



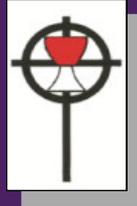
St. Francis Xavier Parish

2618 Seneca Street, Saint Joseph, MO 64507

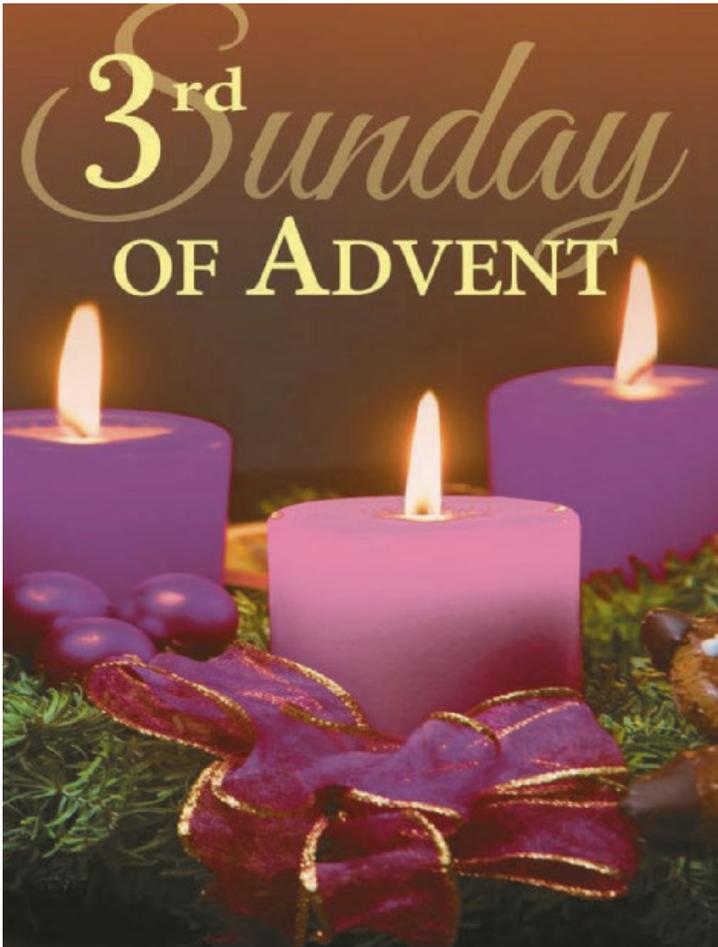
Directed by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood Since 1890

Mission:

*To encounter Jesus Christ and bring Him
to all through Vibrant Liturgy, Lifelong Christian Formation and Social Outreach*



SATURDAY—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 — DECEMBER 12, 2021



3rd Sunday OF ADVENT

Mass Schedule

Saint Francis Xavier Church

SATURDAY: (SUNDAY VIGIL MASS) 4:00pm

SUNDAY: 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:30 a.m.

—9:30 a.m. Mass is streamed online at: SFX1891

(You Tube)

—3rd Sunday each month 6:00 p.m. Mass is in
Vietnamese

WEEKDAYS: 7:00 a.m. and 8:15 a.m.

SATURDAY: 8:00 a.m.

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAYS: 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

(or by appointment)

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Al Ebach, C.P.P.S., Parochial Administrator

Fr. Lac Pham, C.P.P.S., Parochial Vicar

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

Parish Administrator John Lutz

Administrative Assistant, Bulletin Editor,

Parish Center Manager Ruth White

Secretary/Receptionist..... Jerri Ann Daly

Music Director Paul Hart

R.C.I.A. Coordinator June Stancliff

S.F.X. School Principal Darin Pollard

School of Religion Coordinator Nyla Bitunjac

Pastoral Council: Rachael Bergeron, Sherrel Coats, Pat Dillon,
Cayetana Maristela, Adam Miljavac, Roberta Seevers, Beth Sterns,
Brian Ziesel

Diocesan Victim's Advocate Kathleen Chastain

816-392-0011 or victimadvocate@diocesekcsj.org

Ombudsman Joseph Crayon (816) 812-2500

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: 816-364-3449

BULLETIN: bulletin@sfxstjoe.com

WEBSITE: www.sfxstjoe.com

EMAIL: parishoffice@sfxstjoe.com



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.

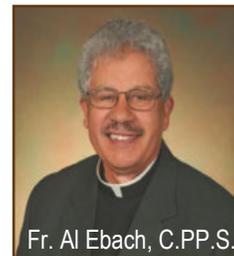
ANOINTING OF THE SICK

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.

