High School in St Louis, he was a pioneer in the Rock and Roll genre with songs like Roll Over Beethoven and Johnny B. Good.

Died March 25, 1931 – journalist Ida B. Wells in Chicago, IL. She was an investigative journalist, educator, and civil rights activist. She also contributed to the founding of the NAACP.

COLLEGE CHURCH - SISTER PARISH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

ST. PETER CLAVER, PUNTA GORDA, BELIZE

For the last two years, we have extended the opportunity for College Church parishioners to sponsor students at our sister parish St. Peter Claver in Belize. Thanks to your generous response, our parish community currently sponsors the high school education of 34 students in Belize. We hope to sponsor ten additional students this year.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION & GUIDELINES

The Scholarship Program is coordinated through our Sister Parish of St. Peter Claver in Belize and through the supervision of Ms. Olive Woodye. It is well organized and has specific requirements and guidelines for scholarship application and for retention. It is designed for boys and girls in all four high school years, Forms 1-4. The parents are interviewed and have an application process and a contract that they must sign for their child to participate. They also require 20 hours of service from each student each year. Their report cards are reviewed regularly and Ms. Olive monitors and advises them on grades and other needs they may have.

To sponsor a student for all 4 years of high school costs \$900 USD (or \$225 per year), which can be paid as one lump sum or annually. The cost covers school fees, books, uniforms, supplies, and lunches. This would be used for the same child all four years as long as they meet all the program requirements annually. If a student does not complete all four years, the sponsor would be informed and a new student in need would be selected and benefit from their sponsorship.

There are 30 schools in the Toledo district where St. Peter Claver is located, the poorest district in Belize. There are many students awaiting sponsorship for high school! Scholarship interviews and selection takes place over the summer, and school begins in August 2023.

QUESTIONS OR INTERESTED IN SPONSORING A STUDENT?

Please contact committee chair Mary Linhares at marytlinhares@gmail.com. The deadline for sponsorships is Monday, April 24th, 2023.

Evangelization 101 Workshop

All Things New Planning Area 2
April 1, 2023
9 am to 12:00 pm
Ballroom, St. Francis Xavier (College) Church



This workshop will cover beginning fundamentals of evangelization. This is a free workshop offered to anyone who wants to increase their comfort in sharing their faith.

Can't make it to the workshop in your area? Feel free to attend the workshop most convenient for you. Registration is required. [Visit archstl.org/evangelization](http://archstl.org/evangelization).

UNDOING OUR KNOTS:

PERSONALIZING AND PRAYING WITH OUR PARISH RACIAL HISTORY

THURSDAY, MARCH 30TH, 2023 FROM 6:00-7:30 PM CT

Examining the fabric of America's racial history, manifested in our own faith communities, reveals the coarse, uneven, and knotted weave that has entangled us in patterns of injustice and continues to tear us apart as a people. Maureen O'Connell pulls at the thread of her Irish Catholic family's history, revisiting the choices her relatives made that reinforced racial segregation and inequity, often with the encouragement of a complicit church hierarchy. Her acknowledgment of that history and her efforts to heal from it help us to undo our own knots and free us to create more inclusive Catholic communities.

MAUREEN O'CONNELL



MAUREEN H. O'CONNELL IS A PROFESSOR OF CHRISTIAN ETHICS AT LA SALLE UNIVERSITY AND AUTHOR OF THREE BOOKS IN THAT AREA OF THEOLOGY. AS AN EMERGING FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY ORGANIZER, SHE IS ALSO DIRECTOR OF SYNOD AND HIGHER EDUCATION ENGAGEMENT WITH DISCERNING DEACONS.

TWO OPTIONS TO ATTEND THE WEBINAR:
ONLINE VIA ZOOM OR IN PERSON AT THE
COLLEGE CHURCH BALLROOM.

Please register by March 23rd at the following link:

<http://bit.ly/undoing-our-knots>

Sponsored by the US Central and Southern Province of the Jesuits and
St. Francis Xavier College Church

Circle of Creation Green Corner

Spring Volunteer Opportunities are sponsored by [The Open Space Council \(http://openspacestl.org\)](http://openspacestl.org) and [Great Rivers Greenway \(https://tinyurl.com/35jfyyzd\)](https://tinyurl.com/35jfyyzd) in collaboration with other groups.



The first cleanup event for Revamp the Riverfront will be on Wednesday morning, March 22nd from 10:00 AM to Noon. To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yc5y7y5h>.

Ruth Porter Mall Spring Tree Planting takes place on Saturday, March 25 9:00 AM to Noon. For more information, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/bdfcu8n9>.

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.

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.

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

March 25, 9:00 AM to Noon
Also Paper Recycling at this same time & place
824 Ferguson Avenue
Ferguson, MO 63135
hosted by **Ferguson City Library**

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. sfxstl.org/circleofcreation

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.

March 18-19, 2023

Saturday

5:15 pm Fr. McMahon, SJ

Sunday

8:00 am Fr. Dan Daly, SJ
Province Treasurer, UCS Province

10:30 am

Fr. Dan Daly, SJ
Province Treasurer, UCS Province

March 25-26, 2023

Saturday

5:15 pm Fr. May, SJ
Professor of Mathematics, SLU

Sunday

8:00 am Fr. McMahon, SJ

10:30 am Fr. McMahon, SJ

This Sunday's Scripture Readings:

First Reading:

I Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

Second Reading:

Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel:

John 9:1-41

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

Click the blue bar at the top of our website, sfxstl.org. Or use this QR code.



Thank you for your support!