St. Francis Xavier (College) Church
The Jesuit Parish in the Heart of St. Louis
3628 Lindell Blvd. - St. Louis, MO 63108
Phone: 314-977-7300 - collegechurch.slu.edu
Follow us on Twitter @collegechrchstl

Liturgy Schedule

Saturday: 5:15 p.m. Anticipation of Sunday
Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m.

Weekday:
Monday—Friday
7:15 a.m., Noon, 5:15 p.m. in the Chapel of Our Lady located in the lower level. (There are no 5:15 p.m. Liturgies on holidays)
Saturday: 7:15 a.m. in the Chapel of Our Lady located in the lower-level.

Saint Louis University Campus Ministry:
Sunday: 9:00 p.m. (when the University is in session)

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Monday-Friday: 10:45 a.m. through Noon
Saturday: 4:00 p.m. through 5:00 p.m.

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  Fax: 314-977-7315  E-mail Address: church@slu.edu
Hours: Monday through Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Saturday we are closed & Sunday: 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Bulletin notices must be submitted before 4:00 p.m. by email to milnerjv@slu.edu on Thursday, ten days before the bulletin date. Holidays require additional time.
For Infant Baptisms, contact Fr. Quang Tran, SJ at 314-977-7301 for scheduling and preparation information at least 45 days in advance. Baptisms are celebrated on the first and third Sunday of the month, at 12:00 noon.
For Christian Initiation of Adults, contact Joe Milner at 314-977-7305 or milnerjv@slu.edu
Marriages contact Sandy Hauck at 314-977-7303 for scheduling and preparation information.
For Funerals, contact Fr. White, SJ or Fr. Tran, SJ
To notify the parish that a member of your family has passed away and the funeral is not at the College Church, please contact Mary Beth Erickson at 314-977-7304 or church@slu.edu.
Disability Access  Our wheelchair ramp is located near the Grand side entrance with an elevator to bring you to the Church level. Our church is also equipped with a hearing assistance system. Please ask an usher for a receiver.
Parish Registration is available online at collegechurch.slu.edu or at the Parish Center front desk. For questions, contact Mary Beth Erickson at 314-977-7304.
Religious Education is available for kindergarten through eighth grade. Classes meet September through May on Sunday mornings. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program for ages 3-6 years. Contact Angie Doerr at 314-977-7302 or adoerr3@slu.edu.
Liturgy of the Word for Children is celebrated weekly for children in kindergarten through seventh grade at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. Childcare is available for children ages six months through pre-kindergarten during the 10:30 a.m. Mass in the Parish Center Nursery. Contact Angie Doerr at 314-977-7302 or adoerr3@slu.edu.

Pastoral Staff
Pastor  Daniel White, SJ  314-977-7300   dwhite6@slu.edu
Associate Pastor  Quang Tran, SJ  314-977-7301  tranq@slu.edu
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Director of Parish Life  Mary Beth Erickson  314-977-7304   church@slu.edu
Director of Liturgy, Adult Formation, & Marriage Preparation Ministry  Joe Milner  314-977-7305   milnerjv@slu.edu
Director of Religious Education & Family Life  Angie Doerr  314-977-7302   adoerr3@slu.edu
Director of Social Ministry  Christine Dragonette  314-977-7309   dragonettecm@slu.edu
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Pastoral Council Chair  Wade Baughman  314-307-0535   mwaudebaughman@juno.com
Deacon  Jim Griffard  griffardjm@slu.edu  314-977-7318
From the Pastor’s Desk

The rose colored vestments today tell us this is Gaudete Sunday. This is one of two Sundays featuring the color rose. The other is during Lent known as Laetare Sunday. Both are Latin words for “rejoice”. To keep them straight just remember the L-words go together: Lent and Laetare.

Joy permeates the Scripture. Zephaniah tells us, Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel! Paul commands us to, Rejoice always. The Gospel relates John the Baptist teaching the good news of the One who is to come.

