



Taken by Fr. Tucker

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 5th, 2024
Sixth 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@sfstl.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@sfstl.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@sfstl.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@sfstl.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 sfstl.org/parishioner-registration or at the Parish Center front desk. For questions email church@sfstl.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@sfstl.org or Julie Kilian at julie@sfstl.org for more information.

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

To reach the **Pastoral Council**, email sfxpc@sfstl.org.

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Choir Director, Music Ministry

Ray Sherrock
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Pastoral Council Co-Chairs

Jen Hahn-Petruso and Aimee Wittman
sfxpc@sfstl.org

Pastoral Care Ministry

Bridget Brennan
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PRAY FOR THE SICK

Anonymous Faculty member

Winnie Agniel

Mary Kate Agniel

Dave Ampleman

Margaret Baughman

Harry M. Byrne, O.P.

Maureen Carney*

Tara Chandler

Madeline Dames

Tom Engelhardt

Virginia Fister

Steve Frank*

Joanie Hasser*

Butch Henning*

Yvonne Jayasuriya

Terry Kippenberger*

Uly Labilles

Donna Leach-Heimos

Jack Malone

Tom McDermott

Eddie McDevitt

Kathy Mayer

Angie Menard*

Karena Menard*

Don Needham

Rea O'Neill

Terry O'Toole

Mark Roddy*

Alicia S.

Mikell S.

Art Schierhoff

Mark Segovia

Fr. Gary Seibert, SJ*

Vicki Simon

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.

Receive the Holy Spirit!

Dear Confirmandi,

Your parish community is filled with joy to journey with you as you are confirmed. Your confirmation is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to celebrate. And, as with all of us, your faith journey will not always feel like something to celebrate. Life will throw you completely unexpected challenges. There will be times - maybe long periods of time - where you will question everything, including God. Please remember during these times that you are not alone and that God's love is never out of reach. It is available to you through prayer (it's ok to yell at God), your family, your friends and your parish community.

I am excited to see who each of you is becoming. And I invite you to share in our mutual responsibility to discern the future of our church and our world. You are each uniquely gifted by God to serve as Jesus serves and to love as Jesus loves. God is calling you in a particular way. You may not know how yet. Your clues can be found in what you love, what breaks your heart, what brings you joy and the talents God has given you. I look forward to the ways that you will share that with our church. I look forward to how the Holy Spirit will be unleashed within you!

Peace be with you,

Katie

Fair Trade Sale

Don't forget fresh coffee, chocolate, tea, soup, chili, corn bread, beans, brownie mix, gift boxes, and more from your friendly College Church Fair Trade Committee. All proceeds directly benefit our Jesuit sister parish, St. Peter Claver, in Belize. To view Fair Trade products, or to order online, go to <https://sfxstl.org/buy-fair-trade>. Orders must be picked up at the College Church



Pentecost Approaches—Time for a Potluck!

On Sunday, May 19th after the 10:30am Mass, we will once again come together for a Pentecost Potluck. As Pentecost celebrates the birthday of the Church, when people of many different languages all heard the Good News, we will celebrate the many cultures present in our community with all different varieties of food!

Please use this link to sign up to volunteer and/or bring food: <https://tinyurl.com/sfxpentecostpotluck>

INTRODUCTORY RITES*Gathering: All Are Welcome**Gather 850**Gloria: The Glendalough Mass**Gather 261*LITURGY OF THE WORD*Responsorial Psalm 98: The Lord Has Revealed**Gather 1077**Gospel Acclamation: Celtic Alleluia**Gather 334*

*Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord,
and my Father will love him and we will come to him.*

RITE OF CONFIRMATION*Confirmation Song (10:30): Holy Spirit**de Silva*

Ho-ly Spir-it, come, re-fresh us with your fire of love.
Ho-ly Spir-it, come, re-new us, heal us with your love.

Text: Verses attr. to St. Thomas Aquinas, c.1225–1274; adapt. by Chris de Silva, b.1967
Tune: Chris de Silva, b.1967
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LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST*Presentation of the Gifts (10:30): Song over the Waters**Gather 661**Eucharistic Acclamations: The Glendalough Mass**Gather 263, 264, 267 & 269*

COMMUNION RITE*Communion Hymn: In the Breaking of the Bread**Lawton*

In the break-ing of the bread, we will
 find our hope, al-le-lu-ia. In the
 words, just as you said, we be-
 lieve, O Lord, al-le-lu-ia.

