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 the Victim Advocate, Kathleen Chastain, at 816.392.0011 or chastain@diocesekc.org for more information.
THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Parish News

❖ The Parish office will be closed Monday, May 25 for the Memorial Day Holiday. We will reopen Tuesday, May 26 at 9:00am. We hope everyone has a safe weekend!

❖ SFX COVID-19 Survey: We Want To Hear From You! As we ease out of shelter-in-place restrictions, we’d like to know your thoughts about returning to public Mass and the tools we use at SFX to communicate with you. Your answers will help us plan for the months ahead. We ask that you take a moment to answer a brief, 5-question survey. Providing your name on the survey is optional and your specific responses will only be viewed by Fr. Steve and SFX staff. Summarized information will be provided to the Parish Council, the Liturgy Committee, and others as needed. We would really appreciate hearing from you. Go to https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7Y83JM5 Thank you.

❖ Good News

Joy Solano is completing her fellowship in Pediatric Hospital Medicine and will stay on Children’s Mercy as a pediatric hospitalist and assistant professor of pediatrics at the UMKC School of Medicine. Joy’s wife, Noemi, continues her work as a 6th grade science teacher at KIPP KC.

Katie Eilerman graduated from Rockhurst University with a triple major: English, Theology and Secondary Education. She will continue her studies through Creighton University’s Magis Catholic Teacher Corps. She will teach at St. Michael the Archangel High School in Lee’s Summit (and continue as our Middle School Youth Group Leader) and earn her Master’s degree. RU 2020 Commencement Weekend has been rescheduled to September 18-19, 2020.

Andy Molitoris graduated from Kansas City University’s College of Osetopathic Medicine on May 9 and will begin a residency in psychiatry at KU on July 1.

❖ Faith Formation

❖ Pray the Rosary
Our Marian Devotion Group ‘Truly Our Mother’ continues to meet and will lead a rosary via Zoom each Saturday afternoon at 3:30 pm. Please contact Gail Fein (gafein10@gmail.com or 913-961-3201) for Zoom Meeting ID # and password.

❖ Join the SFXcellent Walkers and Runners
and help Catholic Charities Outpace Poverty. The annual 5K that benefits the programs and services of Catholic Charities of Kansas City – St. Joseph has gone virtual this year. We’re “going the (social) distance” to help our brothers and sisters in need. $25 (children 12 and younger FREE). Go to https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/outpace/team/SFXcellentWalkersandRunners before May 31 to join our team and/or to make a donation. Our team has already raised over $1500. Can we make it $2000? For more information contact Mariann McCormally (mccormally@sfx-kc.org 816-381-9163). (And we’d love to see a selfie of your walk/run or a screenshot of your step counter!)

❖ Adult Faith Formation During a Pandemic
Our Adult Faith Formation Committee led by parishioner Karen Stigers met earlier this month via Zoom and discussed how we might continue to learn and grow in our faith during this challenging time. We are hoping to invite our Soup & Spirituality speakers whose sessions were cancelled due to the “stay at home” order to present their talks via Zoom, a virtual book club, an online art journaling session on grief, a Sunday Gospel discussion group. What ideas do you have? What books, articles, podcasts have you found helpful or enlightening? Please contact Karen (karen.stigers@gmail.com 913-645-0316) or Mariann McCormally (mccormally@sfx-kc.org 816-381-9163) with your ideas and suggestions.

❖ SFX Community Garden
Our faithful volunteers continue to harvest radishes, mustard greens and turnip greens last weekend. This week they also pruned the fruit trees. These fresh veggies will supplement the other staples given to our neighbors who visit the food pantry. Thanks to all who support the food pantry and the gardens!

❖ RIM Committee Virtual Meeting
The needs of our brothers and sisters on the borders of our society are more critical than ever. Our partner organizations are coming up with some creative ways we can serve. We will be making summer activity packets for the migrant farm children in Lexington and still collecting dry pinto beans, dry white rice (not Instant), ball caps, and white men’s socks.

There is a great need for financial donations to Manos Amigas in Anapra, MX. Food is scarce and expensive and children and the abuelas (grandparents) were given food baskets to sustain them.

Justice & Life

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Supporting Fair Trade
Our parish RIM (Refugees, Immigrants & Migrants) Committee selected fair trade as one of its five focus areas in January, with plans to host a fair trade festival this year. With the pandemic, we are now looking at other ways to support fair trade (which allows people to stay in their home countries instead of immigrating).

Locally, the Ten Thousand Villages store in Overland Park, part of a nationwide network of fair trade stores, is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Instead of the original Global Festival, a virtual event is now planned for Saturday, June 27. It will include silent and live auctions, a rug raffle, guest presentations and lots of fun. If you would like an invitation to this event, email Jody Craig, j craig1946@gmail.com.