"Rejoice in the Lord always, I shall say it again: rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4). Can you believe it is the third Sunday of Advent already? How is the season of Advent going for you? Moving kind of quickly, isn't it? And what is that we are to rejoice about on this third Sunday of Advent? We call this Sunday "Gaudete" Sunday; a time to rejoice because the Lord is very near. We can look at the word "near" in various ways: The Lord will be coming again as has been promised, and/or, the Lord's presence has been part of our lives this Advent season. Hopefully you have been able to invite the Lord into your lives these past two weeks.



Fr. Al Ebach, C.P.P.S.

By this time of Advent people may be experiencing some frustrations because there does not seem to be enough time to get everything done during this busy season. Do not lose hope because John the Baptist has alternate ways of rejoicing, which we hear in the gospel reading this weekend in Luke 3:10-18. In fact, the crowd in the gospel passage also seems a little frustrated, asking John: "What should we do?" John shares some alternate ways to rejoice: "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." You get the picture: whoever gives from the heart to those in need will be filled with joy and will recognize the presence of Immanuel (God-with-us).

We must remember that John's message of giving is more than walking out of a store, where we may have spent two hundred dollars or more. It is more than putting some left-over loose change into one of the red kettles, thinking we have done our part. In the gospel John is sharing that the approach of giving one of two coats to someone in need should be a sacrifice. For John, loose change in a red kettle would not qualify as sacrificial giving.

You may be asking the same question the crowd in the gospel asked: "What should we do?" Some of you may already have given a coat to the Knights to be handed out, or have made substantial contributions to the food pantry, or maybe have visited people who are sick or shut-in, but are still not joy-filled. Have you thought about sharing resources to assist a student at St. Francis School, whose parents may be falling behind in tuition due to hardships, contributing to the endowments established in the parish for that purpose, or sacrificial giving to the parish, or assisting in local social service projects? John the Baptist did not ask people to give a coat or food as a passing gratification, which is often the case during the Christmas season. He is telling the crowd that they should rejoice because they are blessed by God and should be willing to share God's gifts. Like John, we "preach the good news to the people" through our response to them. "Rejoice in the Lord always."

Fr. Al Ebach, C.P.P.S.

How can we share our talents and serve the Lord this Advent?

This year we will celebrate Christmas Eve Mass at 4:00pm in the Parish Center as well as the main Church. The Art and Environment Committee is looking for volunteers to help create a Christmas liturgical setting the Parish Center. *Families are welcome to participate as well as any youth. We will be setting up the altar area, tree, and Nativity scene. With many volunteers the decorating gets done quickly within 2-3 hours.*

Tentative decorating dates are December 21 or 22, starting at 5:00pm—The date chosen depends on how many volunteers we can find. All decorating materials will be supplied by the parish.

Ministers to assist at our Mass in the Parish Center will also be needed. Children may participate as lectors, servers, or as part of a choir. Adults are invited to serve as Eucharistic or Hospitality ministers.

To volunteer contact the school office (232-4911) or the Rectory (232-8449) and leave your name and phone number. The Art and Environment Committee will contact you.

Thank you for your willingness to spread the Good News!

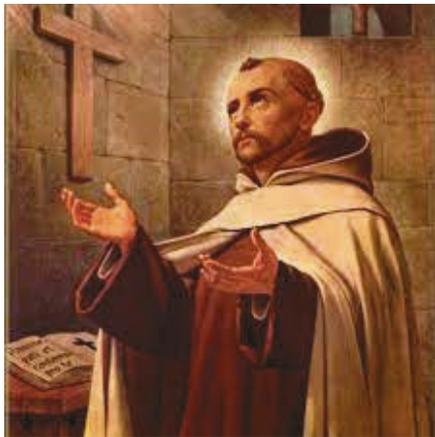
Vocation Prayer

Father God, you call us to rejoice in anticipation of the arrival of our Savior. We know you forgive our sins if we but ask. Fill us with the gratitude and confidence to ask. Give us your peace and the strength to share ourselves in mercy toward all we meet.

Dear Jesus, send us young priests on fire with love for your mother Mary; she will become our Mother who intercedes to deepen our love for you. Amen.

