



Parishioners gathered at our State of the Parish Meeting as Aimee Wittman speaks

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

February 11th, 2024
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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/collegethurchmass

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 frtim@sfxstl.org with questions.

Christian Initiation of Adults: contact Joe Milner at 314-977-7305 or joseph.milner@slu.edu

Marriages: contact Sandy Hauck at 314-977-7303 for scheduling and preparation information.

Funerals: contact Fr. Tim McMahon at frtim@sfxstl.org or 314-977-7300.

Disability Access: Our church has an elevator and hearing assistance system. Please see an usher for assistance.

Parish Registration: Available online at sfxstl.org/parishioner-registration or at the Parish Center front desk. For questions email church@sfxstl.org.

Youth Faith Formation: Catechesis of Good Shepherd classes are available for preschool through 6th grade level students. Traditional religious education classes are available for grades 1 through 8. Classes meet September - May on Sunday mornings. Contact Jennifer Quick at jennifer@sfxstl.org or Julie Kilian at julie@sfxstl.org for more information.

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

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

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PRAY FOR THE SICK

Anonymous Faculty member
 Winnie Agniel
 Mary Kate Agniel
 Dave Ampleman
 Margaret Baughman
 Maureen Carney*
 Tara Chandler
 Madeline Dames
 Tom Engelhardt
 Steve Frank*
 Sue Griffard
 Joanie Hasser*
 Butch Henning*
 Yvonne Jayasuriya
 Terry Kippenberger*
 Uly Labilles
 Donna Leach-Heimos
 Tom McDermott
 Eddie McDevitt
 Angie Menard*
 Karena Menard*
 Barb Michael
 Rea O'Neill
 Terry O'Toole
 Tim Plunkett
 Mark Roddy*
 Alicia S.
 Mikell S.
 Mark Segovia
 Fr. Gary Seibert, SJ*
 Ned Spencer
 Greg Stephen
 Robert Wilmott
 * Long-term

Prayer requests to:

church@sfxstl.org

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

Join our prayer group on Zoom,

Friday mornings at 9:

Contact Bridget Brennan at joy@canainstitute.org for info.

Reflection from our Director of the Work

By Katie Jansen

Beginning this weekend and going through Lent, College Church parishioners will host Parishioner Roundtables. These will be similar to the house meetings we held 2 years ago. The purpose of these gatherings is first and foremost to build relationships through listening to one another. We are following the example set by the synod by trusting that it is through our relationships that we can listen to the Holy Spirit. *"This Synod will be fruitful if it leads us into a deeper friendship with the Lord and with each other."*



These conversations will also contribute to our ongoing discernment about how to become a more synodal parish. We are one and a half years into a new leadership model. We want to hear about your experience of this time and what your hopes are for the future.

You can sign up here to attend a Roundtable conversation: <https://bit.ly/sfxroundtable>, or use the QR code below.

The first opportunity to sign up for a parishioner roundtable will be at the "Walking Together" State of the Parish meeting. After that meeting, we will put the sign-up link in the weekly email, the bulletin and on the website.

Thank you to all who attended the "Walking Together" State of the Parish gathering last Sunday. I'm so grateful for your participation. In the near future, we will post a recording of the gathering as well as reports on the work of our ministries.



SFX YOUTH FAITH

Pancake

BREAKFAST

Today, Sunday, February 11th

After the 8:00 and 10:30 Masses in the Ballroom

Tickets \$10 per adult, \$7 per child or \$40 per family and can be purchased at the door.

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED

With the hope of the Resurrection, we ask that you remember in your prayers all those who have recently died, including:

Teresa Jorgen

May she and all the departed share in the peace and joy of God's presence forever.





Laura & Jeff Fister at Luke's SLU orientation

Living Our Faith: Meet Jeff Fister and His Family

(Note: this is one of a series of profiles of parishioners to help us all get to know one another better. If you are interested in participating, or want to suggest we highlight a parishioner friend, contact Angela at angela@sfxstl.org.)

We've been parishioners since: 2010. When we lived in the Central West End from 1991 to 2014, our eight kids attended St. Louis Cathedral School (now closed). While that was our parish, we also attended SFX. As the kids got older, and as SLU alumni, we gravitated back to College Church and officially registered.

