



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER COLLEGE CHURCH

Our Parish Racial History

Over the past five years, St. Francis Xavier College Church has begun a process of racial reckoning.

Small groups of parishioners have embarked on a journey of research, truth telling, listening, and discernment to understand and come to terms with our own racial history. With this document, we are asking you – as part of our parish racial equity review – to join us in that process of discovery and discernment.

Like every history, our story is one of choices made and opportunities taken or missed. We, as a parish community, have benefited from actions that enabled our founding and growth at the expense of enslaved people. We have at times stood silent despite evidence of racial disparities around us. At other times, we have chosen, through collective

voice and action, to advocate for racial equity, emerging as the men and women for others that our Jesuit tradition calls us to be.

The past is not a prologue, but it must be understood and acknowledged to heal. This timeline is difficult to read. It will not answer our questions, but we hope it inspires further thought and inquiry. We invite you to reflect on the moments of our history that resonate with you and consider what this means for us as a Jesuit parish at this moment in time. We look forward to walking this difficult journey together, optimistic for the future of College Church we will create together.

–Parish Racial Equity Review Team

Reflection Questions

As you read through the timeline of our racial history, we invite you to consider the following questions as a guide for your reflection.

- ▶ Why is it important for us to examine SFX history from a racial equity perspective?
- ▶ What aspects of the timeline are most striking for you? What milestones or stories do you want to explore further?
- ▶ How does knowledge of this history inspire you to effect change?
- ▶ What is your vision for SFX as an anti-racist parish? What role would you be willing to play to create that vision?

We will examine our parish history in the context of events happening in the archdiocese and in broader civic society:

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER/ ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY/ JESUITS