Our Lady of Guadalupe December 12

The image of Mary on the cloak is known as Our Lady of Guadalupe for an interesting reason. On December 12, 1531, Mary appeared to Juan Diego a second time and told him his uncle would be cured, giving him a message for the bishop, saying that she would “crush the serpent’s head.” The bishop did not understand the Indians’ language. The Indian word for “crush the serpent” sounded to him like “Guadalupe,” the name of Mary’s shrine in Spain. Thinking that the Virgin wanted the new shrine to have the same name, the bishop called her Our Lady of Guadalupe.

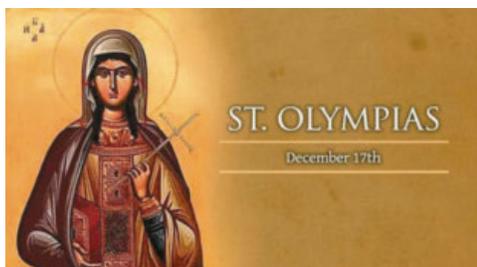


St. John of the Cross—December 14

“In the twilight of life, God will not judge us on our earthly possessions and human success, but rather on how much we have loved.”



Saint Mary of the Angels
December 16



Mass Intentions for the Week

MONDAY, December 13

Saint Lucy, Martyr

- 7:00am Living and Deceased Members of the Daughters of Isabella
- 8:15am For Vocations

TUESDAY, December 14

Saint John of the Cross, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

- 7:00am York Silliman
- 8:15am John Borchers

WEDNESDAY, December 15

- 7:00am Mary Agnes Steffens
- 7:00pm Charlene Slater

THURSDAY, December 16

Saint Mary of the Angels

- 7:00am Clarence Hager
- 8:15am Tim Shalz

FRIDAY, December 17

Saint Olympias

- 7:00am Rose “Rosie” Haertling
- 8:15am Virginia Bailey

SATURDAY, December 18

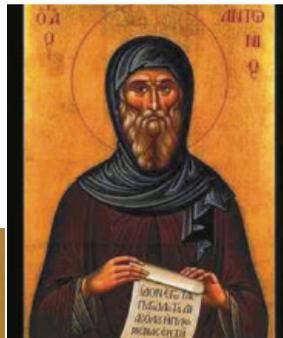
Saint Flannan

- 8:00am Velma Shalz
- 4:00pm Deceased Members of the Robertson Family

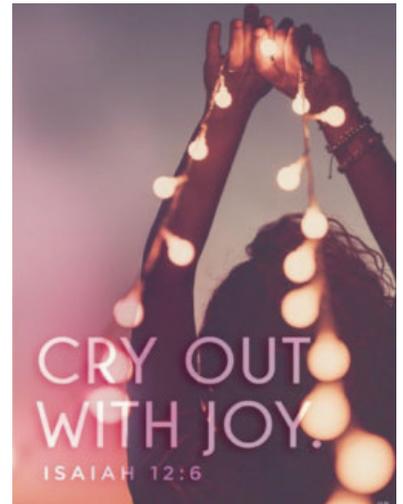
SUNDAY, December 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 7:30am Marge and Bob Sanders
- 9:30am Joseph D. Vigliaturo
- 11:30am Taylor Lorenz
- 6:00pm For the Parish



Saint Flannan
December 18





Christmas Memorials

We are accepting names for Christmas Memorials. Please put your name on the outside of an envelope with the names of your loved one(s) you want remembered at Masses on Christmas. Drop your envelope in the collection basket or send/bring it to the Parish Office, clearly marked "Christmas Memorials."

In order to get names printed in time for Christmas:

We need your information and the \$10 donation for each name by Monday, December 13, 2021

Money donated is designated to help with flowers and other decorations for the Church throughout the year.



Ministry Schedules

Available at all the doors



The St. Francis Xavier Giving Tree

A sincere thank you to all parishioners who supported our ministry in 2021! Despite the program modifications due to Covid-19, the generosity of our SFX family was overwhelming....

In brief summary:

- ◆ Our friends at OLOG have extended their appreciation for the support shown by our Parish of their modified Catholic Family Christmas Adoption Program this year!
- ◆ \$1951 was collected for SFX House of Bread
- ◆ Generous cash donations were allocated as follows:
 - \$1000 to Catholic Charities
 - \$1000 to the Open Door Food Kitchen
 - \$500 to the AFL-CIO
 - \$500 to Sisters of Solace
 - \$205 to Birthright
- ◆ Generous donations of gift cards were allocated as follows:
 - \$1000 in Walmart gift cards to Catholic Charities
 - \$245 in Walmart gift cards to Sisters of Solace
 - \$195 in Target gift cards to Birthright

Wishing you all safe and happy holidays!