Living our faith: Over the years I helped on the Gala committee, my wife Laura volunteered at the Christmas Fair Trade Market, and we volunteered at Winter Inn. Our two youngest kids took part in the SFX youth faith formation program and our daughter Theresa was confirmed at College Church. Our kids attended the summer social justice camp.

In 2012, through my publishing business, I worked with Father J.J. Mueller to help publish the book, *Saints in Glass*, which tells the story of the SFX stained-glass windows, Now, post-COVID, and with the kids out of the house, Laura and I hope to get more involved again.

Why we're involved: As SLU alumni, Laura and I have a deep connection to College Church and the Jesuits. We appreciate the history and tradition of the Church, not to mention its physical beauty and landmark status in our City. We also love the Jesuit musical tradition and incredible choir and musicians. We appreciate how the Church has always been a beacon of hope for the underserved, and how its inclusive outlook points the way to a renewed Church.

Three words that describe SFX: Our. Spiritual. Home.

Our neighborhoods: We moved from the Central West End in 2014 and bought a smaller home in Clifton Heights in South St. Louis. We hosted Father Dan at our home several years ago as part of the neighborhood gatherings for our area.

Fun facts: My family has a five-generation connection to SFX. My parents Richard and Virginia Fister met at SLU, and Dad proposed to Mom in 1953 in the front pew of College Church. I also met my wife Laura at SLU, and we were married here in 1985. Our oldest daughter Virginia married her husband Bertrand (a French naval officer) at SFX in 2016, and their daughter Eléonore was baptized here in 2018.



Virginia & Bertrand

The final connection? I recently found out from my Mom that her father attended SLU in the 1930s. It was during the Depression, and he wasn't able to graduate, but his wife (my grandmother) took classes at SFX to convert to Catholicism. And now, our youngest son Luke started as a freshman at SLU last fall.

St. Francis Xavier's parish family represents diverse backgrounds, with many immensely talented, deeply engaged, warm and welcoming parishioners. Learn more about how to become involved by calling (314) 977-7300 or visiting sfxstl.org. You can find past parishioner profiles at sfxstl.org/living-our-faith.

Pastoral Care Commission Spotlight on Seniors 2024 Program

Join with us to learn, to celebrate, to grow in our faith, build friendships and Community

Ballroom Lecture Series following 10:30 Mass

February 11: After the Pancake Breakfast: **The Centrality of the Heart In Prayer. How is it that our hearts and brains are wired for compassion, how the connection between heart and brain lead us to prayer, care and love.** Presented by parishioner and spirituality guru, Sandy Spencer. You don't want to miss this.

March 10th: Tips and Challenges in choosing among long term care options: independent living; assisted living, memory care and skilled Nursing. Presented by Linda DeSmet. Linda was on staff at the Alzheimer's Association for 18 years, served as Family Support Specialist at a Residential Living Center and recently moved into an independent living community. Linda holds a Masters degree in gerontology. Join us for an informative presentation with time for questions.

Lenten Books and Materials

The season of Lent begins on Feb 14. Lent comes from the old English word for springtime, a time of new beginnings and new life. Christians are invited to return to their roots, their baptismal relationship with God. This can be done through prayer, reflection, and self-sacrifice that lead to conversion of mind and heart. Self-sacrifice is about making room for God. There are Lenten bowls for adding change each day to help feed the poor of the world on the tables near the entrances to the church.



There are several resources available online that offer daily prayer or reflection materials. Loyola Press offers a daily email. Signup is available at <http://tinyurl.com/lentloyola>

Sacred Space has daily reflections from the Irish Jesuits: <https://www.sacredspace.ie/>

Pray as you Go is an audio reflection from the British Jesuits: <https://pray-as-you-go.org/home/>

Reflection materials will be available in the Ballroom after the Sunday morning Masses starting today. These include: the Little Black Book with a scripture verse and a reflection on a person, event or practice that invites us to deeper faith; Daybreak is a series that presents passages from the writings of particular authors arranged for reflection during Lent. Each booklet features a different author. There are booklets for children including the Little Purple book, reflections for teens, and some designed for seniors well. To reserve an item, please contact Joseph Milner at joseph.milner@slu.edu

The 8th Grade Class invites you to join them on their Lenten Journey for Creation!



“God looked over everything God had made; it was so good, so very good!” Genesis 1:3.