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*Meditation (10:30): Were I the Perfect Child of God**Gather 791***CONCLUDING RITE***Recessional: Sing Out, Earth and Skies**Gather 577*

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@collegechurchsfx

*Thank you for your
 support of
 College Church.*



venmo



Vicki Simon

Living Our Faith: Meet Vicki

An SFX parishioner since: 1988. I had attended Mass in the lower church at SFX in the '70s, and was drawn back years later when I was looking for a parish that integrated faith into daily life. College Church walked the talk. Ignatian spirituality inspired me and came to life through the parish's commitment to social justice, the ministries, and the homilies and music. I joined SFX and found my spiritual home.

Living my faith: My faith journey has taken me from College Church to Kenya, Central America, New York, and many parts of St. Louis. Initially, through College Church, I was a St. Vincent DePaul Society volunteer. We assisted our neighbors in many ways – from tutoring to providing meals and financial help – and forged partnerships with the great folks at Washington Tabernacle and Third Baptist churches. In 1998, I joined the Maryknoll Lay Missioners (MKLM) and will never forget my “parish sending” as Father Len Kraus and parishioners gathered around the altar to bless me as I embarked for Kenya. I learned a little Swahili and worked with street kids and orphans in Nairobi for three-and-a-half years, and later moved to New York as MKLM’s Director of Mission Services.

Upon returning to St. Louis in 2006 I became SFX’s Director of Social Ministry. This was an energizing period of growth and globalization of our parish, including the expansion of the ID and Birth Certificate Outreach Program, the start of Winter Inn, and the beginning of our Sister Parish relations in Guatemala and, later, St. Peter Claver in Belize. Today, I continue to volunteer on the Fair Trade and Sister Parish Committee and actively participate in the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) by providing interpretation services for attorneys at Catholic Legal Assistance Ministries.

Why I’m involved: The influence of the Sisters of Loretto, Maryknoll and the Jesuits has been formational and is central to who I am. I have grown up in the Jesuit world: I attended graduate school at SLU, was on the SFX staff for five years and a parishioner for 36 years, and have been a leader and active in the IVC for more than eight years. I currently serve on the boards of The Encuentro Project and MKLM. In Ignatian terms, I guess you could say I strive to be a “woman for others,” and I do so with a great sense of gratitude for the blessings and love I have received.

Three words that describe SFX: Community, Inspirational, Formational.

My neighborhood: I love city life in SOHA (South Hampton), where I’ve lived since my return from Kenya. But I claim all of St. Louis as my hometown. I’ve lived in Creve Coeur, Des Peres and Webster Groves, where I raised my family and could walk to our parish (Holy Redeemer), my high school (Nerinx Hall) and my undergraduate school (Webster College, as it then was called). I’ve taught Spanish at DuBourg, Ursuline, Nerinx and SLU.

Fun facts: I’ve retired -- three times, in fact – but I’m still volunteering and spending time outdoors pursuing my love of vegetable gardening, flowers and birds. Travel is another passion, and I’ll be going to Scandinavia and Iceland this summer. My life and heart are full: I have a wonderful son and daughter who live in Napa, California and a granddaughter who is a junior at Western Washington University in Bellingham; I’m a five-time cancer survivor; I’m amazed and so happy to be alive and eager to see what’s next.

St. Francis Xavier’s parish family represents diverse backgrounds, with many warm and welcoming parishioners. Learn more by calling (314) 977-7300 or visiting sfxstl.org. You can find past parishioner profiles at sfxstl.org/living-our-faith.



College Church is Hiring!

Director of Faith Formation

The Director of Faith Formation is a full-time salaried position. The Director of Faith Formation oversees the religious and spiritual formation of children and adults in the parish and supports parish family life informed by our identity and values as a Jesuit parish in the City of St. Louis.



For more information, scan QR code or go to sfxstl.org/job-postings



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.