Nancy Gilmore and Renee Rohrer, Giving Tree Committee Co-Chairs

WORD OF GOD



Bible Readings for the Week

Sunday — December 12, 2021

Zephaniah 3:14-18 / Isaiah 12:2-6 / Philemon 4:4-7 / Luke 3:10-18

Monday

Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a / Ps. 25:4-9 / Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday

Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13 / Ps. 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23 / Matthew 21:28-32

Wednesday

Isiah 45:6-8, 18, 21-25 / Ps. 85:9-14 / Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12 / Luke 7:18b-23

Thursday

Isaiah 54:1-10 / Ps. 30:2, 4-6, 11-13 / Luke 7:24-30

Friday

Genesis 49:2, 8-10 / Ps. 72:1-4, 7-8, 17 / Matthew 1:1-17

Saturday Morning

Jeremiah 23:5-8 / Ps. 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 / Matthew 1:18-25

Sunday — December 12, 2021

Micah 5:1-4a / Ps. 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 / Hebrews 10:5-10 / Luke 1:39-45

Please recall this is our last year as
Co-Chairs of the
Giving Tree Ministry.

If you are interested in assuming this role for next year, please contact the Rector's Office. Renee and I are happy to facilitate a smooth transition to anyone wanting to experience the joy this ministry brings.

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 SFX 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.



Here are some great insights from the Love and Logic Institute as we move further into the holidays and try to keep our focus on Christ’s birth, versus getting more and more stuff....

As each holiday season begins, it is always important to help your kids truly understand what it means to be thankful. If you are like me, you probably have heard yourself say something like, “You should be thankful for the things you have! When I was a kid....” All of us experience “skill slippage” from time to time: Yes! Even us Love and Logic guys have had our not-so-great parenting moments.

Do our kids really learn life’s most important lessons by being lectured? Thankfulness, like just about everything else, is only learned via the Three Es of Love and Logic.

Do we show our kids how thankful we are for what we have, or do they see us grumbling and complaining about what we don’t have?



Kids need to witness us being sincerely thankful for the air we breathe, our health, making it home from work without having a car accident, the food we have, the water we drink, and the family we have.



Giving kids everything that they ask for can lead them always to expect to get whatever they want. Although we certainly don’t advocate depriving kids of the things that they need, will they ever experience true thankfulness if they are given everything that they want without having to wait for or work for it?

Parents who use anger, lectures, threats, or punishment to coerce their children into being thankful, will find that they create resentment and rebellion instead.

Parents who demonstrate their genuine empathy and love as they allow their children to learn sometimes uncomfortable lessons about humility and thankfulness, are far more likely to raise kids with an attitude of gratitude.



Be thankful and enjoy your kids this holiday season!



Virtue of the Month:



This Week at Saint Francis

Sunday, December 12

1:30pm—School of Religion Mass and Pageant
Cocoa and Cookies to follow in Parish Ctr

Monday, December 13

7:00pm—Liturgy Committee, PC Conf. Room

Tuesday, December 14

8:30am-10:30am—House of Bread Open
7:00pm—School Christmas Program
(Program runs simultaneously: in the Parish Center and the School. After 1/2 hour program you move to the other location.)

Wednesday, December 15

3:30-5:30pm—Staff Christmas Party, Parish Center
7:00pm—Choir Practice, PC Conf. Room

Thursday, December 16

8:30am-10:30am—House of Bread Open
7:00pm—Choir Practice, PC Conf. Room

Friday, December 17

5:30pm—Rectory Staff Christmas, Parish Center

Saturday, December 18

6:30am—Men of Faith, PC West Side
8:30am-10:30am—House of Bread Open

Sunday, December 19

No Events Scheduled



The Well That Never Dries Up

Depending on how your mood is today, the words of Paul will hit you differently. "Rejoice always," he tells us. Well, if your football team is posed to win this weekend or next, maybe you're really feeling this vibe. But if you've got a long slog at work ahead of you this week and a to-do list that only seems to grow and never shrink, it may make you grumble. "Rejoice always? Always? When I'm tired? Cranky? When I'm sick of doing and giving? Thanks, Paul. I'll be sure to scribble that phrase on a Post-It and stick it to my dashboard for when some entitled punk inevitably cuts me off on tomorrow's morning commute."

When we feel this way, we know it's time to head back to the well. Think of all the places in Scripture where God compares His love, His mercy, His salvation to water. And not just any water—living water, water that moves. God's strength is not a stagnant puddle sure to evaporate and disappear. It's water you can keep coming back to. It's water that never dries up.