St. Louis College /SLU

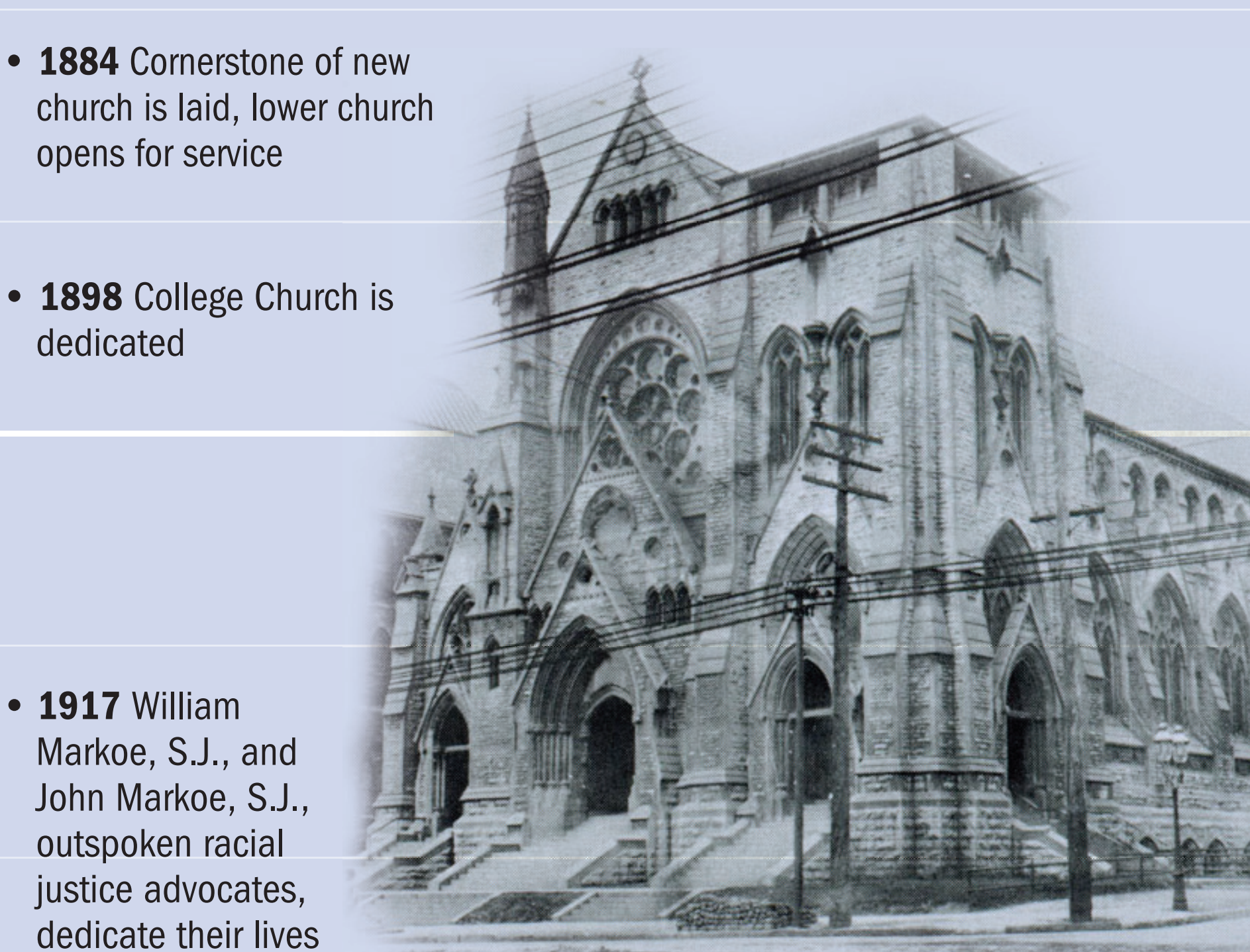
1800s

- 1810s
 - 1818 Saint Louis Academy, predecessor to Saint Louis University, is first institution of higher learning west of the Mississippi
- 1820s
 - 1823 Jesuits from Maryland arrive in St. Louis with 6 enslaved people
 - 1824 Jesuits open school for Native Americans in Florissant
- 1830s
 - 1829 Jesuits assume control of St. Louis College; transfer enslaved people from Florissant seminary to work at the College; bring 16-18 more from Maryland
- 1840s
 - 1841 SFX College Church is founded at Ninth and Washington
 - 1842-1855 About 45 enslaved infants, children and adults are baptized at SFX
 - 1847 Matilda Tyler, enslaved to SLU, purchased her freedom, paying installments over a year to SFX totaling \$300. Over time she also purchased the freedom of her sons. The family remained active in SFX as part of the "colored chapel"
- 1850s
 - 1858 Peter Koning, S.J. begins ministry to Black Catholics who worship in SFX upper gallery, labeled the First Jesuit Negro Chapel
- 1860s
 - 1860 Henrietta Mills, a slave of Saint Louis University, marries Charles F. Chauvin at SFX
 - 1861 Sole St. Louis Civil War battle fought on ground that later becomes part of SLU.
 - 1865 After slavery was outlawed in Missouri in January 1865, the Missouri Jesuits decided to make contracts for pay with formerly enslaved families.
 - 1867 Land at Grand and Lindell is bought for new site of church and university

SFX College Church at Ninth and Washington /SLU



Chauvin



College Church in 1900 /SLU

1900s

- 1880s
 - 1884 Cornerstone of new church is laid, lower church opens for service
- 1890s
 - 1898 College Church is dedicated
- 1910s
 - 1917 William Markoe, S.J., and John Markoe, S.J., outspoken racial justice advocates, dedicate their lives to serving Black Americans
- 1920s
 - 1931 Xavier High School for girls is opened by Sisters of Charity on SLU campus
 - 1931 Federation of Colored Catholics holds annual conference at SLU and SFX
- 1930s
 - 1944 Claude Heithaus, S.J. receives standing ovation for sermon at SFX decrying racism, paving way for integration of SLU which admits five Black students that year
- 1940s
 - 1954 Brown v. Board of Education
- 1950s
 - 1962 SLU accepts \$1 million donation from Harriet Frost Fordyce leading to renaming of north campus for Confederate General Daniel Frost
 - 1967 Jesuits publish *The Interracial Apostolate* on racial justice
- 1960s
 - 1973 SLU begins offering courses in African American Studies after a student sit-in
 - 1974 Xavier High School closes
- 1970s
 - 1980 Beginning of Social Ministry stirrings; Outreach program begins in 1993
 - 1989 SFX Parish elementary school closes
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 - 1980 Beginning of Social Ministry stirrings; Outreach program begins in 1993
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- 1990s
 - Black students enrolling at SLU (SLU archival photo by Boleslaus Lukaszewski, S.J.)



