

# St. Francis Xavier Parish

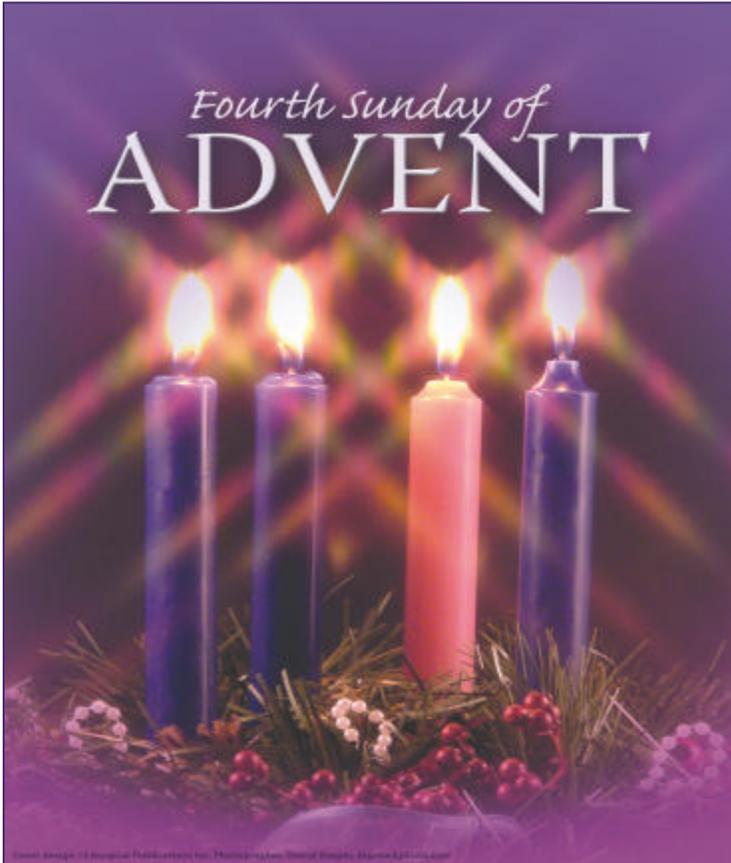
2618 Seneca Street, Saint Joseph, MO 64507

Directed by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood Since 1890

The mission of St. Francis Xavier Parish is to encounter Jesus Christ and bring Him to all through Vibrant Liturgy, Lifelong Christian Formation and Social Outreach.



SATURDAY—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19 — 20, 2020



**9:30AM MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY**



**WILL BE LIVESTREAMED  
ON YOUTUBE.**

**GO TO OUR WEBPAGE: SFX1891**

**(This Mass can also be viewed at a later time/date.)**

## PARISH STAFF

Fr. Joe Miller, C.P.P.S., Pastor

Fr. Lac Pham, C.P.P.S., Associate Pastor

Fr. Bill Walter, C.P.P.S.

Parish Administrator . . . . . John Lutz  
Secretaries . . . . . Ruth White/Pam Evans  
Stewardship/Development Director . . . . . John Lutz  
Music Director . . . . . Paul Hart  
R.C.I.A. Coordinator . . . . . June Stancliff  
S.F.X. School Principal . . . . . Darin Pollard  
School of Religion Coordinator . . . . . Nyla Bitunjac  
Youth Ministry Director . . . . . Janey Johnston  
Bulletin Editor . . . . . Pam Evans

### Pastoral Council:

Larry Runyan: President, Brian Ziesel: Vice President,  
Beth Sterns: Secretary, Stephanie Wegenka,  
Joe Marmaud, Roberta Seevers, Adam Miljavac,  
Pat Dillon, Sherrel Coats.