This might seem a bit excessive to us. It even hints at the expression of, (dare we say) emotion. Many of us, myself included, are much more comfortable with a faith primarily located in our heads. We are much more at home being God’s frozen chosen. This Sunday, however, will not let us off the hook.

Joy is wondrous because it can not be contained intellectually. It requires a physical expression. Pope Francis famously said, “Christians must not look like they are always coming from a funeral.” Gaudete Sunday is a built-in reminder of what we should be at all times: joyful followers of Christ.

This Week At College Church

Dec 13 9:15 - 10:15 Individual Confessions Church
9:00—12:15 Spirituality Materials and CDs Ballroom
9:00—2:00 Fair Trade Christmas Market Ballroom
Noon—1:00 Our Living Faith Adult Faith Room

Dec 14—18 Church closed for work on the floor
10:45—Noon Confessions in the cloakroom on the lower level

Dec 20 11:45—1:00 Decorating Church and Chapel for Christmas
Social Ministry Annual Christmas Collection Continues This Weekend

Over 20 years ago, St. Francis Xavier (College) Church committed to filling an unmet need in our community. Since we opened the doors of our Documentation Assistance (Outreach) Program in 1993, we have remained the only ongoing, large-scale program in Missouri helping homeless and transient members of our community to obtain their birth certificates and Missouri state identification cards. With a birth certificate and photo ID, our program guests are then able to access employment, housing, education, and needed social services. Thus far in 2015, the Outreach Program has served close to 3,000 guests, assisting with 2,037 birth certificates and 1,826 Missouri State ID cards.

The Outreach Program, in addition to our other direct service programs and advocacy committees, is our parish’s response to the Gospel call to love and serve our neighbors. We need your help to continue and grow our Social Ministry. Our annual Social Ministry Christmas Appeal continues this weekend. Last weekend, you heard a personal testimony from an individual involved in Social Ministry. This weekend, there will be another second collection for Social Ministry. If you wish to give by check, please make payable to St. Francis Xavier Church with “Social Ministry” on the Memo line. If you wish to give by cash, please place in an envelope marked “Social Ministry,” or place in the basket during the second collection this weekend.

Your support truly drives the work we do in Social Ministry. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Fair Trade Christmas Market Today
Sunday, December 13th, 9AM-2PM
College Church Ballroom

Shop for beautiful and unique hand-crafted items, plus coffees, teas, and chocolates!
Soup, chips, cookies, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate provided (good will offering appreciated). Raffle tickets available for gift card baskets from local St. Louis businesses.

Vendors: SFX Fair Trade, Zee Bee Market, Plowsharing Crafts, Partners for Just Trade, MacroSun, Seeds of Blessing, Soluna, City Seeds, Earth Connections, City Greens

Proceeds will benefit our Guatemalan Sister Parish of La Natividad

Support Social Ministry When Shopping Online

Did you know you can use your eScrip card not only at Schnucks, but also when shopping online on Expedia, Amazon, Macy’s, Best Buy, and more?
To support College Church Social Ministry while doing your online shopping, first visit shopping.escrip.com. If you do not have an eScrip card already, contact Christine Dragonette at dragonettecm@slu.edu or (314) 977-7309.
Christmas and Antique Note Cards Now Available!

We have new Christmas Cards and Antique Note Cards of the College Church available for purchase in the Parish Center! The boxed Christmas cards contain fifteen cards of three different designs; two from our beautiful Nativity window and one of our crèche. The cost for the Christmas cards is $20/box. The antique note cards contain twelve cards of six different designs with a bit of College Church history on the back of each. The cost is $15/box.

If you are interested in viewing or purchasing these hot off the presses new cards...contact Mary Beth Erickson at 314-977-7304 or email church@slu.edu.

