



Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church
Kansas City's Jesuit Parish
1001 East 52nd Street, Kansas City, MO 64110

SFX UPDATE – Friday, December 18, 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: Mary's Canticle

This "Magnificat" by African-American composer Leon Roberts captures Mary who though she has suffered, is strong, resilient and stands tall with the fulfillment of God's promise to her and to all ages. To me this rendition of the Magnificat is one sung in light of the Crucifixion and Resurrection.

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

- Go to our homepage for a song sheet that you can download and sing along at home for our Masses.
- The Advent and Christmas sign-ups are on Eventbrite. **Only people who sign up are guaranteed a seat at a Christmas Mass. Please, please help us plan by SIGNING UP NOW if you plan to attend any Masses for the rest of the year!**

As of this writing, there are:

4 seats left at the Christmas Eve 4:00 PM Mass

43 seats left at the Christmas Eve 9:00 PM Mass

53 seats left at the Christmas Day 9:00 AM Mass

People continue to ask: *Why do I have to sign up?*

- It is important to sign up for contact tracing purposes. If we learn that someone who attended Mass has tested positive, we will let you know.
- Also, city and diocesan mandates limit the number of people who can be in attendance and priority will be given to those who sign up in advance.

If you have questions about why we do what we do or if you have ideas about how we can make our Masses safer, contact any staff member. We want to be completely transparent and employ best practices.

Blue Christmas Prayer Service – TOMORROW! Saturday, December 19, 9:00-9:30 am.

What are you grieving this year? How have you shown courage? What is a memory of 2020 you will cherish? What is a creative act of love you did or received? 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.



Is St. Francis Xavier on your Christmas List? Please consider a special gift this year to help us meet the expenses associated with an active parish. Your donation will help us offset the financial impact of the pandemic and is greatly appreciated.

STEWARDSHIP - DEVELOPMENT - Would you like to help? Do you know someone else who might? This is such critical work at a Parish, and we want to kick off 2021 by revitalizing our stewardship efforts at St. Francis. If you have any (or all) of Time-Talent-Treasure, we would love for you to join the small group of folks doing this important work. We have had great success in the past with the new windows, the heating/cooling and other small projects. It is a great way to work towards the future at SFX and continue to build our community of faith. Please give this your prayerful consideration or pass it on to someone else you think would be interested. Please contact SFX parishioner, Christine Rankin or Ann Sheridan with your interest.

Sights and Sounds Inside the Church - Fr. Jim, the Liturgy Committee, and the Art and Environment team have been working hard during the Advent and Christmas season. Please consider offering your financial help to support their efforts. Your donation will help offset the cost to engage talented musicians, offer a creative and welcoming atmosphere, purchase liturgical supplies, and cover expenses associated with sound, lighting, and live streaming in the church. Thank you for your support of the SFX Liturgy Fund! Click HERE to donate!

Christmas Baskets Update – *Your generosity was overwhelming!* Thanks to all who donated food, gift cards, turkeys, and money, 91 families are going to have a wonderful Christmas dinner!

Anti-Racism Committee (ARC) – All are welcome to our next virtual meeting on **Monday, December 21 at 5:00pm**. Contact Sue for more information and the Zoom link. Help us lead the way as we:

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

CuraCommunities – Our *CuraCommunities* continue to be a source of joy and connection for parishioners. We meet via Zoom twice a month for about an hour. If you want to check-in with your SFX family on a regular basis please, contact Sue. We will meet again the first week of January.

Chaplain Cart – Thanks to your generous donations throughout the year, St. Francis Xavier hosted the “Chaplain Cart” at St. Luke’s East in December. Filled with snacks, drinks, lotions, gum, candies, mints, teas, hair ties, Chapstick, inspiration materials, and the ever-popular Crystal Light (*it’s the little things, you know*), the Chaplain Cart is a way to honor and show our support to weary nurses and hospital staff. We hope to sponsor the Chaplain Cart quarterly. If you would like information about donating to this cause, please contact Sue.



Adult Faith Formation - Contact Mariann for information and log-in information about: **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](#).

SFXPraying Email Network - SFXPraying is an email network to request prayers for our family, friends and the world we care about AND to share prayers of gratitude and thanksgiving. If you have a request for prayer, a blessing to share, or wish to receive SFXPraying email messages, contact [SFXPraying](#), THANK YOU for your faithful ministry of prayer!

Dreams are Built Together - Make plans now to read Pope Francis' latest encyclical letter ***Fratelli Tutti Brothers and Sisters All***. Pope Francis invites us to “dream...as a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or own voice.” Read the document [HERE](#) or purchase your own copy. SFX will offer Zoom study/prayer groups after the first of the year.

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.

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Make time and space to remember “the reason for the season.” Watch our livestream Masses on our [SFX YouTube channel](#); light candles, sing carols, and read the Scripture story from the Gospel of Luke 2:1-20; as you open presents, say a prayer for each gift-giver; remember to pray a blessing before AND after your holiday meals and before you go to bed at night; gather around your family creche and remember the highs and lows of 2020 – and offer a prayer recognizing Emmanuel/God-with-Us through it all.

Let it snow, help us blow, and save some dough! We still need a few more people to help keep our walks clear of snow and ice this winter season 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](#) to help.

Welcome 2021! Start 2021 off right! Grab a cup of coffee and join Fr. Jim and your SFX family on Zoom on January 1, 2021 at 10:00 am. As with Thanksgiving and Blue Christmas, we will host a virtual [New Year's Day Check-in and Prayer Service](#). For more information, contact any staff member.

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](#) to register.

May your 4th week of Advent be filled with unexpected blessings!

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

See something that interests you? Contact us:

Ann Sheridan – asheridan@sfx-kc.org

Becca Jackson – rjackson@sfx-kc.org

Fr. Jim Caime, S.J. – pastor@sfx-kc.org

Fr. Steve Yavorsky, S.J. – syavorsky@jesuits.org

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