May is Asian/Pacific Heritage Month

In 1979, Congress established Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week. On May 14, 1990, George H. W. Bush expanded that recognition by signing into law the first Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. Continuing the celebration of Asian/Pacific Americans' contributions to society, this legislation also recognized significant dates within the month. May 7, 1843, marks the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States. On May 10, 1869, the transcontinental railway was completed—a feat largely accomplished through the work of Chinese immigrants.

As we honor the many contributions made by people of Asian/Pacific Island descent, it is important to note that this term, created in 1990 as part of the US census, represents numerous countries of origin, languages, and distinct cultures. This month we will highlight some of the individuals from these communities and the related events that enrich our nation and our Church.

A Force for Good

Dr. Carolyn Y. Woo was born and raised in Hong Kong. She immigrated to the U.S. to attend Purdue University where she received her bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. Her Ph.D. is in Strategic Management. Two years after graduating Woo was hired as a professor at Purdue. Eventually, she became associate executive vice president for academic affairs.



Then she served as dean of the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame for fourteen years. During her tenure, Mendoza College was recognized as the nation's leading business school in ethics education and research. The school also received top ranking from Bloomberg Businessweek. In addition, Woo was the first female dean to chair the accreditation body for business schools.

From 2004 to 2010, Dr. Woo served on the Board of Directors for Catholic Relief Services which is the international humanitarian agency of the Catholic church. In 2012, she was elected its president and

CEO. The magazine Foreign Policy listed her among the 500 Most Powerful people on the planet and one of 33 in the category "a force for good." In 2015, Woo was a presenter in Rome when Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment was released. Her book, "Working for a Better World," (Our Sunday Visitor) describes her personal faith journey and her work at CRS.

After five years she retired from Catholic Relief Services and is once again at Purdue University as Distinguished President's Fellow for Global Development. In that position she assists various international collaborative efforts.

Woo is married and has two sons. She has received honorary doctorates from Providence College, the University of St. Francis, Lewis University, and Notre Dame. Boards she currently serves on include Catholic Charities USA; the University of Portland; and University of Notre Dame Australia. She also serves on the Independent Child Abuse Review Board for the Archdiocese of Baltimore, and the US conference on Migration & Refugee Services. Her latest book is titled, "Rising: Learning from Women's Leadership in Catholic Ministries" (Orbis, 2022).

Significant Figures in Racial History

Mary Eliza Mahoney – born May 7, 1845, in Boston, MA. Mahoney was the first professionally trained African American nurse in the U.S. She helped create the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses to improve access to nursing education and to raise standards of living among Black RNs. Mahoney was inducted into the American Nurses Association Hall of Fame, and the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Phillis Wheatley – born May 8, 1753, in West Africa. Wheatley was kidnapped, sold into slavery at age 7, and bought by the Wheatley family of Boston. After learning to read and write her poetic talent was recognized. Her publication, "Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral," made her famous and she was emancipated. She married and had three children all of whom died young. Wheatley died in poverty and obscurity at age 31.

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Mary Lou Williams – born May 8, 1910, in Atlanta, GA. Williams taught herself to play the piano at age 3 and helped support her family by playing at parties.

She worked with Dizzy Gillespie and others and recorded many albums. A Roman Catholic, her music compositions include a setting of the Mass and other sacred pieces. Williams spent her later life aiding fellow musicians who were addicted to alcohol and heroin.

Upcoming Events

May 11 10:00 am to 1:00 pm Fr. Gerry Kleba will be hosting a bus tour of Black History in St. Louis. The tour will leave from and return to St. Cronan Catholic Church at 1202 S. Boyle Ave. You are invited to bring a lunch and

stay after the tour to discuss the experience. The cost is \$10 per person payable the day of the event.

To reserve a spot, please email Paul Loida at Paul.loida@bayer.com and provide the tour date, your name, email, and phone number. Space is limited, so reserve your seat today!

For information about additional community programs see the calendar of events at Seeds of Justice Network: seedsofjusticenetwork.org/

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

The Next Chapter Retreat

The Next Chapter is a program grounded in Ignatian Spirituality that has been offered in the St. Louis community for the past seven 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 2024. The first step for participating in the program is to attend an information session. The sessions will be held at 6:30 pm on May 13 and June 5 at the Mercy Conference and Retreat Center, 2039 Geyer Road. To RSVP please email Tom at thomas.auffenberg@slu.edu and indicate which session you will attend.

