

This year's 8th grade class who will be confirmed today. Their teacher, Hope Johnson, is retiring this year, and they brought cards to express their gratitude for all she has done for them.

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

May 1st, 2022
Third Sunday of Easter

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 associatepastor@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. Dan White at frdan@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.

Liturgy of the Word for Children: Suspended until further notice due to the pandemic. Contact Terry Edelmann at terry@sfxstl.org.

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

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 Bill Bollwerk*
 Kathy Bookstaver
 Maureen Carney*
 Linda Castillon*
 Steve Frank*
 Monica Gunn
 Jessi Haselhorst
 Paul Hanson*
 Mary Jane and Butch Henning*
 Jeanne Hermann*
 Laura Kaiser and Family
 Terry Kippenberger*
 Julianne Lister
 Tom McDermott
 Sr. Mary Kay McKenzie *
 Karena Menard*
 Liz Moloney*
 Suzanne Mondello
 Nancy Partridge* & Glider
 Joan Rice
 Mark Roddy*
 Dennis Saunders*
 Jennifer Saunders*
 Betty Schnorbus
 Mark Segovia
 Fr. Gary Seibert, SJ*
 Terry Sheehan
 Vicki Simon
 Jean Steely
 Greg Stephen
 Colleen Starkloff
 Judy Taylor*
 Brent Thompson
 Dave Werthmann
 Marjorie Woodeye
 Lisa Zimmerer*

* Long-term

Prayer requests to:

church@sfxstl.org

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

Join our prayer group on Zoom,

Friday mornings at 9:

Contact Bridget Brennan at

joy@canainstitute.org for info.

Reflections from our Parish Life Coordinator

After Easter I became the Parish Life Coordinator of College Church. So, going forward, I will have the opportunity to share a weekly reflection with you.

It seems Holy Spirit inspired that our parish would move to a new, less clerical leadership model in the midst of the Pope's Synod on Synodality. "A Synodal Church is a church of participation and co-responsibility." At its core, syondality is about encountering one another and journeying together. Because of the pandemic, many of us have felt a bit disconnected and isolated. So over the next several months, parish leaders will be looking for big and small ways to invite all of us to build relationships with one another: anything from wearing name-tags, to greeting each other after mass, to having coffee in the ballroom. I would invite each of us to introduce or reintroduce ourselves to those around us at church. There are people I have seen for years, but I still don't know their names. There are others whose names I knew, but somehow the pandemic erased that part of my memory. (I bet I'm not the only one?) So, let us all put aside whatever discomfort we may feel and find out who the remarkable person next to us is.

Please mark your calendars for our Pentecost Potluck! Sunday, June 5, we will celebrate how the Holy Spirit enabled Jesus' followers to speak of the mighty acts of God in many different languages. We encourage you to bring foods that reflect many different cultures to this celebration (and, as a reminder, St. Louis has wonderful international restaurants, in case you'd rather not do the cooking yourself!).

To sign up to bring a dish or to join a volunteer crew, please visit:

tinyurl.com/collegechurchpotluck

This event will also feature children's activities, thanks to our incredible Youth Faith Formation helpers.

Reminder: Don't forget fresh coffee, chocolate, tea, soup, chili, corn bread, brownie mix, and gift boxes from your friendly College Church Fair Trade Committee. All proceeds directly benefit our Jesuit sister parish, St. Peter Claver, in Belize. Order online at <https://sfxstl.org/buy-fair-trade>

Liturgy of the Light: On Saturday evening, April 23rd, our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd families celebrated the light of the Risen Christ shared with each of us. The celebration included crafts, a meal, and many roles for the children to take on: lighting the Paschal candle, proclaiming readings, and more.





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.

Black Catholic Spirituality

By Lisa Burks and Winnie Sullivan

Over the course of the past month, we have had the opportunity to take part in an online offering from Boston College on the subject of Black Catholic Spirituality. The program provided a facilitated discussion around a set of curated materials for participants from around the country.

The four-week sessions began with a consideration of the characteristics of Black Spirituality and the way in which those qualities represented a synthesis of rituals and practices brought by enslaved people to the Americas, as well as how those qualities were further influenced by the experience of slavery. Enriching the discussion were readings from scholars such as M. Shawn Copeland and Cyprian Davis, the latter providing, in particular, an overview of the history of Black Catholics in the United States. A focus of the program was the African American spiritual, as an embodiment and creative expression of Black Spirituality. The course progressed with an exploration of the experience of Black Catholics today and concluded with reflection about how the Church might become a better and more inclusive home for the entirety of the Catholic family.

