

St. Francis Xavier Parish

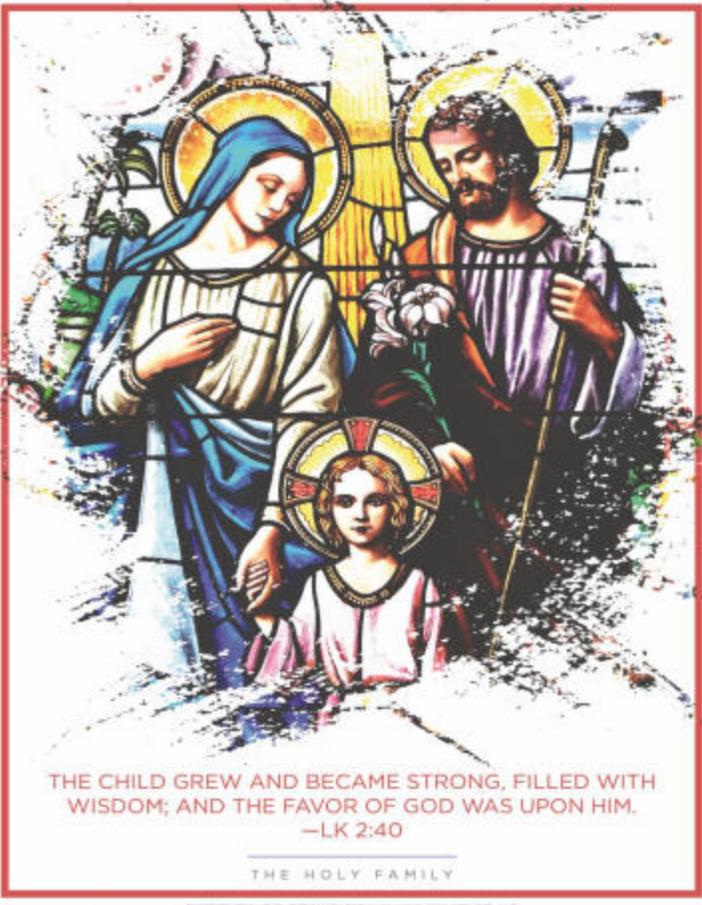
2618 Seneca Street, Saint Joseph, MO 64507

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 26 — 27, 2020



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
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
WEBSITE: www.sfxstjoe.com
EMAIL: parishoffice@sfxstjoe.com
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AT: facebook.com/sfxstjoe

FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

(Holy Day of Obligation)

MASS TIMES:

Thursday, December 31st — 4:00pm

Friday, January 1st — 9:30am

(We will not have Eucharistic Adoration
on First Friday, January 1st)

Saint 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 27, 2020

"Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so, shall your descendants be." Genesis 15: 5.

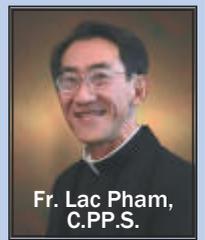
Dear St. Francis Xavier Parish Family,

(At the time of this writing, exactly one week before Christmas Eve, an elaborate nativity scene has already been set-up in the southeast corner of the church, thanks to the artistic skills and labor of the Bui Families. There are many stars but no figures on the scene, neither human nor beast. The full nativity scene, however, will gradually come together, but not complete until the celebration of the Epiphany, Feast of the Three Kings, January 3, 2021).

When we approach the nativity scene our eyes are drawn to the three main figures, the Infant Jesus, Mary and Joseph, who make up the Holy Family that we honor and celebrate. Whether standing or kneeling, side by side (preferred) or on each side of the manger, Mary's & Joseph's gaze is on the Infant Jesus whose gaze fixes on the gazers who gaze on him. The Scriptures we hear proclaimed today indicate that in this Holy Family, God fulfills God's covenant to us humans. This fulfillment takes place in a very simple, usual and ordinary human way – to be family with one another by being continually attentive to one another. The Holy Family did so without most of material accommodations that we today would demand as "essential" attachments (a warm/cool house, beds, nice clothing, TVs, cellphones, cars, ...) When this Holy Family is received as the model for ordinary family life the covenantal fulfillment flows forth into our families.