Diocesan Victim's Advocate. . . . . Kathleen Chastain  
816-392-0011 or [victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org](mailto:victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org)  
Ombudsman . . . . . Joseph Crayon (816) 812-2500

## MASSES

**SATURDAY: (SUNDAY VIGIL MASS) 4:00pm**

**SUNDAY: 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am, 7:00pm**

(3rd Sunday each month 7:00pm Mass is in Vietnamese)

9:30am Mass is streamed online at: SFX1891

**WEEKDAYS: 7:00am and 8:15am**

**SATURDAY: 8:00am**

## RECONCILIATION

**SATURDAYS: 11:00am and 3:00pm (or by appointment)**



## PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION:

**PARISH OFFICE: 816-232-8449, (Fax) 816-364-5174**

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**

8:00am—4:00pm, Monday—Friday. Closed on holidays.

**SCHOOL: 816-232-4911**

**HOUSE OF BREAD: 816-671-9473**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: 816-689-4053**

**BULLETIN: [bulletin@sfxstjoe.com](mailto:bulletin@sfxstjoe.com)**

**WEBSITE: [www.sfxstjoe.com](http://www.sfxstjoe.com)**

**EMAIL: [parishoffice@sfxstjoe.com](mailto:parishoffice@sfxstjoe.com)**

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AT: [facebook.com/sfxstjoe](https://facebook.com/sfxstjoe)**

**S**aint Francis Xavier Parish has been under the spiritual leadership of the Society of the Precious Blood since its beginning in 1890. As a Catholic community, we stand ready to serve all those who are in need. We value in a special way the handing on of faith and tradition through our Parish School, Religious Education and Christian Formation. We welcome everyone. New members are encouraged to call and register at the Rectory.

**BAPTISM -**  
Parental preparation classes offered throughout the year.

**MATRIMONY -**  
Preparation for engaged couples. Nine months notification before marriage date.

**R.C.I.A.-**  
Meets weekly from September through Pentecost. Inquiries are welcome year-round.

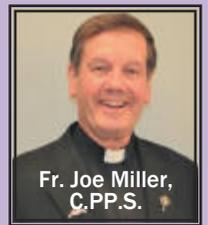
**COUNSELING -**  
Available to individuals and families. Make appointments through the Parish Office.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK -**  
Due to the coronavirus pandemic a priest will respond on a case by case basis.

**HOSPITAL VISITS -**  
If you have a family member or friend in the hospital who would like to be visited by a parish priest, please call the Rectory. Due to privacy laws, the hospital cannot tell the priests who is in the hospital.



## This Week's Reflection - December 20, 2020



Fr. Joe Miller,  
C.P.P.S.

Dear St. Francis Xavier Parish Family,

May preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus be a time of grace for us, our families, and our parish.

It is interesting that the Sunday before the birthday of Jesus, we hear about the angel, Gabriel, going to Mary and letting her know that she was to be the mother of Jesus. This did not make a lot of sense to Mary since she had no relations with a man. Mary questioned what the angel was telling her. This lets me know that it is not bad to question God when we are truly searching for the truth. Mary wanted to understand what the angel was telling her.

What the angel told her was hard for her to understand, but she did trust in the words of the angel. She accepted what was asked of her. Her response was; *"I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."* This was her response in faith and trust in God. She was a great example for us as we journey in life. How do we respond to God when God calls us to something that seems impossible? We heard that nothing will be impossible for God. May God be our strength as we continue to prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth.

Love and prayers,

*Fr. Joe*

P.S. May you have a blessed Christmas and joy-filled 2021.

**If someone is in need of ANOINTING OF THE SICK** (in the hospital or at home), call the Parish Office. Due to the coronavirus pandemic a priest will respond on a case by case basis.

### HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

The Society was established by a man later to be known as St. Gaspar del Bufalo on August 15, 1815 in Giano, Italy. As a small child in Rome, where he was born in 1786, Gaspar had a couple of very serious illnesses. During the second illness, his mother placed him under the protection of St. Francis Xavier. After his recovery and while still a small child, Gaspar became imbued with devotion to St. Francis and developed a strong desire to become a missionary himself. He became a student at a seminary and by 1808 was ordained a priest. In the following years, his spirituality increased after time spent imprisoned and in exile, separation from his family and serious illness. Pope Pius VII asked him to devote his life to conducting missions and Gaspar agreed. The idea of founding a mission organization to work toward renewal within the Church developed in his mind. After a retreat that he and his friends made in 1815, during the days preceding the Feast of the Assumption, Father Gaspar established the "Congregation of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood." For the rest of his life, Gaspar was involved in preaching missions and in opening mission houses in and around Rome. He died in 1837 after many years of suffering and more than a year of illness. He was canonized on June 12, 1954. In January, 1844 Father Francis de Sales Brunner, accompanied by seven other priests, one brother, and six students opened an American mission in Ohio. The Society grew rapidly and by 1864 its members were actively engaged in many parts of the United States. They first came into Northwest Missouri in 1870. The Society of the Precious Blood Priests have been here at St. Francis Xavier Parish since it's inception. (More in future bulletins.)

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

At Sunday Mass, Catholics hear \_\_\_\_\_ reading from the Bible.

- a) one      b) ten      c) four      d) zero

\*\* Find the answer in this week's bulletin.

**VOCATION PRAYER**

Father, you call us this advent season to remember we have only one Savior. Give us the grace to pray daily to know and accept the mission of love you prepared for us before we were born. We believe you love us completely despite our selfish reluctance to give ourselves in prayer to you. Give us the will to cast ourselves into your arms and share our hearts with you. We believe you will prepare us for our mission and will give us the strength to do it.

In your providence, gracious God, open the hearts of young men to seek admission into your enriching Precious Blood Community. They, in turn, will be filled with the energy of Jesus' blood, going out with courage to imbue your people with his love to live their own vocations of merciful service filled and energized with the blood of Christ.

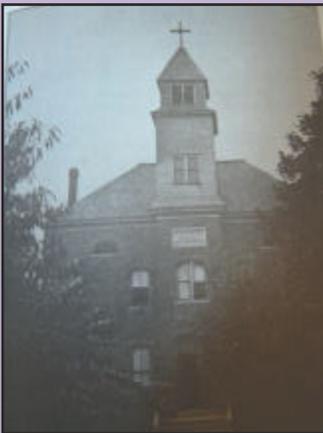
**VOCATION CRUCIFIX**

Sunday, December 20, 2020 at 9:30am Mass  
Paul & Jenyl Hart family



No Vocation Cross on Christmas or New Years

**St. Francis Xavier Parish  
was organized September 17, 1890**



The first building served as the church, school and rectory. It was dedicated June 14, 1891. In the beginning the parish was entrusted to the Society of the Precious Blood, and still remains under its care today.

When parish life began, 40 families composed the church membership. In 1990, when we celebrated our 100th Anniversary, the parish included approximately 1,500 families and 3,000 individuals.

In 1922, Rev. Seraphim Kunkler, C.P.P.S. added a rectory to the parish property. When the new building was completed, the Sisters of the Precious Blood moved into the former rectory rooms, to teach in the parish school.



Shared from our 100th Anniversary Book (1990)

**MASS SERVICES AND INTENTIONS  
WEEK OF DECEMBER 21 — DECEMBER 27, 2020**

**MONDAY, December 21**

*Saint Peter Canisius,  
Priest and Doctor of the Church*

7:00am Joseph and Peter  
8:15am Joseph Kalinowski

**TUESDAY, December 22**

7:00am Bill Whetsell  
8:15am John Kluska

**WEDNESDAY, December 23**

*Saint John of Kanty, Priest*  
7:00am Elizabeth Steffens  
8:15am Jewell Kluska

**THURSDAY, December 24**

4:00pm Christmas Memorials  
6:00pm Christmas Memorials  
Midnight Christmas Memorials

**FRIDAY, December 25**

*The Nativity of the Lord*  
9:30am Christmas Memorials

**SATURDAY, December 26**

*Saint Stephen, The First Martyr*  
8:00am Mary Pat Wilde  
4:00pm Dennis Miller

**SUNDAY, December 27**

*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*  
7:30am For the Parish  
9:30am Ted Hauser  
11:30am Taylor Lorenz  
7:00pm Joseph and Agnes

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE YEAR 2020**

Just a reminder . . . Any contributions to the Church must be received in the office no later than December 31, 2020 in order to be included on your tax statement for the year 2020 for tax purposes.

