



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

SFX UPDATE – January 7, 2022

All are welcome at

St. Francis Xavier

[SFX YouTube Channel](#) [SFX Facebook Page](#) [SFX Justice & Life Facebook](#)

SFX COVID Policy for Masses remain in place. We will review these policies as the situation changes.

- Masks are required for everyone attending Mass.
- If you come to the office for an appointment, masks are required as well.
- **We are suspending weekday Masses. We will review this decision at the end of the month.**

Pastor's Corner–

Song of the Week: [Credo In Sanctum Spiritum from "The Mass"](#)

"I believe in the Holy Spirit..." This line comes from our Creed. We also hear about the Holy Spirit in this week's gospel. I invite you to listen to this beautiful piece of music and let it calm you and bring you to stillness and prayer.

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THE GIFT of SPIRITUAL READING. Reading is FUNdamental and thanks to an anonymous donor, **St. Francis Xavier is distributing a book to every member of our congregation** (babies and toddlers, children and teens, adults and elders!) starting this weekend. Mariann and Sue had the joy of choosing books that would offer both information about the Catholic faith and formation in Ignatian spirituality. We went to Loyola Press for the adult books and chose six titles: [Positively Catholic](#) by Michael Leach, [Mercy in the City](#) by Kerry Weber, [The 15-Minute Prayer Solution](#) by Gary Jansen, [Busy Lives & Restless Souls](#) by Becky Eldredge, [A Well-Built Faith](#) by Joe Paprocki, and [A Simple Life Changing Payer: The Examen](#) by Jim Manney. In choosing books for our younger members, we wanted to offer books specifically about Scripture, Saints and Sacraments as well as books focusing on Care for Creation and Anti-Racism. We chose titles ranging from *Sophie Wonders about the Eucharist* by Debby Bradley, *The Boy Who Shared His Sandwich* by Steph Williams, and *Wangari's Trees of Peace* by Jeanette Winter for our little kids to *Ligouri's Saints Books, Bible Stories for Kids*, and *God is in Nature* by Jessica Doebler for our beginning readers. We chose *The Saints Chronicles*, a graphic novel, for our fourth and fifth graders and *Tattoos on the Heart* by Father

Greg Boyle, *Stamped* by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi, *Woke: A Young Poet's Call to Justice*, and *Being Different is a Super Power: The Greta Thunberg Story* for our Middle School and High School youth. Say a prayer of thanksgiving for our donor. And let us know what books you're reading that help you to know God's Love and live Jesus' Way better.

~~**Is St. Francis Xavier on Your Christmas list?** We have started our annual "Christmas Stocking" campaign. This year, all donations to the Christmas fund will go to offset the cost to install an upgraded heating and cooling system for our beautiful church. The new system will be much more efficient and environmentally friendly and replaces equipment that is at the end of its useful life. This project is just now getting underway, and you'll hear more about it in 2022. You may donate via our offertory collections (please note "Christmas" in the memo line of your check) or online at [SFX Christmas Stocking 2021](#)~~

~~**Our liturgical arts volunteers are venturing towards a more local and sustainable approach to flower, plant and evergreen sourcing for Advent and Christmas this year.** Our evergreen branches, used at the entrance to the narthex and on the altar, have typically been harvested and shipped from Oregon. But it is easy to harvest evergreens from our surrounding landscapes. If you have any of the following trees or shrubs and are willing to share some small branches, our team includes gardeners and landscapers who can discreetly trim branches to be enjoyed in our church, and then properly composted at the end of the season. We're looking for: Spruce (green or blue), Boxwood, Evergreen Magnolia, Pine, Juniper (especially with berries), and others. Crabapple branches with fruit are desired as well. Please contact Jackie Palmer to make arrangements. Jackiechanmo@yahoo.com/ cell phone: 816-462-3523.~~

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Annual Catholic Appeal, Message from Ann: This year the Diocese of Kansas City- St. Joseph plan to raise \$1,900,000 for their Annual Catholic Appeal. As of December 13th, they are at 64% of goal, having received 3,586 donations totaling \$1,217,383. The goal this year for St. Francis Xavier parish is \$25,200. As of December 13th, we are at 29% of our goal with 34 donations totaling \$7,270. Your donations help support Catholic Charities, the Bright Future Fund for schools, and the Human Rights office along with many other ministries. Funds from the Annual Appeal also help offset the cost of administrative services for Diocesan employees. We receive a tremendous amount of support from the Diocese for things like insurance and payroll administration, help with legal issues, and financial oversight. In 2020, it was the direct intervention of the Legal department at the Diocese that helped us successfully apply for and receive \$64,000 for the Payroll Protection Program. Diocesan lay employees are very good partners to us. For more information about the Appeal and how the funds are used, go to <https://kcsj catholic.org/office/stewardship-and-development/annual-catholic-appeal/>