A focus of this year's 8th grade Youth Faith Formation is gratitude and care for all of God's creation. During Lent, they will pray, reflect, and act on some of the themes presented during their Fall retreat. All are invited to join them on a Lenten Journey for Creation. We can accompany them by taking some time each week to sit with the coming Sunday's Gospel reading, reflect on its connection to the goodness of creation (the people, animals, and nature around you), and build awareness and action on a theme that relates to creation each week. The weekly themes will be printed in the bulletin. Feel free to use all, part, or none of these suggestions.

Week	Gospel Reading	Creation Themes for Reflection	Awareness/Action Ideas
2/11-2/18	<p>Read through the Gospel passage one time slowly. Now read it again. What words, images, phrases stand out to you?</p>	<p>...# Food Deserts ...# Water Conservation</p> <p>How do these themes connect with the Gospel reading?</p>	<p>...# Look up the definition of a “food desert.” Are there any food deserts in St. Louis? ...# Time your showers and try to cut down a couple minutes from your time. ...# Come up with your own idea!</p>

Easter Basket Project

Parishioners are invited to help with an Easter Basket project for children served by the St. Augustine/Wellston Food Pantry and Thrift Shop. After Masses on March 3 there will be a bin in the back of church where parishioners can donate items such as wrapped candy, small toys or books,, and little hygiene items such as soap, lotion and tooth brushes. These items will be sorted and packed in Easter bags by our Level III Catechesis of the Good Shepherd students on Saturday March 9, in time for the food pantry's Easter celebration. Items can also be dropped off at the Parish Center.



Encounters on the Way to the Cross

DURING LENT, WE ARE CALLED TO REFLECT ON JESUS'S LIFE AND JOURNEY TO THE CROSS, THE ULTIMATE ACT OF LOVE. IN THE COURSE OF THAT JOURNEY, WE WITNESS JESUS ENGAGING WITH PEOPLE WHO'VE BEEN MARGINALIZED. THROUGH THOSE ENCOUNTERS HE BECKONS US TO IMITATE A LOVE THAT IS RADICALLY INCLUSIVE.

THIS LENT, YOU ARE INVITED TO JOURNEY WITH JESUS BY PARTICIPATING IN ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING OFFERINGS:

Imagine: A Guide to Ignatian Contemplation

Fr. Tucker will lead guided contemplative exercises on the Mondays of Lent at 7 pm in College Church, starting on February 19. Walk with Jesus by praying with your imagination. Learn more about him and from him as we pray through stories of Jesus's life, especially his encounters with the excluded and outcast. Come to any one or all of the sessions. Audio recordings can be made available for those who cannot attend in person.

Reading and Reflecting on Our Parish Racial History

Examining and discussing the racial history of College Church brings home the ways in which we can, in our own faith community, follow Jesus's example of inclusion. Copies of this booklet will be available along with a suggested outline and reflection questions to use during the weeks of Lent.

Spiritual Conversation Groups

Share the fruit of your reading and reflections of *Our Parish Racial History* using the practice of the three rounds of spiritual conversation. In person and virtual meeting groups will be organized, based on the preferences of participants.

Stations of the Cross

Reflect on the journey of the cross as a community. We will gather for this simple, yet powerful experience of prayer Fridays during Lent at 12:30pm (after the noon Mass) in College Church.

PLEASE LET US KNOW ABOUT YOUR INTERESTS AND REGISTER FOR SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION GROUPS BY FEBRUARY 11TH SO THAT GROUPS AND MATERIALS MAY BE PREPARED FOR PROGRAMS TO BEGIN THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 18TH.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER: [TINYURL.COM/SC9ZH8XW](https://tinyurl.com/SC9ZH8XW)

*PLEASE REQUEST AUDIO RECORDING THROUGH THIS LINK

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
SFXFAITHENRICHMENT@GMAIL.COM



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.

The Heithaus Sermon: Conscience and The Call to Justice

February 11, 2024, marks the 80th anniversary of the “Heithaus Sermon” here at College Church, a sermon credited with sparking the integration of Saint Louis University. A native of St. Louis, Claude Heithaus SJ, was a professor of Archaeology and Classical Art, director of university publications and publicity, and silent supporter of integration. Heithaus was well connected to key staffers at the three St. Louis daily newspapers.