**2019 CALENDARS ARE HERE!**

Pick one up in Gaspar Hall near the church doors. These calendars are gifted to us each year from Heaton-Bowman-Smith & Sidenfaden Chapel.  
*We are most grateful for their kindness and generosity.*

*Jesus  
is the reason for the season*



**RCIA PROCESS**

(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

We are on break and will return on January 6th. If you have questions, please call the Parish Office at 232-8449.

**MEN OF FAITH**

We are on Christmas/New Years break for now. When we start-up again on January 9th we will be reviewing videos from Bishop Barron and other sources and discussing their ideas in small groups. We begin at 6:30am with breakfast.

*We hope you will join us in January 2021!!*

**NEW SCRIP CARDS . . .**

**\$25 Fredmys    \$25 Panda Express    \$10 Sonic**

(During the pandemic cards are not sold after Masses.) They are available for purchase in the Parish Office: 8:00am—4:00pm, Monday thru Friday.

c) 4. Selections from the Old Testament, the Psalms, the New Testament and the Gospels are normally proclaimed at every Sunday Mass.

**COLLECTION FOR THE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 12–13**

will be in next week's bulletin, due to early submission dates.



**SCRIP SALES**

will be in future bulletin.

If you are unable to return for weekend Mass, we ask you to please mail in your contribution, or go to the website: [sfxstjoe.weshareonline.org](http://sfxstjoe.weshareonline.org) and click **Make A Donation.**

Choose One Time Donation or Recurring Donation, pick an amount and enter your info.

You can also scan the bar code to make your contribution.



**OPEN DOOR FOOD KITCHEN**

Since COVID has hit our community, there have been changes at the Open Door Food Kitchen. We are not able to serve the food to the patrons. Staff at the Food Kitchen do that job. Going forward, we would ask that you give money instead of food items. Please make your check out to SFX, and in the memo area write that it is for the Food Kitchen. That way, you may use it as a deduction too.

*Thank you for all of the support you have given us in the past and in the future.*

**THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER**

**Sunday, December 20**

5:00pm Advent Vespers in Church

**Monday, December 21**

7:00pm Pastoral Council meeting in Parish Center Conference Room

**Tuesday, December 22**

8:30am—10:30am House of Bread Open

**Wednesday, December 23**

7:00pm Reconciliation Service in Church

**Thursday, December 24**

House of Bread CLOSED  
Parish Office CLOSING AT NOON

**Friday, December 25**

Parish Office CLOSED

**Saturday, December 26**

House of Bread CLOSED

**Sunday, December 27** — no events scheduled



**DO YOU NEED FIREWOOD?**

If so, call Joe Hamera at 816-261-6325. Cost is \$65 for a pick-up load.

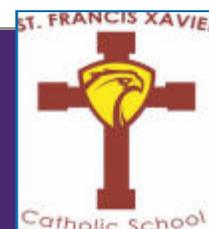
All proceeds from the sale of this firewood will be donated to St. Francis Xavier Parish.





**St. Francis Xavier School—*The Difference is Inside!***

- **Guided by Christ**, we strive to become the best we can be.
- **Formed with Family**, we carry on the traditions and legacy of St. Francis Xavier Parish.
- **Engaged through Innovation** our students bring about a better future.
- **Children are Empowered** to achieve beyond expectations.
- **Called to Lead**, our students serve our community, nation and world.



Parents, with time on your hands over the Christmas break and maybe a little frustration from too much together time, here is an opportunity for you from a well respected source:



The pandemic has created the need for many resources to be delivered remotely. Several years ago, we developed a webinar version of our parenting curriculum that was intended to give busy, overwhelmed parents the option to take our highly effective parenting curriculum online. This *Love and Logic Parenting Online* webinar is available to support parents with skills that can help during this particularly demanding time. Parents will learn the following—and much, much more:

**How to end arguing and manipulation**

When parents can remain calm and respond to arguing with simple phrases, such as “I love you too much to argue” or “What did I say?” their children begin to learn that arguing and manipulating does not pay.