Saint Francis Xavier Parish Family is made up of families, not households. Some members may live in a household by oneself, but still are in familial connection with others living in other households. *"The family that prays together stays together, and if they stay together they will love one another as God has loved each one of them. And works of love are always works of peace."* (Mother Teresa) May we, old, young, female, male, married, or single, unveil the works of love when we come together at home to pray, and in church to celebrate the Eucharist and other sacraments; and when together doing apostolic activities may we uncover the works of peace.

Fr. Lac



If someone is in need of ANNOINTING 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.

PARISH REGISTRATION

If you are new to our Parish, we invite you to register:

- Introduce yourself to Fr. Joe, Fr. Lac or Fr. Bill before or after Mass or
- Come to the Parish Office (Monday—Friday 8:00am—4:00pm), or
- Go to our Parish Website at: www.sfxstjoe.com, click on the "About Us" Tab, then click on "Parish Registration."



QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

"For we do not have a _____ who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way ... So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help" (Hebrews 4:15-16).

- a) high priest b) police chief c) judge d) principal

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

VOCATION PRAYER

Jesus, you call us to remember always that you are our one and only Savior, and that you died and rose that we may have life with you, now and forever. Help us to understand that it is in being rooted in you that we find true meaning and purpose for our lives.

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

No Vocation Cross on Christmas or New Years

REST IN PEACE



Dee Paulich

September 16, 1927 — December 12, 2020



Margaret (Marge) Mary Sanders

June 1, 1940 — December 14, 2020
(Mother of Rob (Julie) Sanders, parishioners)

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL — THE EARLY YEARS

A few months after his arrival in July 1927, Fr. Meagher began working on plans for raising money for the new building, and in the following spring a drive for funds was undertaken. Fr. Meagher's methods were basically the ones previously encouraged by both Fr. Kunkler and Fr. Louis; and once again card parties, festivals, teas and bazaars became the pillars of parish development.

In late 1928 or early 1929, Fr. Meagher made a direct appeal to his parishioners for an increase in weekly contributions, attempting to institute a tithing plan. By January 1934, the building fund had reached a remarkable \$50,000, despite the fact that the Great Depression was already four years old.

A first step in the actualization of the building plan was the purchase of land to the west of the church. Next, the small white frame convent that had been built for a rectory was moved eastward to within six feet of the current rectory. Students were moved to a vacant fire station on the Northwest corner of 27th & Penn Streets and finally the old school—the original church/school built in 1890—1891 was razed.

A local architect and member of St. Joseph's Cathedral Parish, Everett Johns, had been chosen to design the building. Work began on the \$105,000 project on April 24, 1934. Three St. Joseph firms were awarded contracts: E.H. Lawhon Construction Company for general construction; Industrial Plumbing and Heating Company for plumbing; and Karrasch-Donly Electric Company for electrical work. (continued on page 4)

**MASS SERVICES AND INTENTIONS
WEEK OF DECEMBER 28 — JANUARY 3, 2021**

MONDAY, December 28

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

7:00am Living and Deceased Members of the Daughters of Isabella
8:15am Dominic and Maria

TUESDAY, December 29

Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr

7:00am Jewell Kluska
8:15am Joseph D. Vigliaturo

WEDNESDAY, December 30

7:00am William and Josephine Whetsell
8:15am Mildred Juhl

THURSDAY, December 31

Saint Sylvester I, Pope

7:00am Paul and Magdalene
8:15am Maria Opretli Bibiana
4:00pm Jerri McAsey

FRIDAY, January 1

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

9:30am Bernice Boutwell

SATURDAY, January 2

Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

8:00am Thanksgiving and Blessing for 50 Years of Marriage
4:00pm For the Parish

SUNDAY, January 3

Epiphany of the Lord

7:30am Kathryn Punzo
9:30am Living and Deceased Members of the Altar Society
11:30am Jeanette Juhl
7:00pm Anton and Anna

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.