Preparing the Church for Christmas

On Sunday, Dec 20, following the 10:30 Eucharist, members of the Art and Environment Committee will gather in the church to decorate for Christmas. It takes many hands to prepare the Crèche, and arrange the flowers in both the church and the Chapel of our Lady. If you would like to lend a hand and meet some fellow parishioners, plan to join us around 11:45 am on Dec 20. Please gather in the sacristy (behind Mary’s shrine. If you plan to join us or have questions, please contact Joe Milner, milnerjv@slu.edu, or call 314-977-7305.

Advent and Christmas Celebrations

The College Church will celebrate the coming of Christ with the following liturgical offerings:

December 13  Sunday morning confessions  9:15 am
December 24  Christmas Eve Family Mass 4:30 pm
             Mass during the Night at 11:00 pm
             with Choir prelude at 10:30 pm
December 25  Christmas Day Liturgy 10:30 a.m.
December 31  Vigil Mass for the holy day
             5:15 pm in the Church
January 1    Feast of Mary, the Mother of God
             10:30 am in the Church

For more information, call the Parish Center at 977-7300 or visit our website at: collegechurch.slu.edu

Complimentary Parking is available in the SLU Laclede Garage

Pray for the Deceased

Please remember parishioner Joseph Westhus, husband of Nina Westhus, and Elvie Moscoso, mother of parishioner Lisa Moscoso, who died recently. May they and all the departed share in the peace and joy of God forever.
Our Living Faith is a group discussion of key elements of living our faith. The session today, Dec 13, focuses on the sacraments. It starts at noon in the Adult Faith room. If you have questions about Catholic belief or practice, please join us. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Joe Milner, milnerjv@slu.edu or 314-977-7305.

Interested in Learning about the Catholic Faith?
If you would like to learn more about the Catholic Church, its beliefs and practices, you are invited to come to our inquiry sessions. These offer an opportunity to ask questions about Catholic beliefs and practices. They are informal and focus on the

Spirituality Materials
The season of Advent begins next week. It is a time of reflection and preparation for our celebration of God With Us. There are several books and booklets available to assist you on your journey.

The Little Blue Book examines the first reading for mass each day. Sacred Space for Advent and Sacred Space of 2016 by the Irish Jesuits presents a reflection process and Scripture passage for each day.

There are Advent Calendars, cards and items for young people. A Year With Pope Francis offers a daily reflection from his talks. Pope Francis: Life and Revolution is a biography of Pope Francis by a journalist who has known him for many years. There are also collections of his homilies to challenge you to deeper discipleship. Additionally, books on Ignatian Spirituality, prayer and many other options are available in the Lower Hall on Sunday mornings today. If you would like to reserve a copy for pick up during the week, please contact Joe Milner at milnerjv@slu.edu

Homily Recordings
Fr. John Kavanaugh, SJ, was a long time professor of Philosophy at Saint Louis University and one of the regular celebrants at College Church. He died in November, 2012. He received the Great Preacher Award from Aquinas Institute of Theology and his homilies touched and motivated many. His family members and friends have complied 32 of his homilies that were given at College Church over the years and the homily delivered at his funeral mass and are making them available on a collection of three CDs.

The proceeds will go toward the scholarship in his name at Saint Louis University. They are available at the Xavier Book table on Sunday morning for a donation of $25. You may reserve a copy by emailing Joe Milner at milnerjv@slu.edu. Consider giving a set to support someone’s faith and supporting the scholarship fund. Thank You.
Save the Date: Hot Stuff 2016
Saturday, January 23rd: 10am-1pm
In the cold of late January we open the Ballroom doors to hundreds of men, women and children, offering them food and warm clothing items.

Please think of Hot Stuff over the holidays. Watch for men's white socks, size large boxers, t-shirts, hoodies, sweatshirts, gloves, hats, heavy coats, winter pants and gently used shoes and boots. The same goes for women and children. And don't forget blankets – items to fend off the St. Louis winter cold, whether on the street or in a house where the insulation is non-existent or the gas bill too high to pay. So let's be thankful for what we have, cherish those we love, but never forget those who are less fortunate than we. Stock up along the way for Hot Stuff – Saturday, January 23, 2016 – 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. More info to come on how to donate and/or volunteer. Contact Ruth Cochran with questions at cochranr1105@gmail.com or 517-5596. Have a blessed holiday season. God bless us everyone!