Lisa: In the weeks I spent exploring Black Catholic spirituality through this course, the news was filled with coverage of the Senate confirmation hearings for Ketanji Brown Jackson. As I listened to Senator Booker repeat the refrain, “I won’t let them steal my joy,” it underscored for me one of the spiritual gifts that Black people bring to our Catholic Faith: joy. In an article we read as part of this experience, C. Vanessa White describes this quality. “Joy is a hallmark of black spirituality. We celebrate in the midst of suffering. Our joy does not negate suffering but is focused on the hope of Jesus Christ. Our joy is expressed in our movement, our dance, in thanksgiving and exultation.”

With a little further investigation, I learned there is a spiritual song entitled, *I Refuse, I Won’t Let Nobody Steal My Joy*. The sacred music of the African American spiritual is a gift not only for the life and energy it offers our liturgical worship and prayer, but because of the commitment to faith, community, and justice that is contained within it. The very creation of each musical piece was a communal experience. Bringing to their

worship scriptural text, often memorized from hearing it in white public worship, and their shared experience, African Americans developed sung prayers of praise, of lamentation, and of jubilation. This process also required their discernment for the true Word of God to be revealed and racist interpretations of Biblical passages, intended to justify and sanction their enslavement, to be disregarded.

My description captures just a small portion of the spiritual gifts African Americans bring to the Catholic Christian family in which we are all a part. In gratitude, let us nurture these gifts and recognize how they enrich the experience of faith for us all.

Winnie: The program provided a valuable forum with which to draw attention to the history and experience of Black Catholics and to recognize the gifts that Black Spirituality offers to the Church. And in no place have those gifts been more clearly defined, or on display, than in Sister Thea Bowman’s 1989 address to the conference of U.S. bishops—the video of which was among the materials collected for use by program participants. Despite having read a lot about Sister Thea, having presented at conferences dedicated to her wisdom and memory, and having heard funny stories from Sister Mary Antona Ebo about their friendship, I had never heard Sister Thea speak, nor had I heard her sing. To hear, while she was in the throes of breast cancer treatment, her beautiful, unrestrained singing of *Motherless Child*—a song first sung by enslaved Africans—as an expression of the experience of Black Catholics was moving beyond measure and, on its own, made participation in the Black Spirituality program worthwhile. I invite you to view the video of Sister Thea (tinyurl.com/46wp4fek) and to visit Boston College School of Theology and Ministry (tinyurl.com/4pph3fcf) to see a catalog of their online offerings for adult spiritual enrichment.

Tuesday Night Vigils for Racial Justice Resume 5/3

After a hiatus during the winter months, weekly Tuesday night vigils for racial justice will begin again on Tuesday, May 3rd, and continue each week from 6–7 p.m. You are invited to join us on the steps of College Church to stand in prayer and hold signs calling for racial justice locally and nationally.

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(continued...) Originally hosted by the Jesuit scholastics in summer 2020 after the killing of George Floyd, the vigils became a weekly witness, growing to encompass a larger group of St. Louis Catholics. As racial violence continues, the College Church Racism and Reconciliation Committee wants to continue this public witness and invites all to join in both participation and planning. For more information, please contact Joan McGinnis, jfmc676@gmail.com.

Feedback Welcome

The members of the Racism and Reconciliation Committee appreciate all who participated in the Racial Justice Journey this Lent. We welcome feedback about your experience so that we can most effectively plan future events. You can share your thoughts through an online survey: tinyurl.com/4ca5mcr5.

Theology of Synodality

"What the heck is synodality?" Fr. Dan will be offering an introduction to the theology of synodality this spring. Sessions will be via Zoom and will take place the five Tuesdays of May. The primary source will be the International Theological Commission's document on synodality. We will also look at the relevant biblical texts and the Vatican II document Lumen Gentium. Sessions will go from 7:15 to 8:15 May 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31.

The registration link is on our website, sfxstl.org.

The Next Chapter

The Next Chapter is a program grounded in Ignatian Spirituality that has been offered in the St. Louis community for the past five years. It is a six-month guided journey in a group setting for people who are approaching retirement or who are recently retired. The ultimate goal of the program is to assist one to discern how he or she wants to live the next chapter of life. For more information, go to www.nextchapterprogram.org.

