Welcome to the Religious Education (RE) program at College Church! On behalf of the Youth Faith Commission, I would like to warmly welcome you and your children to our community. My husband and I have been delighted with the loving care and joyful teaching that our son, Luke, has experienced in this program. Angie and her excellent team of teachers and volunteers have designed a dynamic, engaging, faith-filled curriculum, and I am confident that you and your children will have a wonderful experience this year. In addition to teaching our children, the RE program also offers opportunities for parents and families to learn and grow in faith. I hope you will consider participating in some or all of these opportunities. Finally, please let Angie or me know if you are interested in volunteering in the RE program in some way. Your time and talent are so appreciated! Please also let us know if you have any questions or suggestions; your feedback and input are always welcome. Thank you again for the gift of your children.

Aimee Wittman  
awittman@wustl.edu

New Space for the Level III Atrium

This summer Dave Ebenhoh and some of the other Level III atrium parents renovated the old Christmas tree storage space in the upstairs vestibule area of the Church. They cleared away years of storage of old materials and supplies, patched and painted walls, cleaned the stain glass windows and made the space beautiful and inhabitable for our Level III Atrium students. We are so grateful to Dave and his team for their initiative and help and to all who supported the project financially!!

New this Year:  
Call to Action Seminars on Racial Unrest

This fall our RE program will offer seminars for students to talk about community and racial unrest and how we can better respond with faith and love. Ms. Lynne Lange, Director of School Climate for the Archdiocese of St. Louis will lead the discussion for students in Grades 3rd, 4th and 5th. Ms. Lynne will discuss how we can respond to conflict with virtue and prayer. For students in RE Classes 6th, 7th and 8th, Fr. Quang Tran, S.J., new Associate Pastor at College Church, will discuss his experience growing up in a Vietnamese neighborhood in New Orleans and how his family’s faith-filled response to violence and racism nurtured his vocation. Seminars will be held during RE class time and parents will be encouraged to attend with their children.

New Space for the Level III Atrium
Our Mission is to actively assist parents in the Faith Formation of their children. We are committed to helping children to grow in their knowledge and love of God.

Goals

- Provide Engaging Classes and Atria that Students Enjoy Attending
- Help Students to Participate More Fully in the Sacraments
- Reach out in Loving Service to Others
- Build a Loving and Caring Community
- Assist Parents in their own Faith Formation

RE Mission and Goals
Echoing God’s Word

Class Mass - A Family Experience

“My children’s faith in God is nurtured in so many ways in the RE program, but one of the most visible is through their participation in the Class Masses run by the students. Instead of simply being participants in the Mass, the children get the opportunity to take ownership of the Mass. For my girls, participation in the Class Mass gives them a better understanding of all of the Mass components and helps them to connect their classroom lessons with the sacrament of the Eucharist. It is truly special to see all of the young faces lit up and excited about their participation in Mass. Each and every child gets an opportunity to participate in some way or another – as an acolyte, reader, usher, or gift bearer — it is truly a unique and wonderful experience.”

- Simone Cummings, mom

CHILDREN’S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children’s Liturgy of the Word is held most Sundays, September thru April. Students ages 3 thru 13 are welcome to attend. No registration is required.

If you have ever been at the 10:30 Mass on Sundays when the presider calls the children forward for Children’s Liturgy of the Word, you will see lots of kids smiling as they move forward to the front of the altar. Then the priest gives them a blessing and dismisses them to the Parish Center to experience God’s presence in the Word. Children’s Liturgy of the Word is a popular and much loved program for children ages 3 to 13. It gives them an opportunity to hear God’s Word in an age appropriate level and to respond in prayer and praise. Once the children are in the Parish Center they are divided up into four age groups. The leaders, various parishioners, SLU students and Youth Group teens, break open the Word and nurture their response. The children return to the Congregation following the Prayer of the Faithful.
Service Saturdays

Reaching out in loving service to others is a major part of our Religious Education program. Our goal is to develop our students into young “men and women for others” so that they will become “agents of change” for Christ.

St. Ignatius dedicated his life to following God’s will, often in the form of being a “person for others.” He saw serving his fellow human beings as a necessary aspect of fully loving God.

At each grade level students will be involved in various service projects, such as Sandwich Sunday, and visiting our retired priests at Jesuit Hall. In addition we offer Service Saturdays for students in grade levels fourth and up. Students and their parents have an opportunity to provide direct service to those in need at the various soup kitchens and homeless shelters in the St. Louis area. The Youth Group program also has regularly scheduled service projects to area shelters, food banks, thrift shops and other service agencies. Dates and more information is forthcoming.

Student Reflections on Service Saturdays

“It was really humbling and eye opening to see how many people are in desperate need of things I have and take for granted everyday. It made me feel really good to help...They will be in prayers.” - age 14

“I liked to simply get the opportunity to talk to these people and to learn new things from them.” - age 15

“I loved it.” - age 13

Sandwich Sunday

Every year each RE Class and the Level II Atrium have a special day called Sandwich Sunday. The day begins with prayers for the poor and then the students make sandwiches that will be served to the people who come to our Social Ministry program. It is a favorite project among the students. Here Fourth Grade RE students make sandwiches with help from some of their parents.