Christmas Time Activities for Families and Children
The Christmas Eve Liturgy for little ones and families will be December 24th at 4:30 p.m. Families and friends alike look forward to welcoming the Christ Child with the glow of youthful wonder. The Liturgy will include a candlelight procession, a Gospel Tableau, and the children's choir.

Candlelight Procession
All children are invited to create a paper candle to carry in the opening procession of the 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Liturgy. Paper towels work well as the basis for these candles. The procession will begin at the baptismal font and end at the foot of the altar. After the procession, the children will return to their pews with their candles. No rehearsal is necessary and all are welcome. Please gather at the Baptismal Font at 4:25 p.m.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word and Nursery
There will be no Sunday Children's Liturgy of the Word or Nursery on Sundays, December 27th and January 3rd due to the holiday.

Retrouvaille of St. Louis
YOU Can Help Your Marriage – 25% of surveyed couples say they are “Happily Married”. For everyone else there is Retrouvaille. Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Does talking only make it worse? For information on the Retrouvaille Program, visit the website at www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call 1-800-470-2230. The next program begins the weekend of January 29-31, 2016.
Jubilee Year of Mercy

In an interview this last week, Pope Francis explained his inspiration for the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

—Q: Holy Father, now that we are about to begin the Jubilee, can you explain what movement of the heart drove you to highlight precisely the subject of mercy? What urgency do you perceive in this regard, in the present situation of the world and of the Church?

—Pope Francis: The theme of mercy has been strongly accentuated in the life of the Church, since Pope Paul VI. John Paul II stressed it strongly with Dives in Misericordia, the canonization of Saint Faustina and the institution of the Feast of Divine Mercy on the Octave of Easter. In line with this, I felt that it is somewhat a desire of the Lord to show His mercy to humanity. Therefore, it didn’t come to my mind, but rather the relatively recent renewal of a tradition that has however always existed. My first Angelus as Pope was on God’s mercy and, on that occasion, I also spoke of a book on mercy which was given to me by Cardinal Walter Kasper during the conclave; also, in my first homily as Pope, on Sunday, March 17, I spoke of mercy in the parish of Saint Anne. It wasn’t a strategy; it came to me from within: the Holy Spirit wills something. It’s obvious that today’s world is in need of mercy, it is in need of compassion, or to begin with compassion. We are used to bad news, to cruel news and to the greatest atrocities that offend the name and life of God. The world is in need of discovering that God is Father, that there is mercy, that cruelty isn’t the way, that condemnation isn’t the way, because the Church herself sometimes follows a hard line, she falls into the temptation of following a hard line, into the temptation of stressing only the moral rules, many people are excluded.

There, came to my mind that image of the Church as a field hospital after a battle; it’s true, how many people are wounded and destroyed! The wounded are taken care of, helped and healed, not subjected to analyses for cholesterol. I believe this is the moment of mercy. We are all sinners, we all bear interior burdens. I felt that Jesus wishes to open the door of His heart, that the Father wishes to show his deepest mercy, and therefore sends us the Spirit: to move us and to deter us. It is the year of forgiveness, the year of reconciliation. On one had we see the arms trade, the production of arms that kill, the murder of innocents in the most cruel possible way, the exploitation of persons, minors, children: a sacrilege – permit me the term – is being carried out against humanity, because man is sacred, he is the image of the living God. See, the Father says: stop and come to me.” This is what I see in the world.