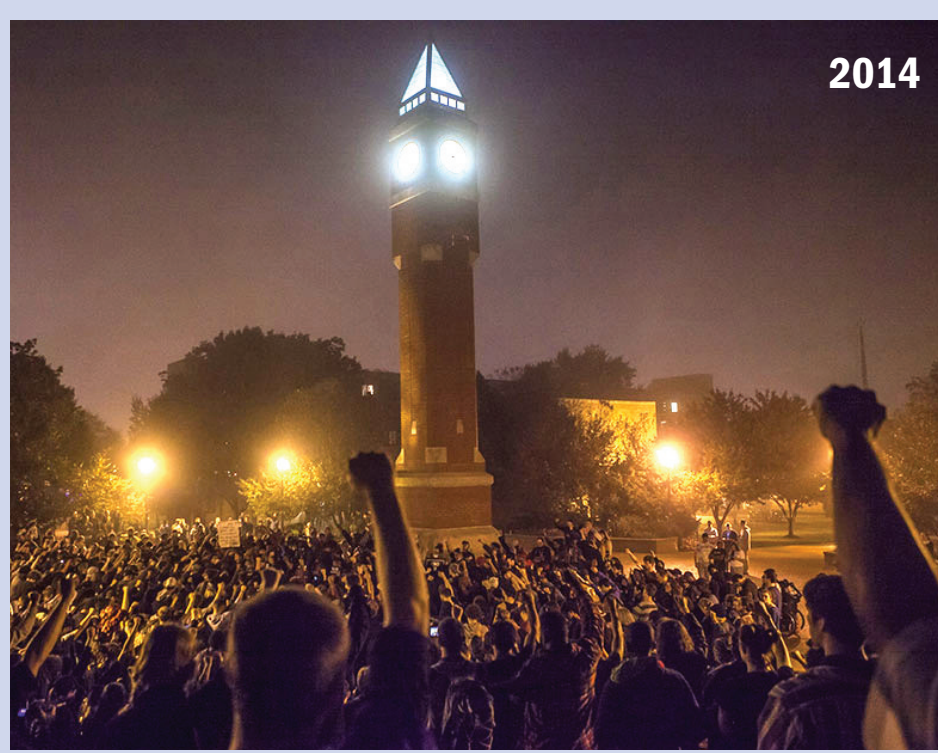
Heithaus /SLU



Black students enrolling at SLU (SLU archival photo by Boleslaus Lukaszewski, S.J.)

2000s

- 2014 Peaceful occupation at SLU leads to Clock Tower Accords, committing SLU to diversity and racial equity
- 2015 SFX Parish Racism and Reconciliation Committee formed
- 2016 Jesuits launch the Slavery, History, Memory and Reconciliation Project, based in St. Louis, dedicated to truth-telling and reconciliation
- 2016 SFX Parish joins North City Deanery in Crossing the Delmar Divide pilgrimage walk from SLU to New Cathedral
- 2018 SFX Parish Antiracism Team begins monthly meetings to purposefully oppose racism and create racial equity in our parish and city
- 2021 SLU Department of African American Studies established
- 2021 Jesuits pledge \$100 million in reparations to descendants of enslaved people once owned and sold by the order



SLU

ST. LOUIS ARCHDIOCESE



DuBourg

Kenrick

Rosati

- 1826 St. Louis is established as a diocese by Rome
- 1828 Fr. Edmond Saulnier holds catechism classes for African Americans
- 1827-1865 Bishops DuBourg and Rosati, Archbishop Kenrick and priests hold 100 African Americans in bondage during this period
- 1836 Bishop Rosati gives Jesuits permission to found a parish on land that becomes SLU
- 1845 Sisters of St. Joseph open school for African American girls; later forced to close it after protests by an angry mob of white men
- 1856 Sisters of Mercy, under Jesuit direction, open night school for Black children
- 1873 Having outgrown the upper gallery at SFX, Archbishop Kenrick designates St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish for Black Catholics and instructs white Catholics not to receive sacraments there. St. Elizabeth is the fourth U.S. parish founded exclusively for Black Catholics
- 1886 Fr. Augustus Tolton is ordained as first known Black Catholic priest; born in the Archdiocese of St. Louis to enslaved people