Camp Creative

Camp Creative was founded by St. Louisan, Julie Kuhnert, while she and her family were missionaries at St. Peter Claver parish in Belize. Now, in its 12th year, the summer camp serves 200+ children, and has expanded to include a 2nd camp in the Maya village of Big Falls. Camp Creative is looking for volunteers to spend time in Punta Gorda Belize, working with the local community, to assist at a week-long summer day camp. There are two date options, with flexibility in the travel dates. **Camp 1 (in Punta Gorda): Travel 6/28-7/9 OR~ Camp 2 (Maya village): Travel 7/12 -7/21.** For any additional questions, contact Julie Kuhnert, 314-614-3354 or kuhnertj@hotmail.com.

Name Tags are a big help to us all.

Folks are heartily encouraged to wear reusable name tags. For those who don't have one, Fran would be delighted to give you one (not for people who have a pacemaker).

- The magnet is a choking hazard so please do not allow little people or pets to get ahold of the magnet and possibly swallow it.
- Rotate the magnet off. Do not try to pull the magnet straightway up off the name tag.
- The name tag doesn't work if you don't wear it

Folks are also heartily encouraged to bring their Reusable Beverage Containers (RBCs).

Youth Faith Formation Registration is Open!

Registration for our 2024-25 Youth Faith Formation programs is open!

We offer 2 programs to families: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for children ages 3-12 and a traditional classroom program for children in 1st-8th grades. Ignatian spirituality is an important part of both of these programs, and you can learn more and register on our website: <https://sfxstl.org/yf-registration-confirmation>

Please reach out to Julie (julie@sfxstl.org) or Jennifer (jennifer@sfxstl.org) with any questions. Registration closes on June 1st.



Social Connections Commission Announcement

The Social Connections Commission (aka The Parish Party People) is trying to do our part in caring for our creation and being environmentally responsible by doing what we can to decrease the landfill resulting from our events. If you have reusable, lightweight 8" or 5" plates or small bowls or stainless utensils that you are no longer using, we would love to add to our collection. Please email (butmomwhy@gmail.com) or text Maureen (314-420-1650) for more information. Please do not just drop off at the Parish Center. Thanks!

Duffle Bag and Backpack Donations Needed: Donations Accepted Through May 26th

St. Francis Community Services seeks new or gently used duffle bags or sturdy backpacks for clients in or traveling through St. Louis. The bags should be fairly durable and comfortable for travel.

Please drop off donated bags by Sunday, May 26th in one of the following ways:

- After Mass in one of the large bins that will be placed in the vestibule of the church every weekend throughout the month of May
- Monday-Friday from 8:30am-12pm or 1-3pm to the College Church parish center at 3628 Lindell Blvd.

Feel free to reach out to Christine at christine@sfxstl.org with any questions. Thank you so much for your consideration!



SFX Community Parties Tickets on Sale!

Check out all the amazing opportunities to meet fellow parishioners and support College Church!

Does a **Pool Side Cookout** sound good to you?
Or a **Backyard Barbeque** with Fr. Dan?
Or a **Mario Cart Tournament**?
Maybe a **CITY SC Game** at Urban Chestnut?
How about a **Bourbon Tasting**?
Or **Murder Mystery Party**?
Or **Dinner and a Sing-along**?



Use the QR code to purchase tickets or go to <http://bit.ly/sfxpartytix>.

Openings on the SFX Pastoral Council

The St. Francis Xavier (College) Church Pastoral Council is a group composed of the Parish Life Coordinator (Director of the Work) and twelve active parishioners who meet regularly to deliberate, reflect, and make decisions on a variety of issues related to the operations, programming, and spiritual life of the parish. The Pastoral Council provides support and direction to the various parish Commissions and Committees, and is generally charged with making sure that all activities support the parish's mission.

There are **four openings** on the Pastoral Council for the term starting in August 2024. Council members serve for a three-year term with the option to serve a second term. The group meets one Saturday morning per month, and also participates actively in various special events throughout the year.

Interested?