The next session of the program begins in October of 2022. The first step for participating in the program is to attend an information session. They will be held on April 27, May 31, and June 15 at Mercy Retreat Center, 2039 Geyer Road. The sessions start at 6:30 p.m. To RSVP for an information session, please email Tom Auffenberg at thomas.auffenberg@slu.edu and indicate which session you desire to attend.

Calling All Parishioners with a Background in Policy, Advocacy, or Simply a Passion for Working Towards Systemic Change!

The College Church Outreach Program is forming an Advocacy Committee and you are invited to help us bring this dream into reality. The goal of the Advocacy Committee will be to support the efforts of the Birth Certificate and Identification Program by addressing systemic issues surrounding challenges that our guests face. Please join us on Wednesday, May 4 at 5PM in the Parish Center for a first meeting to begin formalizing the future efforts of the committee. Please email Madeline Powers at mmschissel@gmail.com if you would like to attend, have questions, or would like to be included on future communications. Thank you!

Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU) "Dancing in the Streets" Gala and Fundraiser

Thursday, May 19, 2022 @ 6:00 PM

Polish Heritage Center, 1413 N 20th St, Saint Louis, MO 63106

Purchase a ticket or table here: tinyurl.com/MCUGala. Join for a fun evening in support of the community organizing and justice work of MCU, of which College Church is a member congregation.



Give STL Day: THIS Thursday, May 5th: Please consider a gift to our Outreach Program for ID and birth certificate assistance this Thursday (or earlier) for Give STL Day: <https://tinyurl.com/4nrkc5fk>. Thank you!

YOUTH AND FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

BE A PART OF THE COLLEGE CHURCH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

The College Church Religious Education, RE, program is looking for faith-filled individuals to lead RE classes next year.

No experience is needed. Individuals need to be strong in their faith and eager to share it with children. The textbook series is Finding God, a publication of Loyola Press which takes an Ignatian Approach to religious instruction. In addition to class work and discussions the school year includes Sandwich Sundays, and Class Masses and service days as possible. Those are coordinated by the Youth Faith Formation staff.

Catechists work in teams, and a parent or parishioner is often paired with a SLU student. The students bring their leadership experience and love for God, which is outstanding modelling for our children.

Classes meet on most Sunday mornings, 9:15 – 10:20 in the Parish Center and in Davis-Shaughnessy Hall, from September through early May. On nice mornings classes often meet outside. On Sundays when a catechist is not available, the co-leader will manage the class. If you are unable to commit to a full schedule right now, you can volunteer to be a substitute.

Catechists receive free tuition for their children and are paid a modest stipend. They need to be in compliance with the Archdiocese Prevent and Protect STL program.

Please contact Terry Edelmann at terry@sfxstl.org or Julie Kilian at julie.kilian4@gmail.com if you want to volunteer or if you have any questions. You can also contact Terry or Julie if you have questions about the RE program itself.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR YOUTH FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS

Families with children preschool through eighth grade can register for the 2022-2023 College Church Youth Faith Formation Programs. The College Church offers both a traditional religious education (RE) program and a Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) program. The RE program is available for children second through eighth grade. The CGS program is offered for children from preschool through sixth grade. You may be put on a waiting list for the CGS program.

Classes meet at 9:15 on Sunday morning in the College Church and in Davis-Shaughnessy Hall, just west of the Pius XII Library. RE classes conclude at 10:40, GCS classes go until 11:15 with children brought to their parents during the 10:30 Mass.

Both programs are based on Ignatian Spirituality, with an emphasis on God's unconditional love, and on the importance of service. The programs use the Examen to reflect on each day's opportunity to be Christ-like in daily activities.

RE classes are organized by grade level and operate in a more traditional classroom setting. CGS classes are Montessori-based, with multi-aged groupings, and they encourage children to grow in their faith life through individual experience. Children in both programs receive sacraments in second and eighth grade.

For more information about these programs contact Julie Kilian at julie.kilian4@gmail.com or Terry Edelmann at terry@sfxstl.org.

To register, visit sfxstl.org/youth-faith and click the "Youth Faith Formation Registration" button.

YOUTH AND FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Every year as part of their Confirmation Preparation our eighth-graders are asked to write faith statements, reflections on what their faith means to them at this critical stage of their faith life. Here are the statements from this year's Confirmandi.