Discussions regarding integration by the university president, board members and select alumni persisted from the Fall of 1943 through early Spring of 1944. The new president of SLU, Father Patrick J. Holloran SJ, was reluctant to publicly advocate in favor of integration, fearing both loss of enrollment and financial support.

In early January of 1944, Fr. Heithaus came across a newspaper article recounting Webster College’s rejection of a highly qualified young Black woman after the superior of the Loreto Sisters consulted Archbishop Glennon. Heithaus viewed the decision as unjust, a grave scandal and decided to bring the issue of integration directly to the students. Mass attendance on Friday mornings was mandatory for SLU undergrads and Heithaus was scheduled to preside on February 11th. He carefully crafted his sermon, sent a copy to the three newspapers, and set the type of his sermon the night before so it would appear in *The University News* shortly after he gave it. His homily called for reparation for past injustice and a commitment to racial justice. It was reported that “even the pews stood up.” The backlash by his Jesuit superior, the university president, and Archbishop Glennon was swift and stern. Heithaus was instructed not to speak publicly about integration again. On April 25th, after much vacillation, Fr. Holloran quietly announced that the university it would admit five Black students for the summer session.

In March of 1945, Fr. Heithaus confronted the administration’s delay tactics on Black student admissions with an allegorical essay in *The University News*, “Why Not Christian Cannibalism?” That action immediately elicited recrimination from his Jesuit Provincial who threatened him with dismissal from the

Order, and once again set him at odds with Fr. Holloran and other Jesuits.

The following June, President Holloran insisted that Heithaus publish several articles in *The University News* promoting a Jim-Crow dance that excluded Black students. When Father Heithaus refused, citing that it was morally wrong and against his conscience, Fr. Holloran stripped him of his faculty position and told him to get out of St. Louis before midnight, which he did, leaving behind everything he had. His next assignment was that of an Army chaplain in Kansas.

A year later he joined the department of Classical Languages at Marquette University, and in 1958 returned to his former teaching position at Saint Louis University. A man of conviction and conscience, Claude Heithaus SJ, died on May 12, 1976.

- Mary White

A Church Founded by African Americans

In 1787, several previously enslaved people in Philadelphia, including preacher Richard Allen, formed the Free African Society (FAS) to assist enslaved people fleeing the south. Allen also led services for Black congregants at a local Methodist church. Soon the white ministers required him to hold services extremely early in the morning or somewhere else. Allen resented such discrimination, so he and his supporters decided to transform the FAS into an independent Christian church. In 1794, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal congregation came into being, with Allen as its pastor.

Black Methodists elsewhere also encountered racism. So, in 1816 Allen invited them all to join in creating a new Protestant denomination: the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The word “African” in its name indicates that the church was organized by people of African heritage, but it welcomes all ethnicities. The church’s roots are “Methodist,” placing emphasis on a plain and simple gospel. “Episcopal” means the church is governed by bishops. The basic AME beliefs are contained in The Apostles’ Creed.

The denomination experienced great growth during the Civil War and Reconstruction period. Clergy moved to southern states and brought freed Black people into

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their fold. In 1880 the AME church claimed 400,000 members. By the end of that century, African Methodism had crossed the Atlantic into Liberia, Sierra Leone, and South Africa.

Clearly, this split from mainline Methodism was not due to doctrinal differences but to the intolerance of others based on skin color. Black people were being dehumanized by many un-Christian practices that had infected the church. AME was one of the first denominations in the U.S. founded to respond to that issue. It has continuously advocated for civil and human rights among African Americans through social improvement and political

engagement. Theologians from the AME tradition have criticized Euro-centric Christianity and other African American churches for not adequately addressing the sins of racism, sexism, and economic disparity.

Today, the AME Church exists in thirty-nine countries on five continents. The work of the Church is overseen by thirteen bishops in the U.S., and seven in Africa. Its global membership is 2.5 million, making it one of the largest Methodist denominations in the world.

For more information, or to become part of anti-racism ministries, contact Winnie Sullivan penultim@swbell.net or Lisa Burks Imburks60@gmail.com.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

Today is the World Day of the Sick. Healing was one of the central aspects of the ministry of Jesus. He was moved with care and compassion for each of the people who sought his assistance. The church extends this ministry of Jesus into our time and place through visitation of the sick, bringing communion to those in institutions and who are homebound, and through the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. Today, we will celebrate the sacrament communally at each of our Sunday liturgies. Communal celebrations allow the whole community to express their connection to the sick and it allows us to focus our prayer and express our support for them.