Which is good news for us, because we never stop failing to do what we should, never stop failing to feel the joy and the compassion and the selflessness we are called to. We need a source of living water if we are going to 'rejoice always.' To be everyday stewards, we need a well that never empties.

The fountain of salvation never dries up. There is always more there for us to draw from. It's a sign of His commitment—so let us, in turn, be committed to Him.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Masses, Friday, December 24

4:00pm in Church and in the Parish Center
7:00pm and Midnight in Church

Christmas Day Mass, Saturday, December 25

10:00am in Church

Sunday Mass for Sunday Obligation

Saturday, December 25, 2021 at 4:00pm

Sunday, December 26, 2021

7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am

Friday, December 31, 2021

7:00am, 8:15am

Saturday, January 1, 2022

9:00am New Year's Day Mass, Holy Day
(Not a Holy Day of Obligation)
4:00pm Obligation for Sunday January 2, 2022

Advent Parish Confession Opportunities

Mon., Dec. 20

12:00-1:00pm; 7-8:00pm

Wed., Dec. 22

12:00-1:00pm

Tues., Dec. 21

12:00-1:00pm; 7-8:00pm

Thurs., Dec. 23

12:00-1:00pm



Rest In Peace

Bernard Ruddy

Brother of parishioner Mary Harrell

Charlie Miller

Brother of Fr. Joseph E. Miller, C.P.P.S.



ADVENT



HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

RECTORY OFFICE / HOUSE OF BREAD HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Rectory Office will be closed:

Monday, December 27, 2021
Monday, January 3, 2022

House of Bread will be closed:

Saturday, December 25, 2021
Saturday, January 1, 2022
Tuesday, January 4, 2022



St. Lucia Day is celebrated on December 13th. Lucia (pronounced *Lu-sée-a* in Swedish) is the patron saint of light. Born in Italy in the third century AD to a noble Greek family, Lucia was brought up in a time of severe persecution for those of the Christian faith. Devastated by plans for an arranged marriage to a pagan man, Lucia renounced the wedding and chose to dedicate her life to God and give her share of the family fortune—her dowry—to the poor. Her behavior was viewed as so strange she was thought to be possessed with evil spirits. Lucia steadfastly clung to her faith and was martyred on December 13, 304. In Sweden, St. Lucia Day is one of the most cherished Advent celebrations. Traditional dress is white with red sash.

Some ways to celebrate St. Lucia Day in your home:

Decorate: St. Lucia's colors are red and white. You could also decorate with a Swedish flag. You can use crepe paper, bunting, and tablecloths in red and white. Most Christmas decorations would also be appropriate, especially decorations with evergreens and/or candles.

Wake up early: Someone designated as St. Lucia should wake up the rest of the household at dawn to wish them a happy St. Lucia Day and to serve the traditional morning snack. Dawn represents the arrival of light in the winter darkness, so it is important to get up early on St. Lucia Day.

Serve traditional Swedish foods: On St. Lucia Day, it's traditional to serve a St. Lucia Crown Cake—usually a round coffee cake with seven candles placed in a circle on it. Have coffee and/or hot chocolate to drink. You can also serve traditional Swedish foods like meatballs, gingerbread cookies and buns (lussekatter). Best to prepare foods in advance.



Entertainment: Play and sing along to St. Lucia Day songs or other traditional Swedish music. Find and watch a traditional St. Lucia possession on TV or YouTube.

As you celebrate, remind each other the reason we celebrate Christmas is the Light of the World, Jesus.



From the House of Bread

As the weather turns cold, we see many clients without winter hats or gloves. If you would like to help, we would appreciate donations of warm knitted hats and winter gloves. Even a pair of the stretchy inexpensive gloves will be appreciated by those who have none.

Thank you and our team wishes you a very blessed Advent and Christmas season.

Please support the advertisers on the back page of our bulletin for a variety of services.

These advertisers pay the cost of printing our bulletin each week.

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, Joe Crayon, at 816.812.2500 or crayon@ombudsmankcsj.org 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: Whitney True-Francis, Victim Assistance Coordinator, at 816.392.0011 or true.francis@diocesekcsj.org for more information.

TAKE NOTE OF THESE BULLETIN DEADLINES

For the Weekend of December 25 and 26, 2021 — Christmas Bulletin — Submissions due by:

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

For the Weekend of January 1 and 2, 2022 — Submissions due by: **Sunday, December 19, 2021**

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