

Season of Creation Poster (printing by Becky McKenna, art by Anne Osdieck)

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

September 27, 2020
Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:30 pm, Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:30 am, 4:30 pm. Please RSVP at sfxstl.org.

Online Masses will be posted on our YouTube channel. Subscribe here: tinyurl.com/collegechurchmass

Weekday Masses: 7:15 am and noon Monday through Friday, 5:15 pm Monday through Wednesday, all in main church.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Mondays and Wednesdays, 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 Sister Carolyn McWatters at 314-977-1797 or carolyn.mcwatters@slu.edu or Fr. Dan White.

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: Available for Pre-K through eighth grade. Classes meet September - May on Sunday mornings. Ages 3-6 use the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. 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.

PASTORAL STAFFPastor

Daniel White, S.J.
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Associate Pastor

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Parish Life

Angela Pancella
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Christian Initiation, Adult Formation, & Marriage Ministry

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Office Manager

Joyce Miller
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Youth Faith Formation

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Social Ministry

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Outreach Coordinator

Tess Sanders
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Outreach—Vista Volunteer

Sheltoria Love
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Wedding Ministry

Sandy Hauck
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Choir Director, Music Ministry

Ray Sherrock
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Director of Wedding Music & Accompanist, Music Ministry

Sue Martin
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Pastoral Council Chair

Lisa D'Souza
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Deacon

Jim Griffard
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Coordinator of Liturgy

Sister Carolyn McWatters, RSM
314-977-1797
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Pastoral Ministry

Bridget Brennan
joy@canainstitute.org

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Mary Lou Ampleman
 Michael Anderson
 Bruce Blattenberger*
 Mary Bruemmer*
 Maureen Carney*
 Linda Castillon*
 Diane Flynn
 Mary Frank
 Monica Gunn
 Jessi Haselhorst
 Paul Hanson*
 Mary Jane and Butch Henning*
 Christina Bah Ireland
 Terry Kippenberger*
 Pat March*
 Mark Marsh
 Karena Menard
 Nancy Partridge* & Glider
 Lyn Pickel
 Ruthann Redmon
 Mark Roddy*
 Dennis Saunders*
 Jennifer Saunders*
 Fr. Gary Seibert, SJ*
 Family of Candace Sexton
 Art Taylor*
 Judy Taylor*
 Jacob Verghese
 David Williams
 Julia Williams
 Lisa Zimmerer*

* Long-term

Prayer requests to:

church@sfxstl.org

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

Join our intercessory prayer group on Zoom,

Friday mornings at 9 am:

Contact Bridget Brennan at

joy@canainstitute.org for info.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The wildfires in the West are the worst in recent memory. There have always been fires, of course, in that part of the country. However, experts indicate that climate change is changing the frequency, duration and intensity of these blazes. Hot, dry summers create the conditions for fires. Mild winters plus a lack of significant moisture is the recipe for disaster. Sadly, the destruction and loss of life experienced in the West has become the new normal.

Our response to the environmental crisis is often conditioned by its apparent incremental nature. How can we act when it is a disaster taking place in slow motion? The truth is the signs are all around us. The wildfires are but the most recent revelation that our failure to care for creation is already wreaking havoc. The calamity is upon us.

Christians are called to stay awake and pay attention. We discern the signs of the times and respond. Wishful thinking and ignoring the obvious are not Christian virtues. The Church seeks to work with all of those around the globe who are committed to change.

Too often a sense of urgency has been lacking in our response to the environmental catastrophe. The season of creation calls out of apathy to engagement. Faithful people have never been afraid in the midst of a crisis. Now is not the time to start.

Virtual Parish Assembly

If you were unable to tune in to the Virtual Parish Assembly we hosted via Zoom on August 30th, you can view it on our YouTube channel. Here is the link:

<https://youtu.be/U3qAUqVvuCc>

You can also continue to send in comments and questions via our Leadership Feedback page:

<https://sfxstl.org/parish-leadership-feedback>

Thank you for being part of this parish!

Gala of Gratitude

Dear College Church parishioners,

I want to invite you to a very special event this fall. The weekend of **November 20-22** St. Francis Xavier will celebrate a **Virtual Gala of Gratitude**.

This has been a challenging, difficult, and stressful year for everyone. Yet, we are also aware that we have much to be grateful for as a community. This has been a year of great grace, too. This virtual event held the weekend before Thanksgiving is a celebration of the countless ways we have been blessed. We know the Holy Spirit is always at work, and want to acknowledge this truth.