Alexander Babuis

I see the faith journey is like layers of cacti. Different religions are different cacti, and their roots can cooperate for water to survive. You travel the perimeter looking for a suitable opening to go deeper inside. You navigate the spines, occasionally with mishaps, and meet others on their journeys. The Sacraments are ways to enter deeper into the cactus. At the center of all the cacti is heaven. It is possible to get through the layers by yourself, but it is easier with the help of those around you. Dyslexia has been a challenge for me to face. Why did God give me this? It hinders me. It is easy to see the difficulties it gives me but hard to see any advantages. This is like a cactus spine, where it is easy to get poked by hard to remove. If I consider that my dyslexia is part of what makes me who I am, then maybe I can understand God's plan better. The same dyslexia miswiring in my brain still makes me who I am. For example, my poetry, according to my peers, is spectacular, and that came out of the same brain. So, this is a way to help remove that spine. It is easier to remove a spine with help from a friend.

Sponsor: John Stith Saint's Name: St. Giles

Noah Michael Clark

I was thinking of what to compare faith to, and I realized that faith is a lot like a compass. It's like a compass that you always have, and one that always points in the right direction, even when you don't know the way. You might use it, you might not, but you'll always have it. Even if you veer off the path a little, it's still there. Faith helps you make tough decisions and gives you good ideas of right and wrong. It gives you good morals, and helps you be a better person. If you make a bad decision or choice, you'll still be able to come back to faith. It also means knowing that, if something bad happens, it's not the end of the world. It means that there will always be another chance to do better. There will also be opportunities to fix your mistakes. You'll only have these opportunities if you're willing to apologize or try to do whatever you need to do to make things right. In addition to that, faith is believing that these things are possible. It means that you don't give up on being a better person, and instead you always try to do the right thing (even if it's hard). That doesn't mean that's what you do, but it's your goal. You'll never make the right choices and do the right things if you don't try. That's what faith means to me.

Sponsor: Terrance Barber, Sr. Saint's Name: St. Augustine

Harper Nuviah Eleanor Clark

Life can get hectic, and in all of the craziness, it can sometimes be hard to follow your faith. With school, sports, and dance, it can be difficult to reflect on my faith and the gifts God brings into my life. Through friendships and family, I am able to embrace life and feel the presence of God. Just like many other kids, I had, and sometimes still do have a hard time waking up on Sunday mornings to go to church and religion. I frequently question why I have to wake up early on the weekends, the only two days I was given to sleep in! However, I am so grateful that my Dad forced me to go to church and R.E. to learn what it means to be a Catholic. The journey I have taken has helped me realize that faith is something that makes you keep going in life. My belief in God has provided me with support through times of challenge and grief. Even though my Dad isn't with me physically to support me on my faith journey, I believe his spirit is still with me and guiding me through life, as well as my faith. He laid a strong foundation for the life I hope to live. Michigan is one place I can really connect with God, faith, my dad, and family. Every year my family and I go to Michigan for the summer. It's truly a magical place where I can really feel God's presence in my life. Every time I take a sailboat out onto the lake, I feel a very close connection with God and my Dad. Out on the peaceful water I have time to think about how my Dad took me sailing, and every year I think about how I have followed in his footsteps by sailing on the same lake he did as a kid. When I am out on the water I can connect to my Dad and God to face the challenges that are put in my life. When the sound of splashing waves on the side of my boat hits, it makes me feel that at some point I can be in my own world on the water and thinking about what God and my Dad have done for me. Reflecting back to all the summers I have spent in Michigan, I feel God has created moments that I will always cherish: moments when I have sat around a campfire, gone for a bike ride with friends, having fun with family on the beach, watching the prettiest sunsets, and going on gorgeous walks. I feel so grateful and truly blessed that God created this place that is my second home.

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(continued...) Even though it feels like God is not always listening, I always know I can express my feelings to him on a walk or a bike ride. Faith to me is magical and gets stronger with those around me. I know I can follow my faith when I have a warm welcoming community. I feel the presence of God through the power of the lake, I feel him through nature, I feel him through the presence of love in my family, I feel him through my peaceful walks on the road, and I feel him through the presence of the strong welcoming communities I am a part of. My Dad passed away three years ago after putting up a strong fight against cancer. My Dad was the person who helped me start my faith journey. It's been hard understanding if I am on the right path without my Dad, because he was someone to look up to about my faith. Through this experience, I have questioned why God would let this happen to anyone. I have questioned why so many young people have to face challenges like this in their life. I have realized that everybody has a different journey or path, and we all will face obstacles in our road. Sometimes when you are facing an obstacle, you wonder why God is not always there for you. I have learned that we have to trust God through the challenges we face. I know God will always be there for me on my faith journey no matter what happens.

