



**Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church**

*Kansas City's Jesuit Parish*

1001 East 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO 64110

## **SFX UPDATE – Friday, December 11, 2020**

Read [this week's bulletin](#) or visit <https://www.sfx-kc.org/> to check out our website and donate.

### **Fr. Jim's Song of the Week: Ave Maria (Angelus Domini) by Franz Biebl**

Let the music sweep over you and let it help you to still your soul. With the problems in our nation and in our world, there is truly beauty as well. This version is sung by Cantus just prior to our COVID lockdowns. You can find many other choral versions of this on YouTube as well.

### **SFX MASS SCHEDULE & SIGN-UP - Saturday, 4:00pm and Sunday, 9:00am**

- The Advent and Christmas sign-ups are on Eventbrite. **There is no easy, kind way to say this: Only people who sign up are guaranteed a seat at Christmas Mass. Please, please help us plan by SIGNING UP NOW if you plan to attend.**
- The second collection this weekend is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. *"The needs of the elderly religious remain profound. With rising health-care costs and a lack of retirement savings, hundreds of US religious communities struggle to provide for aging members."* Please consider donating to this very worthy collection via offering envelope or online <https://sfx-kc.weshareonline.org/ws/opportunities>.
- Go to our homepage for a song sheet that you can download and sing along at home for our Masses.

**Blue Christmas Prayer Service – Saturday, December 19, 9:00-9:30 am.** This year has been filled with loss and disappointment, sickness and death, strained and broken relationships, demanding work, economic hardship, postponed and cancelled events, separation from friends and family, civil unrest, a contentious election, sorrow for the suffering of others. Join Fr. Jim, Mariann, Sue, and your SFX faith community for a virtual Blue Christmas prayer service and an opportunity to create a sacred space to reflect on and accept where we really are and hold on tightly to our faith in a good God. Click [HERE](#) for Zoom link. Consider preparing your prayer space with a candle, a crucifix, a holy card, or other symbols of both the losses we have experienced this year and the God who loves us.

**Parish Town Hall** – A summary of the SFX Parish Town Hall was emailed on December 8<sup>th</sup> and is also available [here](#). If you didn't have a chance to attend the Town Hall, please take a moment to review the summary for updates from the Pastoral Council, Finance Council, and the Building Committee.

**Christmas Baskets Update** – We have 91 people signed up to receive a Christmas basket!

*Thanks to all who have dropped off food and gift cards and sent in money!*

- **Dry food donations are due by THIS SUNDAY, December 13.**

We still need the following items and quantities:

52 boxes of cake mix      11 cans of Frosting      29 boxes of turkey stuffing

25 boxes of Jell-o      10 pkgs of turkey gravy      14 bags of Marshmallows:

- **Turkeys are due December 17-18 between 6-9am.** We still **need 15 more turkeys for Friday.** Please click [HERE](#) to sign up and contact [Sue](#) with questions.
- **Now you can donate online to the Christmas basket fund!** Your donation will be used to purchase the items listed above. *Thank you for your generosity!*

**Anti-Racism Committee Update** – Our newly-forming Anti-Racism Committee (SFX-ARC) discerned three areas of focus:

- identify racism within ourselves
- strengthen SFX identity as anti-racist
- network with other community efforts, seeking opportunities for meaningful action.

Our next virtual meeting is **Monday, December 21 at 5:00 PM.** Contact [Sue](#) for more information and the Zoom link. All are welcome.

**Saver's Fundraiser** – Savers has changed their policies due to Covid and while we would still love to do this to support our environment and our parish, we are unable collect in the way we had planned. Our collection date has been scheduled for April 14. Stay tuned for more information.

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**Adult Faith Formation** - Contact Mariann for information and log-in information about:

**Our Lady of Guadalupe** is celebrated on December 12. Join the members of our Marian Devotion Group, "Truly our Mother," on Sunday, December 13 2:00 pm for a Zoom meeting and rosary in honor of OLG. Contact [Gail Fein](#) for Zoom link. And check out this [short video](#) about the miraculous apparition of Our Lady to Juan Diego.

**Centering Prayer Group** via Zoom – Monday, December 21 (always the third Monday of the month). Contact [Rebecca Thompson](#) for Zoom link. For more information about Centering Prayer go [HERE](#).

**Fratelli Tutti "Brothers and Sisters All"** is Pope Francis latest encyclical about solidarity and human friendship. What does our divided and broken world need? Pope Francis has some ideas. This is NOT about the institutional church but about the human family. Read it [HERE](#) and plan to join us for a discussion group in January 2021.

**Youth** - Contact Mariann for information and log-in information about:

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** for children ages 5-10 continues to be offered Sundays at 10:30.

**Hanukkah**, the Jewish Festival of Lights, began last evening at sunset and will conclude Friday, December 18. It's important to teach our children, tweens and teens to respect and reverence people and traditions of other faiths. Learn [How to Explain the Hanukkah Story to Kids](#) here.

**QuaranTEEN and Write Now!** Check out this great [resource](#) for coping and connecting with current events by reading and writing. Here's a [clip](#) of author Alan Gratz reading from his book "Refugee." Watch and then take the challenge of the writing prompt.

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**Let it snow, help us blow, and save some dough!** Please consider volunteering your time and strength to keep our walks clear of snow and ice this winter season. We need 6 able bodies to shovel and salt the walks and patios prior to the 4pm and 9am Masses. We will gather in the parking lot 1 hour before services (or when it stops snowing) and clear all venues into the Church. We have a snow blower for the walks and shovels for the patios. We also have an older parishioner who has requested help clearing his driveway when it snows. Contact Becca Jackson ([rjackson@sfx-kc.org](mailto:rjackson@sfx-kc.org)) to help.

**Thanks to those who continue to help SFX through your Amazon purchases** – As the holidays approach, please consider making St. Francis Xavier your designated charity. Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and below the search bar, type in **St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church**. We will receive a percentage of your purchase. Thank you.

**FROM OUR APOSTOLATES and NEIGHBORS:**

**The Gospel of Mark** Scripture scholar and teacher Biagio Mazza, Pastoral Associate at St. Sabina's in Belton, will be offering a four-week series on the "Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me – Mark's Gospel and the Challenge of Discipleship" Wednesday evenings January 6, 13, 20, and 27, 7:00 –9:00 pm and repeated Thursday mornings January 7, 17, 21, and 28, 10:00 am-12:00 noon. Email [Biagio](mailto:Biagio) to register.

*We are here for you!*

*If we can make your Advent more meaningful, please contact us!*

*Ann, Becca, Fr. Jim, Fr. Steve, Mariann, Peggy, and Sue*

See something that interests you? Contact us:

Ann Sheridan – [asheridan@sfx-kc.org](mailto:asheridan@sfx-kc.org)

Becca Jackson – [rjackson@sfx-kc.org](mailto:rjackson@sfx-kc.org)

Fr. Jim Caime, S.J. – [pastor@sfx-kc.org](mailto:pastor@sfx-kc.org)

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