The fun kicks-off with our Virtual Gala Friday night the 20th. Think of it like our regular Gala, except instead of getting all dressed up to come to the Coronado you can lie on the couch wearing sweats and a hoodie. And the best part is that it is absolutely and completely free.

There will be opportunities to share in our community and all the wonderful work we are doing through videos showcasing everything from our Youth Faith Formation to our choir. We will also have a silent auction and Fund-a-Need (a call for donations to support our various ministries) during the evening. Clearly this is a challenging year for our financial health. I appreciate all the support you have generously offered so far.

This Gala, and the support we will raise through it, is a crucial way for us to continue our ministries in the midst of difficult economic realities. This will be an essential means to remain committed to these important works.

Throughout the weekend there will be an opportunity to dive deeper into the life of the parish. Talks, reflections and prayer will be available to deepen our sense of all the good things taking place here. Think of it as a way to know and appreciate even more this faith community, all from the comfort of your own home.

The weekend's events will conclude with 10:30am liturgy on Sunday. The celebration of the Eucharist is the Church's great prayer of thanksgiving. There is no better way to conclude our parish celebration than by thanking God.

God bless,
Fr. Dan

P.S. Look for more information in the weeks to come. For now, here are some ways you can take an active role in bringing this Gala to life:

- Send us photos of weddings, baptisms, First Communion, Confirmation, previous galas...We love to reminisce! We will be able to incorporate these photos into the event. Email them to Angela Pancella at church@sfxstl.org.
- Please consider donating items or gift certificates to our Silent Auction. Items that will make great auction offerings: jewelry, electronics, a stay at a nearby vacation house, gift certificates to local merchants or local restaurants

For more information, email church@sfxstl.org or call 314-977-7304.

Fourth Sunday of the Season of Creation

September 27, 2020 | 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

SCRIPTURES

Ezekiel 18:25-28

Ps. 25:4-9

Philippians 2:1-11

Matthew 21:28-32



In this Season of Creation, we have prayed over our calling to recognize the global climate emergency in which we are living and spread the word about the call to conversion and change that it presents.

The ways the human family is living on the planet, the ways our economies function and the values they serve are depleting and wasting Earth's resources, creating great inequalities, suffering and injustice, and exceeding Earth's regenerative capacity.

Earth is crying out. The poor are crying out. The existence and wellbeing of future generations is threatened. This all constitutes a strong and urgent call to conversion in all dimensions of life.

In today's readings, we hear clearly from Ezekiel that this conversion is the personal responsibility of each of us. God will judge us in the end upon the choices we each make of how we will live with each other in the community of creation. It is never too late to choose God's ways. God is always compassionate and forgiving, ready to teach us the way.

St. Paul reminds us that Christ Jesus is that teaching, is God's demonstration of the Way to live: serving everyone compassionately and generously, not competing for attention, appreciation, wealth or glory, humble and self-sacrificing, even to the point of death on a cross. For this God exalted him, glorifying him above every other.

And in the gospel, Jesus warns that words, that simply saying the right things, is not enough. Our actions must show our conversion, a conversion that in these critical times in the history of our planet must be integral, a conversion to action in the ecological, social, economic, cultural, and political dimensions of our lives.

Points for Reflection on the Scriptures

Reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel. Our decisions for evil or for good matter for God.

The message Ezekiel is affirming is that the major decisions affecting the direction of our lives – even late in life – are matters of life and death for us. Our decisions matter. God pays attention to personal responsibility.

It is never too late in life to respond to God's call to conversion. How can we become more attentive to that call in how we relate to creation?

Visit our Season of Creation page on our website for more: <https://sfxstl.org/season-of-creation>

These reflections come from catholicclimatecoventant.org.

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION NEWS**Youth Faith Classes Resume This Sunday**

College Church Youth Faith Formation Classes will begin Sunday, September 27. In an abundance of caution they will begin virtually, with a commitment to return to live classes as soon as it is safe.

Both RE and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd virtual classes will replicate the in-person classes as closely as possible. Classes for children in sacramental years will concentrate on sacramental preparation. There will be times when students in those years come together outside or in the ballroom for activities specific to that preparation.

There will be opportunities to come together even as we learn virtually. We will have Class Masses with seating in designated areas of the Church, and we will come together for penance services.

We will offer opportunities and suggestions for service work, either done independently at home, or in safe gatherings in the ballroom or outside.

It is all our hope and prayer that this is a very temporary situation. In the meantime we feel this structure will allow you and your family to maintain and nurture the role of faith in your life and keep a connection with our YFF family.

If you have questions please contact Terry Edelman, 314.712.4216, or Julie Kilian at 314.698.9268.