Dates for 2015-16 RE Year

Oct 11th—Third Grade          Feb 7th—Sixth Grade
Nov 8th—Second Grade          Mar 20th—Seventh Grade
Dec 6th—Fourth Grade          Apr 10th—Level II Atrium
Youth Group Update

Hi! My name is Rebecca Cunningham and I am excited to be the new Youth Minister at College Church. I am originally from Louisville, KY and graduated in 2014 from Murray State University. I moved to St. Louis last year and am currently working on my doctorate in Developmental Biology at Washington University. Youth Ministry provided a strong foundation for my Catholic faith when I was growing up and I have enjoyed working with students in the past as they begin to delve into the richness of our faith. I look forward to walking a faith journey with the 8th-12th graders at College Church and witnessing how Christ is present in their lives. Our first Youth Mass will be held on October 4th at 10:30 a.m. in the Lower Chapel. All are invited to bring their gifts to share, through music, singing, reading, and more. After Mass we will gather for food and fellowship. You will have an opportunity to meet our Youth Leaders and talk about what we have in store for you this year! If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at youthmin@slu.edu.

Children’s Nursery

Every Sunday during the 10:30 Mass in Room 13 of the Parish Center, carefully selected SLU students and College Church teens provide a safe, comfortable and fun environment for our youngest members of the parish in our Children’s Nursery. It is here that the children are first acquainted and begin to form parish friendships. The Nursery is open most Sundays during the year from 10:15 — 11:45 a.m. For more information contact Angie.

“The Youth Group environment allowed me to feel safe in my beliefs and comfortable sharing my thoughts, which in turn allowed me to feel closer to God.”
- 15 year old teen
Exciting Adult Programs

Faith Development of Parents

Parents are the first and primary teachers of their children. It is the parents' nurturing of faith in their children that show them the beauty and richness of lived faith. To support parents in the faith formation of their children we offer frequent informational parent meetings and child/parent sacramental preparation retreats. In addition, the Youth Faith Commission sponsors the SFX Connection Speaker Series and two Days of Prayer each year to help parents to grow in their own faith. The wider parish also offers many opportunities for faith development: spiritual direction, small faith sharing groups and varied other speakers series. Current information on speakers and other faith formation opportunities are published in the parish bulletin.

Day of Prayer and Reflection

Three Moments of the Day: Morning Offering, Examen and Living the Eucharist

Presented by: Fr. Christopher Collins, S.J.

Date: Saturday, November 21, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
in Church Ballroom

Cost: $25/Donation

Join us for a day of prayer and reflection as Fr. Christopher Collins, S.J. introduces a powerful approach to both the Sacred Heart devotion and classic Ignatian Spirituality. Retreatants will be guided through three simple yet profound prayer habits that can fit into any schedule. Fr. Collins is the Assistant to the President for Mission and Identity at Saint Louis University and author of several books, including Three Moments of the Day: Praying with the Heart of Jesus. Fr. Collins is also the Chair of the Board of the Apostleship of Prayer. Lunch is included. For more information or to sign up contact Angie at adoerr3@slu.edu.
Talks are on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. in the Church Ballroom. All are welcome to attend. For more information contact Angie at adoerr3@slu.edu.

**SFX Connection Speaker Series**

**September 20th—St. Ignatius and a Balanced Life**  
**Speaker:** Fr. Dan White, S.J., Pastor, St. Francis Xavier College Church

**October 25th—Kvetching, Complaining, and Being Honest with God: the Spirituality of the Psalms**  
**Speaker:** Fr. Sean Martin, President, Aquinas Institute of Theology

**November 22nd—Savoring Stories from the Gospels**  
**Speaker:** Fr. Dan Daly, S.J., Presider, St. Francis Xavier College Church

**December 6th—Advent: Season of Incarnation and Mortality**  
**Speaker:** Fr. Charles Bouchard, O.P., Senior Director, Theology and Ethics, The Catholic Health Association

**January 24th—The Enemy Within: Sin as Self-Sabotage**  
**Speaker:** Fr. David Meconi, S.J., Assistant Professor of Theology, Saint Louis University

**February 21st—Forgiveness: The Language of Love**  
**Speaker:** Fr. Harry Byrne, O.P., Professor Emeritus, Aquinas Institute of Theology
ECHO

St. Francis Xavier College Church
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Saint Louis, Missouri  63108

ECHO is published by St. Francis Xavier College Church to provide information about our Religious Education programs and activities for children and families.

For more information contact:
Angie Doerr
Director of Religious Education
314-977-7302
adoerr3@slu.edu

Or visit our website at
www.collegechurch.slu.edu

Great Things are Happening Here at College Church!!
Please Share the Good News!!!

We are so proud of our programs and the work we are doing here that we would like to ask each family to consider referring a friend or neighbor that may be interested in joining our program. Parent referrals are our best evangelization tool!!!

SAVE THE DATE
The Youth Faith Commission is sponsoring a

RE Pancake Breakfast—All You Can Eat!!!
To Benefit our RE Programs
Sunday, November 15th
After the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Masses

Please consider joining our Pancake Breakfast Committee. You will be helping us to earn much needed funds, meet new people and have a great time doing it!!!

For more information or to sign up contact Jim Byrne at jim@byrneconstructionservices.com