



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

December 27, 2020
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:30 pm, Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:30 am. 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, all in main church.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Mondays, Wednesdays and 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 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

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Youth Faith Formation

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Social Ministry

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314-977-7309
christine@sfxstl.org

Outreach Coordinator

Tess Sanders
314-977-7311
outreach@sfxstl.org

Outreach—Vista Volunteer

Sheltoria Love
314-977-1950
sheltoria@sfxstl.org

Wedding Ministry

Sandy Hauck
314-977-7303
sandy@sfxstl.org

Choir Director, Music Ministry

Ray Sherrock
rsherrock@desmet.org

Director of Wedding Music & Accompanist, Music Ministry

Sue Martin
314-977-7313
susan.martin@slu.edu

Pastoral Council Chair

Lisa D'Souza
ljd Souza@yahoo.com

Deacon

Jim Griffard
james.griffard@slu.edu

Coordinator of Liturgy

Sister Carolyn McWatters, RSM
314-977-1797
carolyn.mcwatters@slu.edu

Pastoral Ministry

Bridget Brennan
joy@canainstitute.org

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Mary Lou Ampleman
 Michael Anderson
 Bruce Blattenberger*
 Mary Bruemmer*
 Maureen Carney*
 Linda Castillon*
 Marcie Corwin
 Jenna Dalisay
 Fay Efken*
 Diane Flynn
 Mary Frank
 Gene Grabbe*
 Monica Gunn
 Jessi Haselhorst
 Paul Hanson*
 Mary Jane and Butch Henning*
 Laura Kaiser and Family
 Terry Kippenberger*
 Carlita Logan
 Pat March*
 Mark Marsh
 Karena Menard
 Suzanne Mondello
 Nancy Partridge* & Glider
 Lyn Pickel
 Mark Roddy*
 Dennis Saunders*
 Jennifer Saunders*
 Fr. Gary Seibert, SJ*
 Louis M. Sherrock and Family
 Colleen Starkloff
 Art Taylor*
 Judy Taylor*
 Julia Williams
 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.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

A very Merry Christmas to one and all! God's blessings as we celebrate the coming of Emmanuel, God with us. Christmas provides us an extended period to consider joyfully this incredible gift.

One of the best parts of Christmas is being with family. As with everything, 2020 has put a strange twist on family time. Some of us have been unable to get together with family because of the pandemic. Other folks have had nothing but family time. These extremes are not ideal but here we are. If we are separated from family, these days can be a reminder of how we take our loved ones for granted. If we are with our families (maybe too much?), this time can teach us patience with the ones we love.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is our companion at Christmas. It is comforting that family, with all its joys and sorrows, was at the heart of the Word become flesh. God enters into the totality of our experience. There is nothing human that is foreign to Jesus.

There is a wonderful quote from the early Church theologian, St. Gregory of Nazianzen. He states, "What He [Jesus] has not assumed, he has not healed." In other words, the Incarnation of Christ takes on everything that is human so that we may be completely healed. I believe this means our human relationships as well, especially families. This season reminds us our difficult, maddening, joyous, odd, and exasperating families are holy.

The Christmas Eve Tableau, a time-honored tradition at the College Church, came to life this year as part of a video Christmas Mass. Please look to the parish website, sfxstl.org, and find our beautiful youth faith formation children depicting the cherished moments of the Christmas Gospel, and our families participating in the other roles of the Mass.

YOUTH AND FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

College Church Youth Faith Formation programs have been virtual this semester, but that hasn't stopped the all-important service part of our program.



For several years our eighth-grade Confirmation students hosted a Christmas party for children served by the Let's Start program. Children in the program have parents in prison. With a party out of the question this year, each eighth grader decorated a Christmas bag and filled it with goodies, often including homemade cookies. Youth Faith families also donated money for gift cards, candy and warm socks for the Let's Start bags. The bags were brought to the agency by Youth Faith staff members.

Youth Faith families also participated in three car parades and drop-offs at the Mary Ryder Home on Olive. In past years our classes visited the Home and made crafts with the residents. Women who live at the home rarely have visitors and the craft days were a highlight for all of us. This year families had to make the crafts and treats on their own, but participated in car parades to drop off the items, and make sidewalk chalk messages of cheer for the ladies.



We can't wait until we're able to have in-person service events. In the meantime we are grateful for our families who have rallied around those in need and allowed us to continue our tradition of service. For more information about the Youth Faith Formation programs, which include Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and traditional Religious Education programs, contact Julie Kilian at jullie@sfxstl.org or Terry Edelman at terry@sfxstl.org.



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.

So far, we have contributed toward their food pantry and two student scholarships.

Winter items are available, including soups, cornbread, hot cocoa, and baking cocoa, in addition to our ongoing sales of chocolate, tea, and coffee!

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!

Thank you for supporting Fair Trade and our Sister Parish!



Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU) Update

Did you know that College Church is a member congregation of MCU? Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU) is involved in several matters of social justice, one of which is the School to Prison Pipeline. In 2018 MCU worked to pass Raise the Age which raised the age that a youth could be certified as an adult for purposes of prosecution for a crime, from 17 to 18. The new law will take effect in 2021. MCU recently held a virtual rally to discuss the new law and its implementation.