We continue to pray for all Kansas City Metro homicide victims at our weekend liturgies. We pray for those killed in the city of Kansas City by name. This weekend we remember:
1 person (yet to be identified) killed Wednesday, January 5 at 37th and Benton
1 person (yet to be identified) killed Thursday, January 6 at 57th and Agnes

If you look in the Community Garden this weekend, you will see two white crosses for the first two homicide victims of the year. For each person murdered in 2022 in the Kansas City Metro, we will “plant” a cross with his or her name and date of death. If you would like to volunteer to update our bed each Friday, please contact [Sue](#). Please continue to pray for victims and their families as well as those affected by violence in our nation and around the world.

CHILDREN’S LITURGY of the WORD will continue to be offered on Zoom, 9:45-10:15 am on Sunday mornings. Please contact [Mariann](#) for Meeting ID, Passcode and link.

CONFIRMATION Prep Class will be held on Zoom this Sunday, January 9, 1:00-2:00 pm due to concerns about the Omicron variant of COVID. Please contact [Mariann](#) for the Meeting ID, Passcode and link.

IGNATIAN YEAR PILGRIMAGE STOP #5 KANSAS CITY Monday, January 10, 7:00 pm. Father Ron Boudreaux, SJ, will present on “Washing the Inside of the Cup: The Examen and Conversion.” Join on Zoom [HERE](#). Meeting ID: 857 1216 6451. Passcode: 011021 or on [YouTube](#).

“Jesus, A Pilgrimage” January meetings will be: Sunday, January 16 9:00 am Hearth Room, Tuesday, January 18 11:00 am Zoom, Wednesday, January 26 7:00 pm Zoom, Thursday, January 20 7:00 pm Zoom. **Reading assignment: Chapters 12-14.** Discussion questions can be found on our [parish website](#) If you haven’t joined one of our book groups, please consider reading the book on your own so we can all grow in faith together. **And mark your calendar: Father James Martin, SJ will be zooming with us on January 27, 7:00 pm** to talk about the book! This is for our book club members AND ALL PARISHIONERS. Registration details will be available soon. If you have a question for Father Martin, please contact [Mariann](#).

Centering Prayer Group via Zoom

Monday, January 24

7:00-9:00 pm. Contact [Rebecca Thompson](#) for Zoom meeting id and password. For more information about Centering Prayer go to [Contemplative Outreach](#).

Our SFX Adult Faith Formation Committee recommends “Stories of a Generation with Pope Francis,” a four-part Netflix documentary highlighting four values: Love, Dream, Struggle and Work. Pope Francis has said, “it is important to the future of humanity that young people talk to old people.” A year in the making, the documentary includes interviews with people over the age of 70 from all over the world, including Martin Scorsese and Jane Goodall. You can watch the trailer [HERE](#).

RIM (Refugees, Immigrants, and Migrants) – This ministry meets **Sunday, January 9 at 9:00 am via Zoom**. We will be discussing plans to go back to the Southern Border October 11-16 to visit the Encuentro Project and continued ways to support the Afghan Refugees. If you are interested in attending, please contact Sue for the Zoom link.

Upon our return to the offices this week, we discovered that 4 Afghan families have been temporarily located in JP2 Commons (that's the same building Xavier Hall is in) by Catholic Charities in Kansas. They are in **great need** of winter clothing and SFX has offered to help. They came over to get food today and no one has any socks and most were in sandals. None had jackets. One young man who spoke some English said they were given "one shirt, one pair of pants and one pair of shoes." If you can provide any of the clothing in the sizes listed below and well as underwear, please bring it to SFX as soon as possible.
Gently used heavy winter coats, gloves, women's head scarves of heavy fabric, athletic shoes, children's hats, gloves and snow boots, fleece jackets and pullovers.

Shoe Sizes:

Men 7-10,

Women 4-8

Boys 8-13

Girls Size 2

Toddler shoes for 18 m.o - 2.5 y.o.