Tolton



St. Mary's Infirmary

- 1933 St. Mary's Infirmary converted to inpatient facility for African American patients; white patients transferred to Firmin Desloge Hospital
- 1937 St. Joseph's High School for African Americans opens
- 1946-1947 Archbishop Ritter arrives in St. Louis, integrates Catholic schools
- 1950 St. Elizabeth of Hungary parish for African Americans closes
- 1955 Cardinal Ritter integrates St. Louis Catholic hospitals
- 1962 Second Vatican Council opens, inviting the Church to enter the modern world
- 1963 Ritter creates Human Rights Commission
- 1965 St. Louis Archdiocese sends large delegation to join Selma civil rights marches
- 1970 Fr. Henry Harrison, first Black Archdiocesan priest, is ordained
- 1978 St. Charles Lwanga Center, Office of Black Catholic Ministries, is founded
- 1983 Pope John Paul II appoints Terry Steib as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, the first African American to hold that post
- 1984 Black Bishops issue pastoral letter on racism, "What We Have Seen and Heard"

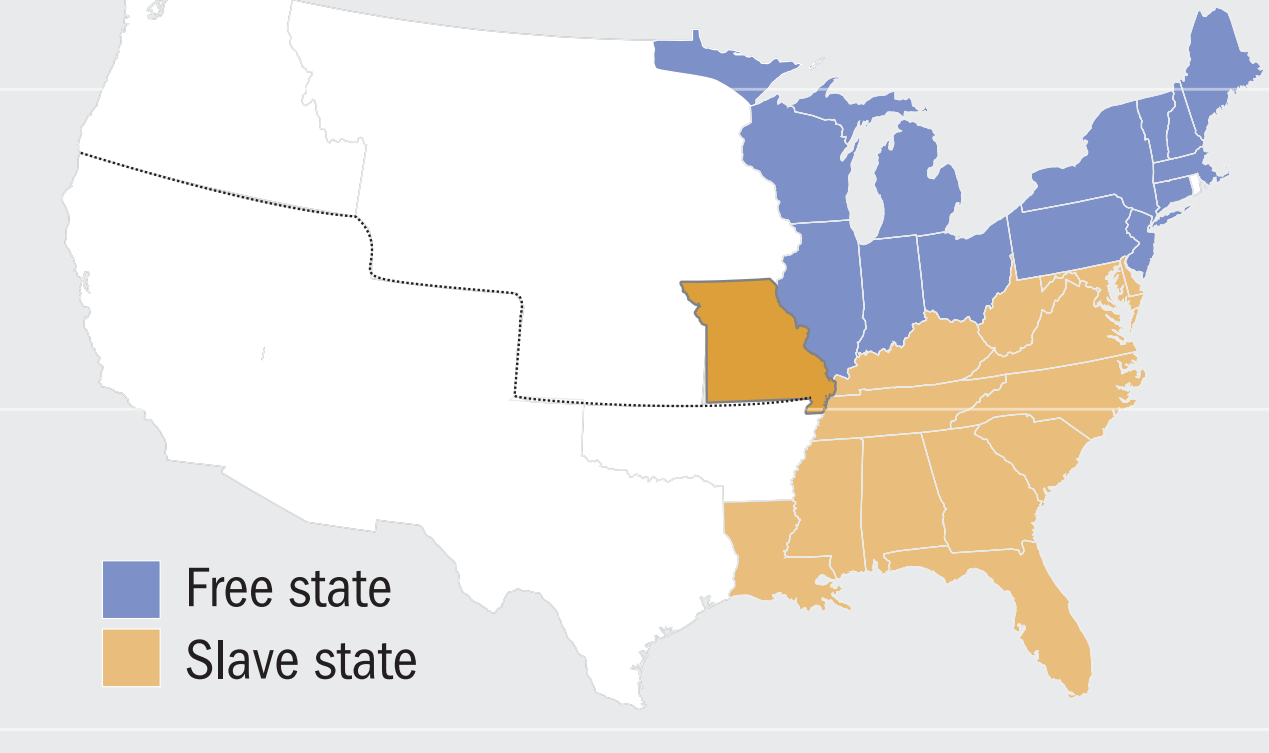
- 2015 Archdiocese forms Peace and Justice Commission
- 2017 Archbishop Carlson joins interfaith leaders in call for peace and justice
- 2018 USCCB issues Open Wide Our Hearts; holds listening session on racism in the Catholic Church at SLU (right)
- 2018 Archdiocese of St. Louis hires director of the Office of Racial Harmony under the auspices of the Office of Peace and Justice