For more information on the Year of Mercy, please see the US Catholic Bishops website: http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/jubilee-of-mercy/index.cfm
Or the Archdiocese of St. Louis website: www.archstl.org/mercy

Marriage Preparation

The vocation of marriage encounters many challenges in contemporary society. Diverse skills are needed to develop a strong and dynamic relationship. The earlier a couple starts developing these skills, the greater the impact can be in the relationship. The Catholic Church as long advocated for a marriage preparation process to help couples grow in their knowledge and skills for a healthy relationship.

College Church offers weekends to help couples prepare for marriage through presentations by parishioner couples who are working at deepening and developing their relationships. Couples are invited to reflect on issues together and dialogue with other couples as they seek to grow closer together.

If you are engaged or moving toward engagement, you are invited to consider attending one of these weekends. Upcoming weekends are Jan 9—10, March 5—6 and April 9 - 10. For more information, please contact Joe Milner at milnerjv@slu.edu
Looking for a way to beat the winter doldrums in January?

Join us for our First Annual Trivia Night at St. Francis Xavier College Church

To benefit Social Ministry and Religious Education

Date: Friday, January 29th
Time: 7:00 p.m. (Doors open at 6:00 p.m.
Where: College Church Ballroom, located at 3628 Lindell Blvd. (63108)
at Grand and Lindell on Saint Louis University Campus

Cost: $25 person, $200 to reserve a table with a maximum of 8
participants per table
Arrangements: Beer, soda, water and light snacks will be provided.
Participants are invited to bring additional food and beverages, if desired.
Parking: SLU Garage located at Grand and Laclede; entrance is on west
side of Grand on Laclede Ave.

To make a reservations: Contact Arlene at 314-623-0412 or email at
kulade5@yahoo.com

Special Features: Mulligans 6 for $10
Silent Auction
50/50 Raffle
**Presiders**

**Dec 12 & 13, 2015**
Saturday  
5:15 p.m. Fr. White, SJ

Sunday  
8:00 a.m. Fr. Mercier, SJ  
10:30 a.m. Fr. Tran, SJ

**Dec 19 & 20, 2015**
Saturday  
5:15 p.m. Fr. Hunthausen, SJ

Sunday  
8:00 a.m. Fr. White, SJ  
10:30 a.m. Fr. White, SJ  
4:30 p.m. Fr. Tran, SJ

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday:** Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 7:18b-23

**Thursday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

**Friday:** Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

**Saturday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

**Sunday:** Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

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**Two ways to access Online Giving**
- Go to www.osvonlinegiving.com/714
- Go to http://www.slu.edu/college-church
  - In the left column, click on “online giving”
  - Toward the bottom click on “click here for online giving”

**To set up On-line Giving**
- Click on “create new account”
- Fill out the form
- Choose “create account”
- Add bank account or credit card information after selecting the corresponding tab and follow the instructions.
- The information you will need is located on your check or credit card
  - To make changes to your On-line Giving Contribution
  - Enter Username and Password or follow the prompts if you don’t remember them.
  - View or make changes to current gifts or payment methods, or Give a new gift.

**ONLINE GIVING CONTRIBUTION**

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During the final seven nights of advent, Dec 17—23, the church prays some ancient prayers that invite Jesus, under his Old Testament titles, to come renew the world and fulfill the deepest longings of humanity. Each prayer begins with O and together they are called the O antiphons. These are best known through the hymn, “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.” Join others throughout the world and call out to God to bring deliverance from all the pain and struggle that people face here and around the world.

- O Wisdom of our God Most High: teach us to walk in the paths of knowledge.
- O Lord of Ancient Israel, giver of the Law on Sinai: rescue us with your mighty power.
- O Flower of Jesse’s Stem, sight of God’s love for all people: save us without delay!
- O Key of David, opening the gates of God’s Kingdom: free the prisoners of darkness.
- O Radiant Dawn, sun of justice: shine on those lost in the darkness of death!
- O King of All Nations, source of unity and faith: save all mankind, your own creation!
- O Emmanuel, God’s presence among us, our King, our Judge: save us, Lord our God!