Coats/Jackets:

Men's - Small - XL

Women - Small -Large

Youth Boys - Small for 8-9 y.o.,

Toddlers Girls 2-3 y.o.

SFX-CDH Awareness Blood Drive - NEXT SUNDAY! January 16th 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM in Xavier Hall! *There are still a LOT of appointments left and blood needs are critical!* Book your appointment **today** at savealifenow.org, enter Group Code: **ED8V**. All presenting donors receive a Chiefs Kingdom T-shirt! For additional details contact Jen Miller at (913) 961-2343 or millerjayhawk@gmail.com or [Sue Robb](mailto:SueRobb).

Gospel Nonviolence - Another group is starting soon. We will gather on a schedule that works for the participants. Generally, we meet 2 times a month for 2 hours to listen to content from a retreat master, the founder and director of the Program for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence at Notre Dame. Anyone interested in this content on a most pressing contemporary problem in the Church and the world is invited to contact Peg Burns at pegburns00@gmail.com.

Soup-er Bowl 2022 Challenge – The challenge is on! From now until the Super Bowl on February 13 (which is just 5 weeks away), we will be collecting cans of soup for our food pantry. Can we collect 2022 cans? If each parishioner who attends Mass brings in 2 cans a week, we would meet our goal! We are requesting that the soups be: low sodium, protein based, heart healthy soups. We would prefer *not* to receive "cooking soups" like Cream of Mushroom or Cream of Celery. On these cold winter days, what soup would you like to eat? As of this writing we have received **12 cans**...only 2010 to go!

EmbRace SFX Update – At our Zoom meeting last Sunday we discussed our plans to honor Black History Month. Watch for a calendar of activities and opportunities coming soon. One of our events will be an opportunity to see *Memphis*, the Tony award winning musical at the Jewish Community Theater on February 6 at 2:00 pm. If you are interested in going, please contact Sue. Each ticket will cost about \$30.

Book study begins February 2 - *The Education of Corporal John Musgrave* - When Ken Burns began planning for his Vietnam PBS series, he came to the KC area to interview Vietnam veteran, John Musgrave. Before the meeting, Ken believed John would be in one "episode" as a Vietnam wounded vet. After their meeting, John became the lead voice in the entire series. *The Education of Corporal John Musgrave* is the story of John's desire to become a Marine, his tour in Vietnam, and its devastating and life changing aftermath. Over the course of three Wednesdays (February 2, 9, and 16 from 4:00-5:15 PM) on Zoom, we will discuss the book and its impact on our lives, our nation, and our religion today. In the final discussion, we will examine the Church's evolving stance from Just War to Just Peace. The book can be purchased at Rainy Day Books for \$28.00. To sign up for this engaging discussion, please click [HERE](#). For more information, contact Kaler Bole at kalerbole@yahoo.com or [Sue Robb](#).

Auschwitz Exhibit - The Auschwitz exhibit is in Kansas City through March 20 and if there is interest in seeing it (again) before it leaves, I will acquire group tickets. Let [Sue](#) know if you'd like to go!



Thanks to the 11 families who participated in the Reverse Advent Calendar opportunity and collected items for our food pantry throughout Advent. Each of these items is on our shelves and ready to be used. Watch for a Lenten opportunity to collect staples for our pantry and pray for our neighbors in need.

Opportunities from our Apostolates and our Community

Action Alert from the Central and Southern Province: Federal Truth and Healing Commission

The Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology endorsed the newly announced Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act. Introduced to Congress on Sept. 30 by Senator Elizabeth Warren and Representatives Tom Cole and Sharice Davids, the bill would establish the first formal investigation of Indigenous boarding schools in the U.S. through the creation of a Federal Truth and Healing Commission. Click [here](#) to send a message to your own members of Congress asking them to support this bill.

2022 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Interfaith Service: Freedom and Justice NOW!

Sunday, January 9, 1:30 pm. Community Christian Church. 4601 Main Street, KCMO 64112. Virtual and In Person. Co-sponsored by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Jewish Community Relations Bureau/AJC. Keynote Speaker: Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II. Evelyn

Wasserstrom Award Recipients: Rabbi Doug Alpert, Anita Russell, Patricia Jones Macklin. For more information and how to attend virtually go to [2022 MLK jr Interfaith Service](#).

January Blessings!

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

See something that interests you? Contact us:

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