In the meantime, you can support fair trade AND get your coffee fix buying fair trade coffee from the store. Call Karen at 913-642-8368 to order and drive by to pick up.

Mask Making
Parishioner Ruth Noel has been making face masks for staff at St. Joseph Hospital. She has been asked to make even more as doctors and nurses begin to schedule elective surgeries and she would appreciate some help. If you are able to help, contact her at: ruthnoel1942@gmail.com. Thank you!

A Time To Remember
What will you remember as you look back on this time of pandemic isolation? How have you changed? Have there been any unexpected blessings or benefits during this time? Send your reflections to Sue at srobb@sfx-kc.org and we’ll share them with our faith community.

Health Ministry
This has been a trying time and many emotions arise as we struggle to decide whether to venture out or stay in place. The health ministry is here to support you if you have any emotional, spiritual, mental or physical needs. We offer confidential support to all parishioners and families.

General Announcements

The Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola
Guided Prayer Experiences to Deepen Your Spiritual Life
Many people are longing for spiritual development, a greater sense of interior peace, and a deeper, more meaningful relationship with God that integrates with their everyday life. The Spiritual Exercises are a framework of prayer exercises that help retreatants to experience spiritual growth, interior freedom, a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, and to find God in all things.

Come and See - Join representatives from the Ignatian Spirituality Center of Kansas City for an overview of the Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life, hear stories about this dynamic experience of prayer, and ask questions of others who have completed the Spiritual Exercises and have found a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

Questions? - Please contact Stephanie Hudson, ISC-KC Program Coordinator at shudson@ignatiancenterkc.org or call 816-381-9168. This event is free, but reservations are appreciated at www.ignatiancenterkc.org. Under Events & Programs – Come & See.

There is No Shortage of Great Faith Formation and Spirituality Resources Available Online. Some that you might find helpful are:

www.americamagazine.com America: The Jesuit Review of Faith and Culture has been published since 1909 (the same year our parish was founded!).

www.loyolapress.com Loyola Press publishes the materials we use for First Reconciliation and First Communion preparation classes and has excellent materials for people of all ages.

www.smp.org Saint Mary’s Press publishes some of the materials we use with our teens and tweens. They, too, offer materials for people of all ages.

What about you? What online resources have you found helpful? We’re hoping to publish a list of sites on theology, spirituality, prayer, poetry, music, as well as information about action and advocacy. Share your resources with us (email mccormally@sfx-kc.org).

Please remember St. Francis Xavier Parish when estate planning and in your will.
Saints with Marian Devotions
St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe
(January 8, 1894 – August 14, 1941)

- Maximilian Kolbe was a Polish Franciscan friar who offered to die in place of a stranger in Auschwitz during WWII. St. John Paul II declared him the “patron saint of our difficult century”, of families, journalists, political prisoners, drug addicts and the pro-life movement. Franciszek Gajowniczek, the prisoner whom St. Maximilian saved, attended his canonization.
- As a 12 year old, he had a vision of the Virgin Mary holding a white and a red crown, asking him if he would accept either of the crowns. “The white one meant that I should persevere in purity, the red that I should become a martyr. I said that I would accept both,” he recounts.
- Growing up amid the turmoil and division of occupied Poland, he desired to become a soldier to defend his beloved Poland. Instead, he entered the novitiate and waged a spiritual war.
- He was very active in promoting the veneration of the Immaculate Virgin Mary. This dedication is attributed to his mother who recited the Angelus, the Holy Rosary and Litany of Our Lady daily.
- A year before his ordination, on October 16, 1917, 3 days after Our Lady of Fatima performed the miracle of the sun in Fatima, he founded the Militiae Immaculatae, for the conversion of sinners, etc., and the sanctification of all persons under the sponsorship of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- He started a highly successful Catholic magazine “The Knight of Mary Immaculate” to counteract the influence of the Church’s enemies and promote devotion to Our Lady. To demonstrate the root cause of the fruitfulness of this apostolic work, he assembled all staff of the magazine to spend one night in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and to Our Lady the day before the presses began.
- He founded two evangelization centers dedicated to Mary: The City of the Immaculata in Poland, and Mugenza no Sono in Japan, to better “win the world for Christ through the Immaculata.”
- The first words of the Militiae’s founding document are: “She shall crush thy head” (Gen 3:15). Members of the Militia Immaculata, wear the Miraculous Medal as an outward sign of their consecration to Mary. St. Max added to St. Catherine’s prayer associated with the medal: “O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you,”: “and for all who do not have recourse to you, especially the enemies of the church and those recommended to you, Amen.”

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