Sponsor: Zoe Clark Saint's Name: St. Stefan Wyszynski

Charlotte June Darst

I feel most connected to God when I'm at church. I am able to reflect on my days and my relationships with my friends and family. I show that I have faith in myself when I get up in the morning, try my best at school, pay attention in class, turn in work on time and don't procrastinate to get things done. The love of my family and friends is one of my biggest blessings, as I take comfort in the security I feel from them. God has blessed me with good health, so I have been able to do things that I enjoy like sports. My talent with art allows me to express myself by seeing the world through my lens, perhaps seeing the world differently than anyone else. Through this lens, I see God's hand in the beauty of humanity and nature. I have found my faith at my own pace because of this lens.

Sponsor: Mary Darst Saint's Name: St. Sara of Antioch

Raphael John Del Rosario

My faith in God and the Catholic Church has changed in a short period, changing my perspective drastically. One of the biggest revelations for my faith came about a year or two ago, during a time of major divide and hardship in America. This was the time I opened my eyes to God's teachings, rather than only following what I was told. Unfortunately, during this time I saw many things turning me away from the path of God. I saw people twist the word of God for personal gain, commit sins in His name, and more. This was how I viewed organized religion for a long time, through the views of other people. I have never been particularly religious, but these misleading turns of events caused me to nearly completely spiral off the path of faith. I questioned God so much to the point where I might have considered myself an atheist. However, I soon learned that the path of Catholicism is my own to follow. I began to view my faith in a different way, and that belief in God is to each his own, not the same as anyone else's. I started paying more attention to words of prayer and thinking more about what I was really saying instead of simply memorizing and mumbling a jumble of words day to day. Now, I would still not label myself as particularly "religious" or "strictly devoted" and I might never be. But I accept that some Christians may have views that I disagree with, and I accept them with an open mind. No matter how much we try, there are some people around us we can never fully change, but we can change ourselves.

Sponsor: Tessa Del Rosario Saint's Name: St. Maximilian Kolbe

Natalie Cooper Fox

My faith is like putting on a show. The stage represents God as the foundation, but you need more than a stage. To carry out your faith, you need your stage crew, representing the disciples, who are instrumental in carrying out the message of the show. You need tools such as lights, sound and music that connect to the Eucharist. The crowd represents the followers and supporters of you in your journey, representing everyone who loves and supports you in the church. In order to carry out the show, you have to learn from those who have made mistakes, such as those who have doubted God. Like a show, you have to practice and rehearse just like your faith. Where the stage represents God as the foundation the show, like faith, must go on even with mistakes and mishaps. God will love you regardless. Although these things, all very important, all you really need is God as your director.

Sponsor: Valerie Beth Cooper Saint's Name: St. Madeleine Sophie Barat

Claudia Marie Gettins

Faith is like a cloud because there are many different types, but they all survive major storms. Sometimes they can be dark but there are always rainbows or sunshine afterwards. Just because we aren't looking up at the clouds it doesn't

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(continued...) mean that they aren't there. Faith is with you at all times even if you don't know it or you are turned away from it. Faith has always guided me throughout my life and helps me be the best version of myself. I can rely on faith like I can rely on the clouds appearing in the sky.

Sponsor: Brian Merlo Saint's Name: St. Monica

Griffin Dane Grabowski

I believe God loves me no matter what. I believe this because whenever I do goodness, I feel good about my faith and myself. God also helps me stay on the path to goodness by giving me obstacles when I do something I know is bad. I have become more connected to God at my time in the RE program. Because of this, I talk to God more and more. The time that I speak the most with God is the night before New Year's Day. I think that I'm connected to God most on Sundays. I feel the most connected to God on Sunday because of Mass and the RE class activities. Sunday school has made me learn more about my religion and has also made me find a saint that speaks to me. The saint I chose was Saint Acacius. He was a centurion in the Roman army. He was tortured and beheaded in the persecutions of Diocletian in the year of 303. He is a patron saint of soldiers, headaches and pain. His feast day is May 8th. This person was a Christian during a very dark time when people lost their lives because of their beliefs. He gave his life for his beliefs. I have learned so much from this program but the most important thing I have learned here is that God loves me no matter what.