Link for Registration:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/CollegeChurchI/YouthFaithFormationRegistration20202021>

(Please note: the 8th grade class is full.)

New Classrooms for Atrium Levels I and II.

When students return to their Atrium classes, they will have a dedicated space which is much more easily accessible. Level I and II classrooms will all be in a large area behind the Ballroom in the space of the former Chapel.

All the rooms are larger than the current ones, and they will have a dedicated entry, down the ramp on the southside of the church. There are no steps so monitored entry and social distancing will not present a problem. Parents can park in the Laclede garage, which is free on Sunday, and just make a short trip through the campus to the Atrium door.

Purchase Fair Trade Products and Support our Sister Parish



Sales of fair trade products have resumed **online only** to benefit St. Peter Claver in Punta Gorda, Belize. Because of the pandemic, as well as a series of fires which destroyed farms in the community, unemployment in the area has increased dramatically. All the proceeds from our Fair Trade sales go directly to St. Peter Claver to help with their current Food Pantry needs.

To purchase go directly to SFX website at:

<http://www.sfxstl.org/buy-fair-trade>

There are two options for receiving your items, which you will specify upon placing your online order. Both options occur twice a month on 1st and 3rd Sundays:

Hand Delivery (only for orders of \$20 or more): One of our volunteers will deliver your products to your porch or in front of your home. If requesting delivery of orders which contain chocolate, please plan for immediate retrieval of your package in order to protect chocolate from melting. Volunteers will ring your doorbell/buzzer or knock on your door when dropping off items.

Pick-up at College Church (orders of any value): Pick-ups at the College Church will be pre-collected into bags with the buyer’s name displayed on the outside of the bag, available from 9-10:15am outside of the Ballroom (below the church) on the designated Sundays. We ask that parishioners wear a face mask and continue to practice social distancing during pick-up.

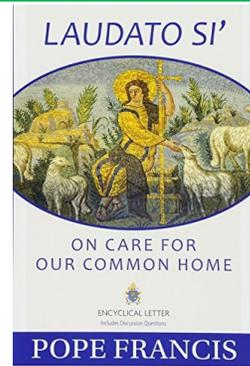


The deadline for ordering delivery or pick-up for the 1st and 3rd Sunday is the Tuesday before. Please contact Christine at christine@sfxstl.org with any questions and thank you in advance for your support!

Laudato Si Quote of the Week

An integral ecology includes taking time to recover a serene harmony with creation, reflecting on our lifestyles and our ideals, and contemplating the Creator who lives among us and surrounds us, whose presence “must not be contrived but found, uncovered.” (#225)

The full encyclical can be read here: http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_encyclica-laudato-si.html



SOCIAL MINISTRY

Green Corner

“Opt to Act” for Earth



REI Co-op is sponsoring Opt to Act, 52 simple weekly challenges to reduce your impact on the Earth, get active, and leave the world better than you found it. This well-researched website (Just Google REI Opt to Act Plan), actually helps with information on why and how to take these steps.

This week’s tip:

Week 43 (September 27-October 3): Make sure you and three friends are registered to vote. One of the best ways to make your political voice heard is to register to vote in the 2020 presidential election, which happens on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

September 26-27, 2020

Saturday	
5:30 pm	Fr. Stewart, S.J.
Sunday	
8:00 am	Fr. White, S.J.
10:30 am	Fr. Stewart, S.J.
4:30 pm	Campus Ministry

October 3-4, 2020

Saturday	
5:30 pm	Fr. White, S.J.
Sunday	
8:00 am	Fr. Stewart, S.J.
10:30 am	Fr. White, S.J.
4:30 pm	Campus Ministry

The 10:30 am Mass will be livestreamed, and will have Outdoor Communion. RSVP at sfxstl.org.

Bulletin Articles

email bulletin articles to church@sfxstl.org before Thursday at noon 10 days before the bulletin date.

Faith and Civic Engagement

“Politics, according to the social doctrine of the Church, is one of the highest forms of charity, because it serves the common good.” Pope Francis, 2013



When confronting the many decisions-large and small-presented in our lives, we turn to the tenets and teaching of our faith for guidance. That includes our choices of community policies, programs and leaders that we will make in the coming weeks. As Catholic Christians, we are called to look beyond the rational decision-making process and to seek ways to recognize and cooperate with Christ’s redeeming work in the world. We are challenged to listen-detached from our personal bias-to the voices of people who are marginalized, to the cry of the injured earth, as well as to our own needs and desires.

Please visit <https://sfxstl.org/faithful-citizenship> for a resource on civic engagement created by the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States, as well as information on checking your voter registration, on the different voting options in Missouri, and important dates.