Please fill out this form
<https://bit.ly/SFX-Council>



or reach out to one of our Council Co-Chairs
Jen Hahn-Petruso
jenpetruso7@gmail.com
Aimee Wittman
aimeewittman@gmail.com
Or Katie Jansen
 314-977-1954, katie@sfxstl.org.

Process

Interested parishioners can submit a short statement explaining their interest in serving on the Council answering the following three questions: (1) What has drawn you to SFX College Church, and what are your hopes for the future of the parish? (2) What background and experience, either professional, personal, or as a parishioner, would you bring to the Council and how would you apply it? (3) Do you foresee any obstacles that would prevent you from regularly attending Council meetings and, from time to time, assisting with special projects or events? Are there scheduling or other accommodations that would make participation easier for you? Katie Jansen or another council member will meet with each applicant to discern with the nominee whether or not they would be a good fit for the council.

Current Leadership

CO-CHAIRS

Jen Hahn-Petruso & Aimee Wittman

SECRETARY

Amy Sanders

MEMBERS

Martha Daly
Carl Greiner
Marty Lenihan
Deepan Rajaratnam
Winnie Sullivan
Grace Teofilo



Youth Faith Formation Registration

Registration for our 2024-25 Youth Faith Formation programs is now open! We offer Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for children ages 3-12 years-old and a traditional classroom model for children in Kindergarten through 8th Grade. You can register on our website. Contact Jennifer jennifer@sfxstl.org or Julie at julie@sfxstl.org with any questions! Our registration deadline is June 1st.

Faith Statements College Church Confirmation Class of 2024

As part of their preparation for receiving the sacrament of Confirmation our eighth-graders have written their Faith Statements. With these statements the students explain what faith means to them, and how God is a part of their life. We wish them well as they move forward on this next important step of their faith journey.

Confirmandi: Nora Crowe

Sponsor: Kennedy Washington

Saint: St. Francis of Assisi

God is to me as humans are to dogs. When I come home my dogs immediately get really happy, start wagging their tails, running around and trying to find something to give me. I'm guessing that's how humans are to God. As humans we take care of our dogs. We give them food, water, a place to stay and so much more. God created the earth along with everything in it so he gave us the resources we need to survive. We clean up after our dogs because they cannot do that for themselves. When we go to reconciliation God washes us of our sins and gives us a clean slate. So what does faith mean to me? Faith means I know I can rely on God. He might not always be there to keep a close eye on us but if we chew up one of the fancy pillows, he will come back and help us pick up the feathers.

Confirmandi: Maggie Crowe

Sponsor: Stacey Corzine

Saint: St. Roch

God is like the sun.

My faith is like the weather.

When the sun is out, I feel God's warmth.

When it is cloudy and cold, I know God is there behind the clouds.

At night God reflects on the moon.

God is always with me.

Confirmandi: Ellie Warner

Sponsor: Laura Stanton

Saint: St. Anthony

I have gone to RE for years. My mother made me go. I never liked it all that much, but I went. I also never thought about why she made me go. Now, looking back on it, I realize it wasn't just about faith and religion. She wanted me to go so I could learn how to think. About life in general, but also day to day actions. Going to RE for all those years gave me a compass. I don't feel completely lost, because it taught me to think big picture. But I also don't feel that I know exactly where to go and what to do, which I think is a good kind of lost, for right now. That allows me the freedom to try new things, but what I've learned in RE gives me a jumping off point, and a place to come back to. To me, faith is about more than just God. It is about how you conduct your life. Faith is about always striving to do the right thing and trying to be a good person. Nobody is perfect, but everyone should always try to be better.

Confirmandi: Jonah Ebenhoh

Sponsor: Grace Ebenhoh

Saint: St. Matthew

Throughout my life, I have discovered and picked up new pieces of my faith, each with a slightly different use and meaning to me. The most prominent place where I have found God in my life is in nature, where I feel a strong sense of being free. This seems to free my imagination, and being outdoors gives me so many different ways to build, imagine, and marvel at the beauty of nature. I associate all of these things with God. When I am out in the woods, I usually pick up a stick to use as a walking stick, and after a little while I might find a new one that works better than the one I have, or I keep using both. Just like picking up and collecting different walking sticks, I have begun to pick up and collect different pieces of my connection to God

As I have begun to grow and search for God in new places, I have found that connection more and more in church, in the wonder of so many different people speaking together in belief of something bigger than themselves. As I continue to learn, grow, and strive to find God in new places, I hope that I will continue to pick up new pieces of faith, just like picking up different walking sticks, each looking a little different, but all coming from the same source.