Sponsor: Grant Grabowski Saint's Name: St. Acacius

Matthew Steven Moll

For me faith is like a Rubik's cube. All the colors can seem all scrambled up and out of place at first, but eventually, it can be solved. You can try to solve one side, but this simply won't work. You need to solve each layer and commit to solving the full cube. This is just like faith. It can seem difficult, complicated and impossible to understand, and you might doubt things sometimes, but in the end, you can learn many more interesting things about being a Catholic and the same way you learn many more details about cubing. Both faith and the Rubik's cube are a process from the very beginning. Going through Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation is just like getting a new cube, learning to solve it, trying slowly, timing yourself, and practicing every day. You need to commit to fully believing and understanding faith as a whole because it takes lots of time and effort to understand. Faith is like a never-ending algorithm set. There will always be new things to learn, understand, and discover. I learned that God loves everyone, and that everybody who believes gets the fruits of the Spirit. All aspects of cubing cannot be immediately memorized, and take time to enter your muscle memory, just like faith takes time to recognize and feel throughout your heart. Faith and cubing both require practice and take time to understand. They are both fun and help me feel calm and in general relieve stress. Overall, faith and Rubik's cubing both serve as something that I enjoy doing and believing in, and they keep me interested with new algorithms to learn, new puzzles to try, new bible verses to read, and new stories at church to listen to.

Sponsor: Gienia Szabunia Saint's Name: St. Madeleine Sophie Barat

Jeremi Dariusz Niedzwiedzki

Faith is believing, praying and trusting in God. God leads me through hard times and blessed me with a great family that supports me and helps me with many things. God is closest to me in church. Church is like a magical spirit of communication and is when I pray to God and where I can ask him for support. I can pray for important things in life like stopping the Ukrainian/Russian war. Faith is also in my Saint. He is called Luigi Scrosoppi and is the Patron of soccer players. Additionally, soccer is one of my favorite hobbies and I can find God in it. St. Luigi also helped people in need, showing me that there are more important things in life.

Sponsor: Frank Lewandowski Saint's Name: St. Luigi Scrosoppi

Julia Katarzyna Niedzwiedzka

My family is from Poland and we are very close to Ukraine. The recent crisis with Russia and Ukraine has touched us very closely. On March 3, the Russians began shooting at the largest nuclear plant facility in Europe located in Ukraine. A fire was beginning to break out and a fear of a nuclear explosion having worldwide impact hit my family hard. In the midst of internal panic, with many tears shed, my father who doesn't believe in God said something that greatly surprised me. He said, "If God exists it is his time to do something". Later that evening, the fire had been put out and the threat of nuclear explosion was no longer imminent; someone had done something.

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(continued...) I'm still searching for my place in this faith as it is hard to believe in something I can't see or touch, but that statement made me realize that maybe there is something greater, that intervenes when they see fit, even though it doesn't always feel that way. I'm still on my faith journey, but that event and what followed have brought me closer to finding the end.

Sponsor: Marta Cwik Saint's Name: St. Hildegard

Emma Frost Noonan

God is love. God's love is something you can't see but is there. I know it's there because I feel it when I experience love in my life. God's love is like the wind. You know it exists, but you can't see it. Every time the wind hits you, you are reminded that it is there. The wind can be so strong it can knock you over. That is how God's love is all the time if you open up and take time to let him love you. God becomes visible when I experience abounding love in my life. Love I experience every day is from my parents. My mom gives every person in my family what they need, and they don't have to ask. My Dad will sacrifice and give up anything for the good of the family. When I feel love from them, I am experiencing love from God through them. God loves us through the people in our lives and that is how I know he's there. Knowing that I can experience God's love from other people, I know that they can experience God's love from me. This challenges me because sometimes it can be so hard to love other people, and I cut myself off from being a channel of God's love. I am seeing my Confirmation as a commitment to live a life where people experience God through me. In the book of Exodus, God reveals that he is "compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness" (Exodus 34:6). This inspires me to be more like him so I can give my communities fulfilling love. Saint Therese was a good choice for my confirmation Saint because she lived a life of pure love. I want to model her because she always found simple ways to love, and that is really what got her to Heaven. I am inspired by this quote from her, "Without love, deeds, even the most brilliant, count as nothing". If our role models don't constantly love themselves and others, there is no need to imitate them. The gifts of the Holy Spirit I am most excited to receive through Confirmation are fortitude and understanding. Fortitude will help me love, even in times where it is hard too. I want courage from God to resist the temptation to not show love. Understanding will help me love more because I can gain a new perspective on a situation that will provide empathy, so I can love more. I want my Confirmation to be a starting point where I can accept help from God