**Setting limits without waging war**

As many parents discover, setting unenforceable limits with kids often creates more problems than solutions. Learn the secret of setting limits that are enforceable by never telling a stubborn kid what to do—instead, only describe what you are willing to do or allow.

**How to avoid power-struggles while helping their children learn to make good choices**

Many of the power-struggles parents find themselves pulled into start when they try to ensure that their kids don't make mistakes. Small mistakes and their associated consequences help kids develop the wisdom to avoid making larger ones later on.

**Tools for neutralizing defiance**

Parents can side-step power-struggles by responding to statements like “you can't make me” by saying, “I'm going to have to do something about this...but not now. We'll talk later.” Delaying consequences gives parents time to calm down and consider effective consequences.

**How to replace anger and frustration with empathy**

When we provide empathy before consequences our kids are forced to think about their poor decisions rather than our anger. That's what really makes learning happen!

In order to help parents during the pandemic, our *Love and Logic Parenting Online* webinar is available for half price and can be ordered online or by calling us at 800-338-4065.

Thanks for reading! Our goal is to help as many families as possible.

Dr. Charles Fay

View the webpage at: <https://www.mynewsletterbuilder.com/email/newsletter/1414883338>

## YOUTH MINISTRY and CONFIRMATION CLASS

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** — (for youth entering 9th through 12th grade.)

We are on break until January 2021.

We will meet Sunday, January 10, 2021 for a Zoom meeting from 3:30pm—4:30pm

(Keep up with posts on the 2021 Confirmation Facebook page.)

**YOUTH GROUP** — On break until School starts again in January 2021.

*The Beauty of Christmas is not in the present,  
but in His presence. Matthew 1:23*



Janey Johnston, Dir. of Youth Ministry  
816-261-9585,  
youthminister@sfxstjoe.com

## APOSTLES VS. DISCIPLES

**Question:** What is the difference between apostles and disciples

**Answer:** When we look at the gospel accounts of the life of Jesus, we see two special titles applied to his followers: apostles and disciples. At first glance, we might think that these two words are interchangeable, but when we look at what each one means, we quickly see that the evangelists were using them very specifically. When we look more closely, we see that while Jesus had many disciples, the group of apostles was much more limited and referred to Jesus' closest collaborators.

The word apostle essentially means "one who is sent forth" or, as we might think of it today, "an ambassador." The group of apostles — sometimes called the Twelve — included those twelve men who formed Jesus' inner circle (see Mark 3:13-14; Luke 6:12-13). It was this group that received the gift of the Holy Spirit and who were sent out by Jesus with the special mission of forgiving sins on that first Easter Sunday (see John 20:19-23). In time, the Catholic Tradition also recognize Saint Paul and Saint Barnabas as apostles, recognizing that they also shared the mandate of going out in the Lord's name to pray, to bless, and to preach. In 2016, during the Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis raised the liturgical celebration of Saint Mary Magdalene to the rank of feast, recognizing that she also received a special mandate to proclaim the good news of Jesus' resurrection to the Eleven, becoming the "apostle to the apostles." In a particular way, the bishops continue the mission of the apostles in our own time.

When we think of the word disciple, we see that it has a very different meaning. Rather than referring to those who were sent out to carry on the mission of Jesus, disciple literally means "student" or, more specially, an "apprentice learner." The task of the disciple is to learn and integrate into their lives the teachings, values, and way of life of their master teacher. Although a disciple might be called on to explain or represent aspects of their life, in light of the teachings they receive from this master teacher, Christian discipleship is ultimately about living our lives with faith and integrity, guided by the life and mission of Jesus, our Master Teacher. The call to discipleship is the common vocation of all Christians.