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 Year's 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 Freddy's \$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.

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.



COLLECTION FOR THE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 12—13

	Weekend Mass Envelopes:	\$4,914.00
	Weekend Mass Plate:	993.00
	Weekend Kids' Collection:	—
	Utility Collection:	—
	Kiosk:	—
	TOTAL WEEKEND COLLECTION:	\$5,907.00

Total Parish Income from all sources for the week of December 6th: \$48,802.27
 (Contributions, Operational & Education (tuition) Income)

Church Roof Collection-week of Dec. 6: 265.00
Church Roof Collection To Date: \$194,085.00
 (Our goal for the roof is: **\$250,000.00**)

Religious Retirement Collection: \$842.00

SCRIP SALES

December 7—13: \$5,115.00
 (Amount SFX earned: \$210.61)



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 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.



THIS WEEK AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Sunday, December 27 — no events scheduled

Monday, December 28 — no events scheduled

Tuesday, December 29

8:30am—10:30am House of Bread Open

Wednesday, December 30 — no events scheduled

Thursday, December 31

8:30am—10:30am House of Bread Open

Friday, January 1

Parish Office CLOSED

Saturday, January 2

House of Bread CLOSED

Sunday, January 3 — no events scheduled

(continued from pg. 3) **SFX SCHOOL — THE EARLY YEARS**

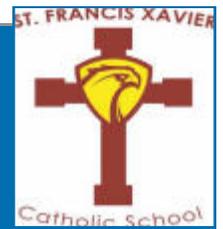
The contracts were signed by members of the building committee: Fr. Meagher, Leo Mallon, Felix Prawitz, John Downey & George Yunker. The first brick was laid by Herman Schumacher, who 44 years earlier had laid the brick for the original church. The new building, which was completed in late fall, was made of red pressed brick to match the church and rectory. Bedford stone was used for the trim. The structure included eight large classrooms, an auditorium with a seating capacity of 600 on the main floor and an additional 80 on the balcony, and an adjoining kitchen. The auditorium was also intended to serve as a gymnasium and included not only a stage, reflecting its primary purpose, but also equipment for basketball games. Inlets were installed for the motion picture projector for which it was hoped funds would be available at some later date. The basement was not intended for immediate use in the educational program, but it was planned so that its elevation would allow sufficient above ground lighting for classrooms, and in fact a small library was located there from the beginning. The central heating plant was placed there and also boys' and girls' restrooms.

Although the new building was put into use earlier, Thanksgiving Day, November 29, 1934, was chosen as an appropriate time for its dedication. Ceremonies commenced that day with a mid-morning Solemn High Mass; Fr. Meagher was the celebrant. Occupying places of honor in the sanctuary were Most Reverend Bishop Charles H. LeBlond of the St. Joseph Diocese, the Very Reverend Dr. Ignatius Wagner, C.P.P.S., Provincial of the Order of the Precious Blood, and the Reverend Augustine McNeill of Moberly, Missouri, who with the Provincial, served as the Bishop's chaplain. The Reverend Alfred Meyer, C.P.P.S., who had been the "beloved" assistant pastor at the church from 1926 until 1933, preached the sermon. (more in next week's bulletin)



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.



8th grade made ornaments and cards to share the holiday spirit with the senior citizens, whom they normally host for lunch.



Middle School took their science class outside to enjoy the goodness of God's creation and show their own creative and explosive concepts of volcanic eruptions.

Archery season has started.



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.

It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving. Mother Theresa

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

ROSARIES AS DECORATIONS

Question: I've seen people hang rosaries over the rear-view mirrors in their cars and a few of them wear them around their necks. Is it OK to do that?

Answer:

The practice of hanging a rosary or a religious medal off of the rearview mirror of one's car is a fairly popular custom across many cultures. While there is no particular rule approving or condemning this practice, we should also be mindful of the respect and reverence due to religious objects and devotional items (i.e. sacramentals).