Sponsor: Jessica Helling Saint's Name: St. Therese de Lisieux

Julia Anna Pajewski

To me, faith and Confirmation are like a butterfly. They start as a little caterpillar just wiggling along in life. Then they go into their transitional or growing period, the cocoon. Later to come out as a beautiful butterfly. In the sense of Christianity, the caterpillar is like the beginning of becoming a Confirmandi. We're all still learning and even though we've been going to church and PSR most of our lives, that moment is when we get down to business. When we truly decide whether or not we even want to keep living our faith and being Catholic. Usually, religion is guided by our parents; they get us Baptized, bring us to church, and have us go to First Communion. But that beginning is kind of like a stay-or-go elimination. Once you decide to stay, you enter the cocoon. Basically, all the middle stuff of going to class and church almost every Sunday, reading the Bible, and basically just learning about faith. This is the more boring part but still very vital to show how ready we are for Confirmation. Then, becoming the butterfly is actually getting Confirmed. I thought at first that this would be this great moment of realization and that I would feel so much more religious and confident in my faith. But it's really not like that. I learned it's a process. Faith is a process. It's something that's constantly evolving and changing but that can only happen if we let it. It will evolve for the rest of our lives since it's not something that's stagnant. If it was, we wouldn't ever get better and we would just get stuck. So, I realized I don't need this marvelous epiphany to happen to prove or feel better about myself. I just need to keep at my faith because it's a lifelong journey and we're just getting started.

Sponsor: Max Pajewski Saint's Name: St. Elizabeth of Portugal

Lauren Rose Sonnenberg

I was raised Catholic. I was taught to pray and go to church. When I was little, I never really liked Church because I didn't understand what the priest was saying or why it was so important, but as I got older, I started to understand Catholicism more. When this happened, I started to listen in church and pray on my own because I was finally able to understand the Gospel and the stories that they were teaching me in religion class. Over the past few years, I have really connected to God and have used what I hear in church to put into my daily life.

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(continued...) When God is in my daily life it influences myself and others around me in a positive way. Now that I am getting Confirmed I ask myself, "What does faith mean to me?" To me, faith is everything. You can find it in everything you do and see. You find it when you listen to music or when you help someone in need. You can also find faith by doing the things or being with the people you love most. There are multiple ways I connect with God, like listening to music, playing sports and traveling to beautiful places. All of these things remind me that God is with me at all times. When I am able to be in these healthy environments it allows me to be a better Christian, as well as a friend and family member. The best way I connect with God is through nature. Nature is calming and tranquil, which helps me to talk to God without any distractions. Another way it connects me with my faith is because I can look at the flowers or the animals and I know there is a God because everything is so beautiful. My favorite prayer to say when I am outside is the "Our Father," because it was one of the first prayers that I truly understood. Saint Alphonsus Liguori said, "He who trusts in himself is lost. He who trusts in God can do all things." This quote means that if we put our faith in God, he will help guide us to do what is right. If we pretend that we can fix our problems ourselves, it will only get worse, and we begin to struggle and lose hope. I find comfort in this because I know that we are not alone. If we are facing difficult times we can talk to God and he will help comfort us, because this is what faith is: Knowing even in our darkest times we are surrounded by God's love. Faith is turning to God in difficult times, but also showing gratitude for the things we are thankful for. Faith is observing the things around you and knowing they came from something much greater than man. Faith is the strength God gives you to be a better person every day. I am happy to be here with all of my classmates and family on this journey of faith.

Sponsor: Bonney Perry Saint's Name: St. Madeleine Sophie Barat

Michael Linton Strong

Faith to me is not about a destination but a personal process that nobody else can experience because it is unique to only yourself. There are parts where you feel far away from God and parts where you feel very close to God, but it is a process and not a destination. Many people and family members have helped me throughout my journey and it helps me realize that it is different for everyone and not one person is the same. Times that I feel connected to God are when I have some quiet moments to myself and am alone to just really think about things and how they are going for me. A quote that I like is from St. Catherine of Sienna, "If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world ablaze!" I love this quote. After all, it talks about how you don't need to pretend to be something on your journey because it is different for everybody and if you pretend then you don't get the full experience of the process.