## CHRISTMAS



Catholic Charities KCSJ would like to wish the blessings of the season on all parishioners, families, and friends of the diocese. Although this holiday season may look a little different due to separations caused by the pandemic, we know that we all still have much to be grateful for. It is through your generosity that we were able to meet the needs of so many throughout this challenging year. May this Christmas season be filled with joy, love, peace, and family. For information about our programs please contact Nancy Butters, Parish Outreach Manager at 816-659-8266 or [nbutters@ccharities.com](mailto:nbutters@ccharities.com).

## MIR House of Prayer



We are in need of volunteers for Eucharistic Adoration for the following:

2:00am Thursday, 3:00am Sunday, 7:00am Monday, 5:00pm and 7:00pm Saturday

If interested or you have questions, please call Nyla Bitunjac at 816-364-3449

Eucharistic adoration is a practice in which the Blessed Sacrament is exposed to and adored by the faithful. When this exposure and adoration is constant (24 hours a day), it is called Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration and it is accomplished by volunteers.

**JOB OPPORTUNITY**

The St. Gianna Early Childhood Center has an immediate opening for a full-time Preschool Lead Teacher position. The teacher fulfills the mission of the Catholic Church by planning, guiding, and evaluating the learning process of the students. Please contact Lisa Puett, Child Care Director, at 233-9794, if you are interested in the position or know of someone who would be interested in joining the St. Gianna ECC team at Cathedral of St. Joseph.

**LIVE THE LITURGY — Inspiration for the week**

Does the world realize that it is waiting? As we go about all of the busyness of our lives and entertain our distractions, there are many holes and gaps in our lives that need to be filled. We are always wanting more, but not really sure what that “more” needs to be. Fulfillment, happiness, contentment, and true satisfactions are fleeting occurrences and often come to us in illusive ways. What we think is the ultimate fix to our anxious emptiness really is only a fancy trend that we entertain. The world does not realize any more today than it did over two thousand years ago that it is waiting for a Savior. We need a Savior. We need to see and embrace the God who has broken into history and become one with us. It is this union of God and man that sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals, and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. The world does not know how truly lost it is. Do you realize how lost you are and that the One you need most is here among us and within your grasp?

**EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP — RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS****The Journey**

Advent comes along every year and will continue to do so until Jesus returns. As this season draws to a close, we can each ask ourselves, “Am I now any better a disciple of Jesus Christ and more of a steward of all my gifts than before the Advent season started?” I have been on this earth for 40+ years. I have had 40+ Advents to draw closer to God and to work on taking more seriously my baptismal call. Some have gone better than others, but I would like to think my spiritual life progressed at least a small amount during each of them.

Conversion is a process. Stewardship is about a way of living and it is about more than simply being generous when a situation calls for it. Stewardship and conversion go hand-in-hand and we are always moving closer to holiness in Jesus Christ. Living in this way takes practice and commitment. If this Advent didn’t go as you had hoped, remember is not really an end. It is just another step along your journey.

This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Are you in need of car repair, home repair or remodeling, lawn care, real estate agent, medical care, financial consulting, or . . . See the advertisers on the back of our bulletin for a variety of services. *We have a few new advertisers too!* These advertisers pay the cost of printing our bulletin each week. Please support them!

**The Diocese of Kansas City—St. Joseph is committed to combatting sexual abuse in the Church**

If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you *observe or suspect* sexual abuse:

1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.392.3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and
2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and
3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected *sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult* to the Diocesan Ombudsman at 816.812.2500.  
if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact Victim Advocate, Kathleen Chastain, at 816.392.0011 or [chastain@diocesekcsj.org](mailto:chastain@diocesekcsj.org) for more information.

**EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES:**

For the weekend of December 26/27 — Submissions were due by December 15th.

For the weekend of January 2/3, 2021 — Submissions are due by Monday, December 21st.

*Dedicated for children...*  
**Anthony J. Frizzo**  
 D.M.D., P.C.  
**(816) 279-3224**  
 3953 Sherman Ave. • St. Joseph, MO 64506

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