For more information on the issues addressed by MCU, check out MCU online at mcustlouis.org, and also its podcast titled "This is What Democracy Sounds Like."

Action Item from MCU:

At a virtual rally on Thursday, December 10, MCU's Juvenile Justice Task Force, the Family Partners leaders and Campaign for Juvenile Justice brought attention to implementation of the Raise the Age Bill. This bill, passed in 2018, raises the age at which a youth is automatically certified an adult in the court/prison system from 17 to 18. Joined by Rick Gaines, the Chief Juvenile Officer for St. Louis County and Ben Burkemper, Family Court Administrator for St. Louis County, MCU has issued a CALL TO ACTION. Going into effect in January 2021, the new Raise the Age is already being threatened: no funds have been allocated to implement this crucial and overdue change in the system. Call the leaders of Missouri's Blue Ribbon Panel on Juvenile Justice: Allocate the funding... save our youth...do your job!

Rep. Nick Schroer, bill sponsor/House
573-751-1470
Nick.schroer@house.mo.gov

Sen. Wayne Wallingford, co-sponsor/Senate; vice-chair, Blue Ribbon Panel
573-751-2459
Wayne.wallingfore@senate.mo.gov

Rep. David Evans, chair, Blue Ribbon Panel
573-751-1455
David.evans@house.mo.gov

Support College Church's St. Vincent DePaul Society

Christmas is a time of love and giving. By supporting College Church's St. Vincent DePaul Society you can help lighten the hearts of your neighbors who are struggling with unemployment, food insecurity, sickness, and despair this season bringing them the real, lasting, and deep joy of Christmas.



This past year the St. Francis Xavier Conference of the St. Vincent DePaul Society was able to support struggling neighbors within our parish boundaries by assisting 37 families, providing over \$5,000 in rental assistance, over \$1,000 in utility assistance, \$500 in food vouchers, and over \$1,000 in thrift store vouchers for furniture, household items, and clothing.

Please consider supporting the St. Vincent DePaul Society this Christmas and beyond in a couple of ways:

Volunteer: As a member of College Church's SVDP conference, you can participate in virtual visits with neighbors to provide tangible assistance, as well as get to know other parishioners interested in service and justice. Contact Chris at cdeason02@charter.net if you'd like to join.

Donate: Your end of year gift can help support the ever increasing demand for rental, utilities, and food assistance. Checks can be made out to "St. Vincent DePaul" and sent to St. Francis Xavier SVDP, ATTN: Christine Dragonette, 3628 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108. You can also make a gift online at <https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/714/DirectDonate/77612>

Please feel free to reach out to Chris Deason at cdeason02@charter.net with any questions or to get involved. Thank you for your generosity and support. Our best wishes for a very merry and blessed Christmas Season.

The St. Francis Xavier Conference,
St. Vincent DePaul Society

Social Ministry Christmas Appeal + Beyond 2020 Campaign

Every year at Christmas, we reach out to our parish community for specific support that helps to sustain our work over the coming year through the Social Ministry Christmas Appeal. This year is no different. As the cornerstone program of Social Ministry, the Outreach Program for ID and birth certificate assistance relies on your end of year contributions in a particular way.

We are proud that our program offers a unique service, providing the only large scale, consistent identification assistance in the region. The pandemic has highlighted more than ever the need to sustain this work, while also prompting us to reimagine how we might one day grow our ministry beyond the four walls of our parish. This year for our Christmas Appeal, we have two opportunities to help us both sustain and grow our State ID and birth certificate ministry in the region.

Please visit sfxstl.org/support-us for more information on how to support Social Ministry through our end of year Christmas Appeal. Contact Christine with any questions at christine@sfxstl.org or (314) 977-7309.

**Parish Men's White House Retreat,
February 11-14**

The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola is the manual for discerning how God is calling us to follow Him. The "White House" Jesuit Retreat Center in South St. Louis County applies the Spiritual Exercises to our daily lives to develop our faith, deepen our peace and increase our gratitude.

You are personally invited to prayerfully consider joining a group of men from our parish to make a retreat there, the evening of February 11th to the afternoon of the 14th.

The beauty of the natural setting, the prayer and liturgies and the comfort of the accommodations combine to make this a spiritually renewing and rewarding experience.

More information about the retreat (including COVID precautions) and online registration is available at www.whretreat.org or by calling John Hartung (314-918-1950), Bill Morrison (314-991-8599) or David Schnelt (314-791-0227).

December 26-27, 2020

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

January 2-3, 2021

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

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.

A blessed Christmas season to you from all of us on staff here at St. Francis Xavier College Church!
Pictured: Joanna Boyd-WilHITE, Fr. Matt Stewart, S.J., Katie Jansen Larson, Sandy Hauck, Julie Kilian, Sr. Carolyn McWatters, Angela Pancella, Christine Dragonette, Fr. Dan White, S.J., Joe Milner and Terry EdelmANN.



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