Confirmandi: Noëlle de Foy

Sponsor: Lisa D'Souza

Saint: St. Cecilia

My parents are very religious people, and I've always somewhat envied them for how easily they seem to trust in God. I love the idea of God, how He can be someone (or something) that will always comfort me. However, faith has always been difficult for me to grasp or trust in. This year, I've discovered more ways to be faithful due to my friends and family. I hope that in years to come. I will be able to attain the level of faith that my parents and their families have been able to achieve.

Confirmandi: Andrew Konradi

Sponsor: Keith Konradi

Saint: Blessed Denis of the Nativity

“God is really real/When you really really need Him” is part of a song called God is Really Real by AJR. I think this statement is true because some people only pray when they need something. It could be luck on a test or job interview, good health for a family member, or something else, but they want that hope, that reassurance that it will go their way. This is why hope is so powerful. It is used by almost everyone all the time. It is amazing, universal, important, and, as Emily Dickinson puts it, “‘Hope’ is the thing with feathers.”

Confirmandi: Hugh Taylor

Sponsor: Jack Taylor

Saint: St. Nicholas of Myra

My image of God is one that I came up with all by myself, something I came up with. Personally I view god as a being without physical form, a being only existent through what it has done and how people view it. This image of God I think helps me view God without bias. This view allows for a unique perspective on God's words. I don't see the teachings as strict instructions but as advice, not how we need to act but how God thinks people should act. God doesn't care how we act, but like everyone else, God has opinions. Like I said before God only exists through our life experiences and views. I feel this because when I'm with people I like and doing things I enjoy I feel more connected to the world, while when doing something that is new to me I feel very disconnected from my surroundings. When with people I like I feel very in the moment, even when the stuff I'm doing isn't the best thing ever. Being with people I like is where I feel a connection to God.

Confirmandi: Zora Weeden-Smith

Sponsor: Jason K. Weeden

Saint: St. Rita of Cascia

To me faith is believing in something you can't see, faith gives people hope when they are in need. For me faith is more than religion, it's something I can look back to to get help. Sometimes I get really stressed and I just need to sit and think. Or if I'm really sad and I'm struggling I know I can just sit and pray. Faith is not without difficulty, sometimes it's hard to not feel doubt or uncertainty. And yet at times of confusion our faith grows. When you believe in someone you believe that they can do something and it's the same for faith you have to believe that God can help you.

Confirmandi: Cece Langenberg

Sponsor: Meg Vespa

Saint: St. Cecilia

When I think about God, I think about nature; that everything knows what to do and how to survive on its own.

I also think about the saying “everything happens for a reason,” because if something happens, and it might not be what you wanted, then maybe God was preventing something else from happening, or maybe God had a different path in mind. It helps to know that God is always there in my life.

Confirmandi: Dominic Grebel

Sponsor: Jack Linhares

Saint: St. Dominic Savio

God is to me as a road is to a car; this is the way that I approach my faith, a topic that many, including myself, find to be extremely broad and hard to fully explain. I think this way about my personal faith because I feel that I am able to more smoothly travel through life and life experiences due to a guiding figure that gives me multiple paths to follow and flattens the ground beneath me to travel without discomfort. At times, the road can be bumpy and the path uncertain, but I know that I will eventually reach my destination if I am determined and grateful for what I have. Another example of God is a parent teaching their child. A parent’s goal is to help their child better navigate life by providing invaluable advice and skills. While God cannot make decisions for you, similar to how parents cannot make decisions for their child, they can give others the tools needed to thrive, and be a mentor and role model for the person in times of need, enabling the person to persevere through the difficult time.