An important point to consider would be the reason why one chooses to place a rosary or religious medal in our cars. Is it a reminder of the protection and intercession of Mary and the saints? Does it encourage us to be mindful of God's presence, even in such a mundane task as driving? Is it an outward expression of our more private devotions?

One advantage of having a rosary or religious medal in our cars is that it can also serve as a reminder to pray when we travel, asking for protection for ourselves and for other motorists or commuters. Certainly, invoking the protection and prayers of the saints is a wonderful practice for families, helping to reinforce our belief in the communion of saints and the care and concern we owe to one another.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Tragedy and disappointment are inevitable. What sees you through this? There will be challenges, changes, unexpected circumstances, interrupted plans, hurts, and injustices experienced by every human being at some point in their lives. We will be asked to adjust our plans, change course, and even encounter suffering and death. Where do we learn all the lessons we need to live life well? Some of them we learn along the way but much of what we bring to life, positive and negative, comes from our early beginnings, our families. This is our early world and provides the blueprint for how we see the bigger, more inclusive world, which unfolds before us.

Our families of origin can be sources of grace, heartache or a combination of both. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication, and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. They can also determine whether we have an accessible and healthy relationship with God. Many of life's challenges can literally bring us to our knees and require that we possess a strength of character that resides well beyond the superficialities of our world. At some point we will all need three coping gifts that can be given to us only by God: faith, hope, and love. Our families help us learn that we are not the ones responsible for their creation, but God!

Our experience of early family life colors all of our relationships and what we expect to achieve from life in general. Resolving conflicts, dealing with difficulty and suffering, celebrating accomplishments, prioritizing our needs, listening to God's call, understanding relationships, understanding disappointment, learning about the virtues and living a centered focused life are all lessons our families either succeed in teaching or do not. To succeed, as God has designed and ordered our world, is to discover his presence and then trust that Presence. The Holy Family can teach even the most dysfunctional family how to best use God's gifts of faith, hope, and love to find him and do his will. Their simple humble example is always before us, showing us the way. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

-
- a) high priest. Christ is our high priest who intercedes for us and offers himself as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Priests only stand in his place in *persona Christi*. All the power of the sacraments comes from Christ.

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.



CARES GRANT EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE — Catholic Charities received an award from the State of Missouri to provide housing and utility assistance to families in our diocese. Our goal was to reach a wide geographic area throughout our 27 counties and many of our parishes were willing to host these distributions. Thanks to your help we were able to distribute \$185K in direct assistance to community members and parishes. It is our plan to continue identifying available funds for this continual need. For information about our programs and services please contact Nancy Butters, Parish Outreach Manager at 816-659-8266 or 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.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP — RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Gift of Family

What a year it has been! How will we speak of these times a decade from now? As time goes by, our impressions of this past year will certainly change. How we feel today about dealing with a killer virus and all the chaos surrounding that is still fresh for all. I would assume that most of us right now are also holding those we love a little closer and hugging them a little harder. Hopefully, even if the fears and concerns of 2020 dissipate in the future, the way we feel toward our family should never leave us.

Stewardship is certainly about everything. God has given us so much, great and small, profound and common. One of the greatest gifts that all have received is family. Families take all shapes and sizes and some look very different than others. For some, family is a caretaker or temporary guardian. For others it is a friend when everyone else seems to have vanished. The bottom line is that, to quote a song from many years ago, “people need people.”

When God gave the world His only Son, the Incarnation did not come on a cloud or with a flash of light. He was born into a family. Jesus understood the gift of family all his life. Do you think that if having a family wasn't important God would have still included this in the plan of salvation?

As this year draws to a close, remember your stewardship many days begins and ends with the people closest to you. Don't misuse or take for granted this precious gift. God gives us gifts on purpose, even to His only begotten Son.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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 for more information.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE: For the weekend of January 2/3 — Submissions were due Monday, December 21.
BULLETIN DEADLINE: For The weekend of January 9/10 — Submissions are due by Sunday, January 3.

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