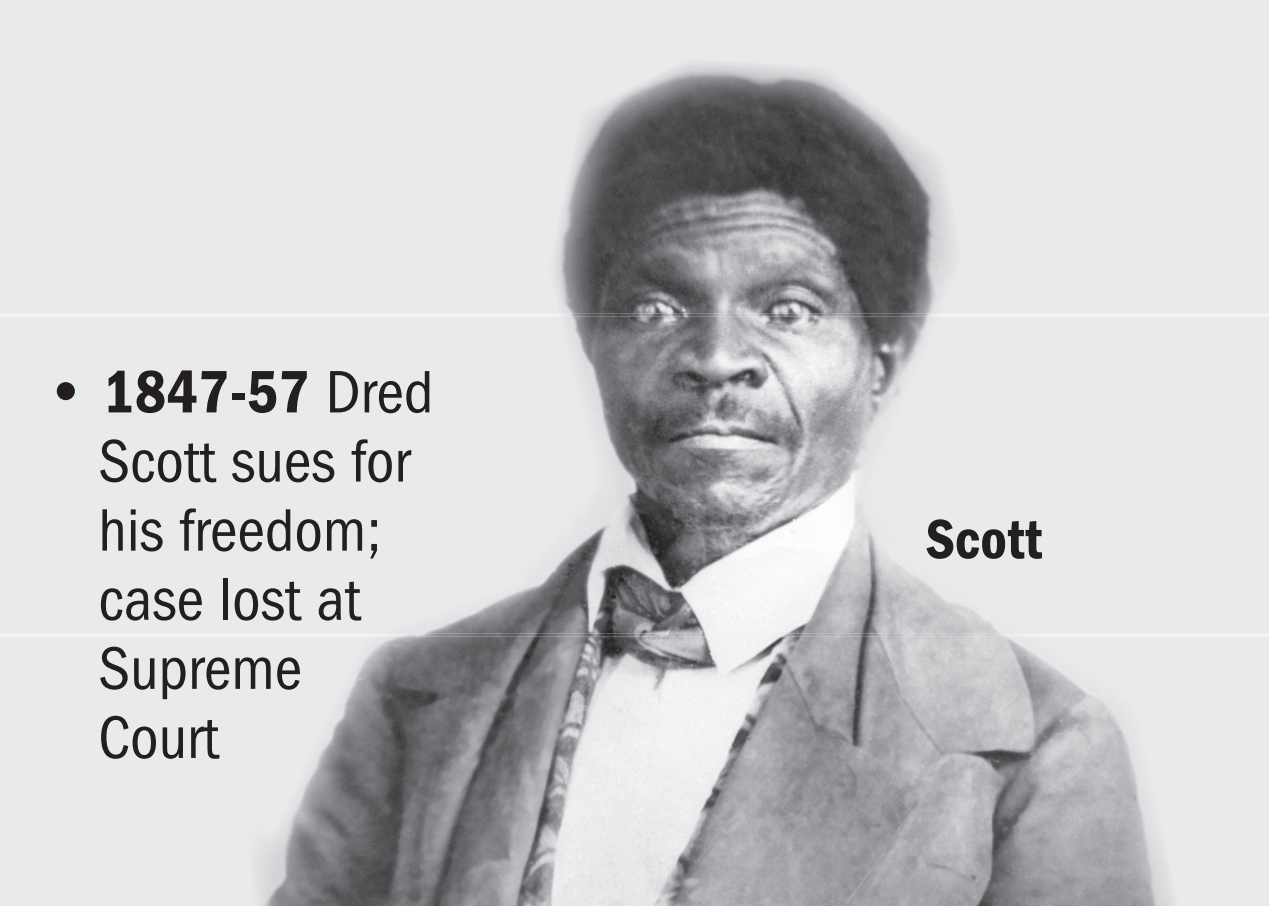
Archdiocese Office of Racial Harmony

CIVIC

- 1619 First African captives arrive in Virginia Colony and are sold into slavery
- 1719 Earliest record of Black people in St. Louis area
- 1764 Founding of St. Louis City



- 1820 Missouri Compromise admits Missouri to the Union as a slave state



- 1847-57 Dred Scott sues for his freedom; case lost at Supreme Court

Scott

- 1861-1865 Civil War
- 1863 Emancipation Proclamation
- 1865 Missouri abolishes slavery



- 1904 St. Louis hosts the World's Fair with descendants of tribal people serving as living exhibits

- 1917 Labor disputes and racial tension lead to East St. Louis race riots; dozens of Black residents murdered and thousands are left homeless

- 1924 National Association of Real Estate begins decades-long practice of embedding race-restricted covenants in real estate deeds

- 1937 Homer G. Phillips Hospital opens in north St. Louis, becomes a preeminent teaching hospital for Black medical professionals. Phillips, son of enslaved people, led fundraising but died before the opening.