Confirmandi: Stella Talsky

Sponsor: Lara Talsky

Saint: St. Valentine

For me, I've been viewing my confirmation all wrong. At the beginning of this year I was overly excited to begin really being active in the church and believing fully. I told myself I'd read the Bible and go to youth group and make all these Christian friends. But that didn't happen. I didn't read the Bible or join youth group or make tons of new Christian friends. Instead I got further than I ever have in my faith. I'd go to church class and answer questions without really knowing the answers for myself. I'd go to my public school and speak up for Christianity without really feeling sure in it. Suddenly, I was asking myself everyday if God was real. I wanted to believe more than anything, I'd give my life to believe. But I couldn't. So, I started asking my family, “How do you know that God is real?” But any person in faith can't really answer it. Because no matter how many times you use evidence or feelings, it always comes down to faith. So, I went on YouTube. Without even typing anything in, videos appeared talking about Christianity. It made me want to believe and it gave me more proof. And well, I'll be honest, I still don't fully believe. I'm not saying that to be pessimistic or against Christianity, it's just the truth. I'm not sure. But I'm starting to see that that's okay. Confirmation is about the start of your faith journey, it's only the beginning. And so I opened my eyes. I got a Bible for my birthday, so I started reading. I went to my cousins youth group and started worshiping. I found the faith in my friends and I prayed. So no, I'm still not sure. But that's okay because it's a journey, and I'm diving right in!

Confirmandi: Brady Clark

Sponsor: Noah Clark

Saint: St. Ignatius of Loyola

Faith to me is not very easy to explain. It's like your closest friend that you can tell any secret, or family member you can rely on when you're having a problem, or a pet that you can turn to to cheer you up. But it's different because friends can grow apart, and pets can pass away. But faith is different. It's maybe the only thing in this world that, no matter what choice you make, how bad you mess up, or even if you think you screwed up so badly beyond the point of forgiveness, it's always there. It will always be there for you to support you in your highest moments, and it will stay with you to bring you back on your feet in your lows. Faith gives you a willingness to do better, and to be better. It allows you to know that you are loved in God's image, but inspires you to improve from who you were yesterday. If you think you've lost it when you chose to do wrong, know that it will always be there when you find it again. Even when you think no one will be there for you, your faith is there no matter what. It is steady, unrelenting, and always there if you need something to lean on. It is a way out of tough times. Faith to me is a light in the darkness; a flame that never burns out.

Confirmandi: Graham Angelette

Sponsor: Ben Angelette

Saint: St. Joseph, Protector of the Holy Family

“As water reflects one’s face, so one’s life reflects the heart” (Proverbs 27:8)

I believe in God because I think that there has to be a point to life. If we lived just for such a relatively short time and had nothing else, we would have nothing to live for. I think there has to be a reason we are here, and I believe there has to be something that put us on earth. I believe in the Catholic God specifically because I understand their beliefs and they seem to me more relatable. I think that there was something miraculous in the Bible and that the lessons that it holds are worth trying to understand. I believe in Jesus because he really existed and inspired so many people to follow him that I should trust their judgment and have faith in Him. I think the quote above is an accurate representation of where I am today. Water is not a perfect mirror, as it can be distorted, but it generally shows you what you are. I think that my faith is not fully formed, and may take a while to be able to see, but eventually the water will be still enough to tell.

Confirmandi: Jeremiah Tinko

Sponsor: Mary Collar

Saint: St. Sebastian

Confirmandi: Maria Wansong

Sponsor: Beth Michalek

Saint: St. Gemma Umberta Maria Galgani

Whenever I think of God and Jesus, I imagine someone who wants people to be their best self therefore teaches people how to become their best self. I feel like I can find God in my life during times whenever I am having a hard time and also the times whenever I am enjoying myself. I am closest to God during times whenever I am praying or in mass. I also feel closer to God whenever I am not so busy and I have time to reflect on myself. Therefore, I want to be confirmed Catholic because I want to learn more about God and Jesus, and I want to learn how to be my best self.

Confirmandi: Otto Martin

Sponsor: Michael Vassel

Saint: St. Ignatius of Loyola

I am excited for my confirmation because I want to express my faith and beliefs as a young man in Catholicism. This year, I have thought a lot about my faith, and my educational and spiritual goals. My first high school choice was SLUH, and during my acceptance interview, they asked me why I wanted to go to SLUH. I told them that I wanted an elite education, but also one that explored my faith. I like the idea of finding God in my community, in my activities, in my daily life, and in everything I experience. And I really like SLUH’s motto of AMDG—living for the greater glory of God. I am ready to confirm this idea as the way I want to study, perform, compete in sports, and live my life.