Sponsor: Michael Barren Saint's Name: St. Francis of Assisi

Aidan Christopher Virgil

My Faith is my belief in God. It is my connection to the Holy Spirit. My Faith is important to me because it guides me in making good decisions. There are times when I am about to make a decision and wonder if it would be a good decision or not, but then I think if God would want me to follow through with it. I find peace through my Faith in God when I pray to Him. I feel God is all around me and keeps me safe. Daily, I feel connected to God through my Faith. When I am playing soccer, I feel thankful to God for my ability to play. I see Faith in action at the dinner table when, as a family, my parents and I pray before eating. Sometimes, we also pray before we go to bed. And, on Sundays, we go to Mass. At the Mass, I hear the Gospel readings, which strengthens my Faith. Through my Faith, I hope to live by example and share God's love. To me, being Confirmed means moving forward with my Faith as a young adult. Being confirmed also means being a full member of the Catholic Church. My being Confirmed means I have decided to follow the path of Jesus for the rest of my life.

Sponsor: Joetta Laughton Saint's Name: St. Vincent de Paul

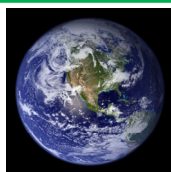
Wyatt Thomas Warner

My faith is like the wind. I feel this way because faith is always going to be there and always comes back. No matter if I shelter myself inside a home or building my faith is always going to be right outside, ready to take me back in as soon as I choose. Like the wind, my faith will always be there in some way, whether it's a massive storm or a slight breeze, either way, it will still be there pushing and guiding me in the right direction. Sometimes it will be too much and could be frightening or even dangerous. Most of the time it will be welcomed, cooling and refreshing me.

Sponsor: Hank Warner Saint's Name: St. Blase

(continued on next page)

Circle of Creation Green Corner



Eating Less Meat

Abstaining from eating meat on Fridays has been our practice during Lent. Eating less meat can be a moderate sacrifice that significantly benefits our Earth and all her children. Our home planet is a life-sustaining gift from our gracious God. After Easter we can choose to continue abstaining from meat once a week or maybe a second day each week, or even more. For information on how eating less meat has an important environmental impact, please see *The Diet that Helps Fight Climate Change* here: <https://tinyurl.com/bddw223f>.

Environmental Justice Day of Action

Saturday, May 14th, 9:00 AM - Noon: Earthday 365 is partnering again with [North Newstead Association](#) and the [Young Friends of earthday365](#) to return to O'Fallon Park for another litter cleanup. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/yck69es9>. You may indicate College Church Circle of Creation as your group name, if you like.

Spring Cleaning (like a trash bash) in South City

Saturday, April 30th, 8:00 AM to 11:00-ish
Bring gloves. Get there when you can; leave when you need to. Check in at Carondelet Park Rec Plex. Sponsored by 81st District State Rep Steve Butz, MO DOT, Troop 104, St. Mary's High School. For more information and to RSVP, contact Steve.Butz@house.mo.gov

A Citizen Scientist Opportunity—Shutterbee!

Backyard bee photography (with a smartphone) to improve conservation practices. For more information, go to <https://tinyurl.com/5xusbey3>.

- Photo surveys in YOUR yard every 2 weeks
- Observe on warm (>60°F), partly to mostly sunny days
- Photograph ALL bees for about 30 minutes sometime between 10am and 3pm
- Submit observations to iNaturalist with metadata

Visit the College Church Circle of Creation Committee's [Green Page](https://sfxstl.org/circleofcreation) sfxstl.org/circleofcreation to keep up to date on all of our resources related to caring for creation.

Silent Prayer for Peace in Ukraine on Wednesdays at Sisters of St. Joseph

A silent prayer for peace in Ukraine will be offered on Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m. in Holy Family Chapel at the Sisters of St. Joseph motherhouse 6400 Minnesota Ave, St. Louis, MO 63111. COVID vaccination required for entry. For more information, contact mflick@csj.org or legettsm@yahoo.com.

April 30-May 1, 2022

Saturday

5:15 pm

Fr. White, S.J.

Sunday

8:00 am

Fr. Page, S.J.

10:30 am

Most Rev. Rivituso, J.C.L.

May 7-8, 2022

Saturday

5:15 pm

Fr. Page, S.J.

Sunday

8:00 am

Fr. Daly, S.J.

10:30 am

Fr. Page, S.J.

This Sunday's Scripture Readings:

First Reading:

Acts 5:27-32, 40-41

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13

Second Reading:

Revelation 5:11-14

Gospel:

John 21:1-19

Bulletin Articles

Email bulletin articles to Lexi Mentzel at bulletin@sfxstl.org before Thursday at noon 10 days before the bulletin date.

Online Giving Reminder

Many of our parishioners have begun to contribute to College Church through our online link, which can be found at the top of our website, sfxstl.org. You can also reach this link through the QR code here.



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