- 1948 Black family in St. Louis is unable to occupy the home they bought; Supreme Court decision on their case ended racial housing covenants

- 1949 Black children allowed to swim at Fairgrounds Park; riot ensues

- 1950 City reaches its population peak of 850,000; begins long period of "white flight" to the suburbs

- 1954 Brown v. Board of Education desegregates U.S. public schools

- 1959 Mill Creek Valley destroyed for "urban renewal"

- 1963-1964 Protests at Jefferson Bank and Gateway Arch over racially-based job discrimination

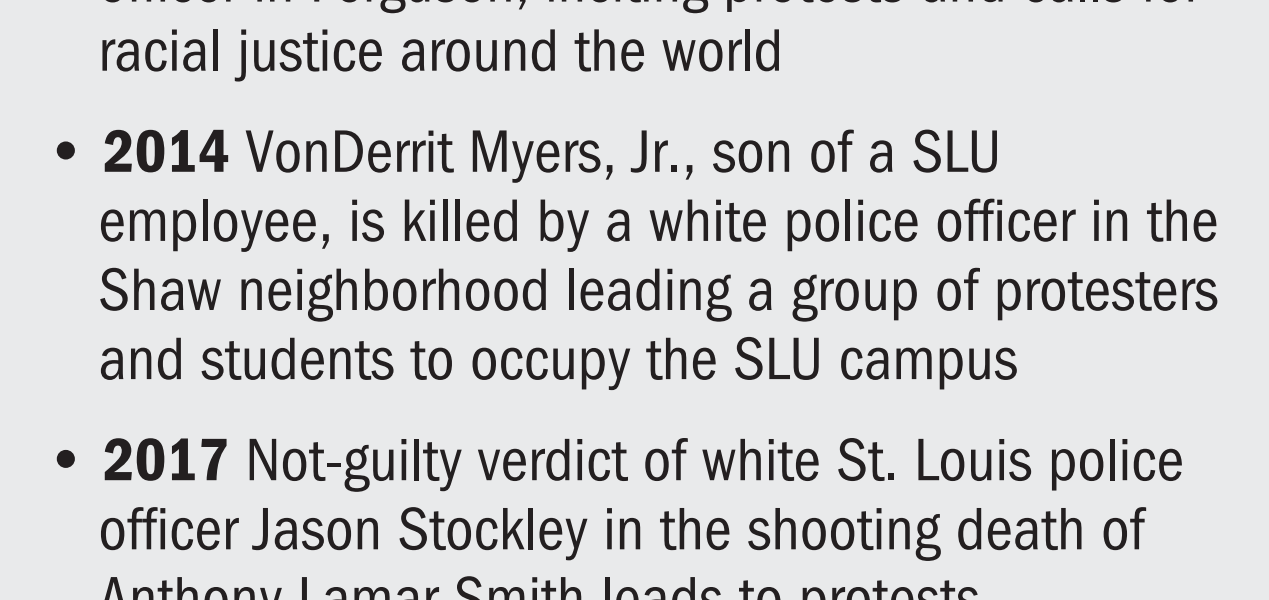
- 1968 Assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

- 1983 Voluntary busing of Black children to St. Louis County schools begins

- 1993 Freeman Bosley, Jr. elected first Black mayor of St. Louis



- 2008 Barack Obama is elected first Black president of the U.S.



Janelle Bouie

- 2014 Michael Brown is killed by a white police officer in Ferguson, inciting protests and calls for racial justice around the world

- 2014 VonDerrit Myers, Jr., son of a SLU employee, is killed by a white police officer in the Shaw neighborhood leading a group of protesters and students to occupy the SLU campus

- 2017 Not-guilty verdict of white St. Louis police officer Jason Stockley in the shooting death of Anthony Lamar Smith leads to protests

Credits History Committee Carl Greiner, Winnie Sullivan, Emory Webre, David Werthmann, Father Daniel White, S.J., Mary White · Project Manager Laura Winter · Design Laura Stanton

Banner was prepared as part of the 2021/2022 Parish Racial Equity Review.

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