Confirmandi: Thomas Strong

Sponsor: Michael Strong

Saint: St. Vincent Ferreri

As a Catholic who loves mountain biking, I can feel close to God in the mountains. Whether it be when jumping off a big drop or sliding thru a turn I can truly enjoy all of God’s gifts while on the trail. I can experience and see God at work through my experiences, like competing at the Tennessee Nationals Enduro race this year. Even when I think I can’t do a challenging part of the course, I believe in God and see he has given me gifts and talents that help me persevere and finish the race. I’m reminded of the parallels between my journey on the bike and my journey of faith. Just as I must overcome obstacles and challenges on the trail, I encounter obstacles in life that test my strength and endurance. The parallel lines he has drawn can show me my path and, with my faith I’m able to navigate through these challenges, trusting in God’s plan for my life ahead of me.

Circle of Creation Green Corner

The Circle of Creation Committee was pleased that many were able to join us on April 14 for a 15-minute clip from the video "Seeding Change: The Power of Conscious Commerce" and the fruitful discussion led by Sr. Cheryl Kemner OSF, Coordinator of Franciscans For the Earth.

If you would like to view the entire 50-minute video, go to www.seedinchangefilm.com/purchase to see how you can watch for free or on your favorite streaming platform.

One way you can recycle the solar glasses you used for eclipse watching is through Astronomers Without Borders [Solar Glasses Recycling and Distribution](http://www.astronomerswithoutborders.org/programs/solar-glasses-distribution#collection_node).

[astronomerswithoutborders.org/programs/solar-glasses-distribution#collection_node].

A local collection partner is Schillers Camera at 9240 Manchester Rd 63144. You may also turn in solar glasses into a bag held by an usher before or after the Saturday evening and the Sunday morning Masses. There is also a bag for solar glasses in the Adult Faith Room in the Parish Center.

A provocative article regarding Earth Day (Every day is Earth Day), "Celebrate Earth Day by Skipping the 'Green Consumerism' Fads" by Stephanie Feldstein is provided through [Sierra](http://Sierra.org), the magazine of the Sierra Club.

But for things you DO need to buy, you may find help concerning which companies to support via your purchases through [Better World Shopper](http://betterworldshopper.org) [betterworldshopper.org].

You can also put your money where your values are. This article from Project Drawdown may help. "[SAVING \[FOR\] THE PLANET](http://drawdown.org/publications/saving-for-the-planet)" [drawdown.org/publications/saving-for-the-planet].

OPEN SPACE STL offers [community stewardship volunteer opportunities](http://community.stlouis.gov/stlouis/Community-Opportunities/Community-Stewardship-Volunteer-Opportunities) through the metro area. [volunteer.openspacestl.org]

[Revamp the Riverfront](http://RevamptheRiverfront.org) clean-up events are to prevent plastic pollution from entering the Mighty Mississippi and eventually our oceans! [<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/>]

The next volunteer event is Wednesday, May 29, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM at Mural Mile at 601 S Leonor K. Sullivan Blvd 63102.

Public Electronics Recycling events. See the schedule of events at mrc-recycling.squarespace.com/electronics-recycling-events

May 4, 9:00 AM to Noon
10333 Clayton Court Drive
Frontenac, MO, 63131 | hosted by Redkey Realty Frontenac

Thursday, May 9, 9:00 AM to Noon
12777 Olive Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63141 | hosted by St. Louis Realtors

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.

May 4th-5th

May 4
5:15 pm Fr. Redding, S.J.

May 5
8:00 am Fr. McMahon S.J.
10:30 am Fr. McMahon, S.J.

April 11th-12th

April 20
5:15 pm Fr. McMahon, S.J.
April 21
8:00 am Fr. Redding, S.J.
10:30 am Fr. Redding, S.J.

This Sunday's Scripture Readings

First Reading:
Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

Responsorial Psalm:
Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4

Second Reading:
1 Jn 4:7-10

Gospel:
John 15:9-17

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.



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