Following the homily, all who have a serious illness, who are preparing for surgery, or who are experiencing the challenges of advancing age are invited to receive the sacrament. The rite begins with intercessory prayers for those who wish to be anointed. All who are near them are invited to hold their hand, touch their shoulder or extend a hand toward them.

For the anointing they will be invited to step out into the center or pillar aisle and stay by their pew. The priest will come to them. Those who are unable to stand should raise their hand as the priest comes down the aisle. He will anoint you on your forehead and the palms of your hands with the words:

Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit.

R./ Amen

May the Lord who frees you from sin, save you and raise you up. *R./ Amen*

Adult Atrium Meets Next Sunday, February 18!

You are invited!

The catechists from the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) at College church invite you to an hour of quiet enjoyment, contemplation and discussion of the mysteries of our faith before the 10:30 liturgy. CGS catechists have discovered that this approach to faith formation nurtures our spirituality, as well as the child's, and we're excited to share it with you!



We'll meet 6 times during the spring semester. You are welcome to come for one session or for as many as you like. please sign up using the link, the QR code, or emailing Julie at julie@sfxstl.org

www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4FABAD28A0F85-47047208-adult

Circle of Creation Green Corner

If you would like to bring to the attention of the Circle of Creation Committee information and/or events related to environmental justice, please feel free to email fran@drfransmathstronglab.com.



Now is a good time to consider joining the Circle of Creation Committee here at the Parish. Please email fran@drfransmathstronglab.com to volunteer or with comments or inquiries about our efforts toward environmental justice and care for our common home and all its inhabitants. Our next meeting is February 25 at 11:45 AM – 12:45 AM in the Adult Faith Room in the Parish Center.

The Global Theme for Earth Day 2024 is Planet vs. Plastics www.earthday.org/press-release/planet-vs-plasticsglobal-theme-for-earth-day-2024/

Mark your calendar: The St. Louis Earth Day Festival in Forest Park will be the weekend of April 20-21. For some short historical reading (just a page) about Earth Day, go to How It All Began: earthday-365.org/about/history/

Volunteer Opportunities

Back to Nature: Tree Planting on Woodland Slopes on Saturday, March 16, 9:00 AM – Noon

Ages: 12 and up; Caution: Steep creek banks
Crestwood Park 9739 Meadowfern Dr St. Louis, MO 63126
Information and registration volunteer.openspacestl.org/need/detail/?need_id=892302

Many honeysuckle hacks at various locations on various dates starting in April. Volunteer at Open Space StL volunteer.openspacestl.org/

Public Electronics Recycling events

mrc-recycling.squarespace.com/electronics-recycling-events

March 2, 8:00 AM to Noon
2505 South Brentwood Boulevard
Brentwood, MO, 63144
hosted by the City of **Brentwood**

Visit the **College Church Circle of Creation Committee's Green Corner** sfxstl.org/circleofcreation on the Parish website to keep up to date on resources related to caring for creation, including public electronics recycling events.

February 10-11

Saturday
5:15 pm Fr. McMahon, S.J.

Sunday
8:00 am Fr. Redding, S.J.
10:30 am Fr. Redding, S.J.

February 17-18

Saturday
5:15 pm Fr. Redding, S.J.

Sunday
8:00 am Fr. McMahon, S.J.
10:30 am Fr. McMahon, S.J.

This Sunday's Scripture Readings

First Reading:

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalms 32:1-2, 5, 11

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Gospel:

Mark 1:40-45

Bulletin Articles

Email bulletin articles to Camille Smith, at bulletin@sfxstl.org, before Thursday at noon
10 days before the bulletin date.

College Church Accessibility

As a reminder, **assistive listening devices** are available for our liturgies. Please let the ushers know if you would like to use one.

Ash Wednesday Schedule

Ashes will be distributed at each of the masses on Ash Wednesday, February 14, as we mark the beginning of Lent. Our masses will be at: **7:15 am, Noon, and 5:15 pm**. The Noon and 5:15 masses will have music.