



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

SFX UPDATE – April 29, 2022

All are welcome at
[St. Francis Xavier](#)

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

Jesuit Commission on Ministries Update from Ann and Fr. Jim: On Wednesday, April 20th, we traveled to St. Louis to give a presentation to the Jesuit Central and Southern Province Commission on Ministries led by Provincial Fr. Tom Greene, SJ. The topic of the presentation was parish life at SFX with special emphasis on the impact we make as a Jesuit parish in the community. We had 30 minutes for the presentation followed by a 45-minute Q&A. At the presentation we showed the Commission a short video and gave them a packet of information that included answers to survey questions about our response to the Universal Apostolic Preferences, samples of our bulletins and SFX Updates, and information about our financial status and the condition of our buildings. We have a great story to tell, and it was a pleasure to talk about our vibrant, busy, growing parish.

We thought the meeting went well and that we achieved the objectives as we understood them. The members of the Commission and Fr. Tom thanked us for our efforts and indicated they were confident in their understanding of who we are and what we do as the Jesuit parish in Kansas City. That was the goal.

Did you see the videographer on Palm Sunday? Our next step is to use footage from the video we made for the presentation and create a video that reflects our full parish life. We'll have more time to put the parish video together and we learned a lot along the way the first time. Stay tuned!

Meanwhile, we will continue as always. Keeping our eye on each other and the world around us. Helping when and where we can. Finding God in all things, and in one another. May God bless our beautiful parish.

Pastor's Corner

Song of the Week: [Gathered As One, Paul Tate & Deanna Light](#)

This praise and worship style song reminds us that it is God who gathers us, and we await the fulfillment of God's promise. This video has lyrics and photos which help capture the essence of this hymn.

Strong Blessings on Margaret **Sarah Brush**, **Brynn Rose Cheah**, **Truman James Duckworth**, and **Madelyn Kay Tofflemire** who will receive their First Communion at the 10:30 Mass on Sunday. Please pray also for their classmate **Dashiel Francis Wagner** who will receive his First Communion next Sunday, May 8. May they – and all our children and teens – be nourished by Word and Sacrament. (Note: There will be no Children's Liturgy of the Word this Sunday).

We continue to pray for all Kansas City Metro homicide victims at our weekend liturgies. Those killed in the city of Kansas City, Missouri this week are:
47. David Tate, 34 on 4/23
48. Lanita Hart, 47 on 4/22

Day of Prayer in Atonement for Those Harmed by Clergy Sexual Abuse Our church was filled with the powerful prayers of a small group of folks Tuesday evening to pray for those harmed by clergy sexual abuse. We prayed
...for the healing of survivors, their families and communities.
...that the Holy Spirit guide our church officials in their response.
...that the community of faith reach out with compassionate care to all victims of abuse and their families.
...for repentance, forgiveness, and healing for all who have abused others.
...that those who have been wounded feel the loving embrace of Christ.
...that the Spirit of God continue to bring justice and transformation within our church.
For more information about what our diocese is doing to repair the harm that was done to so many children and families, go to [Journey to Bethany](#), a new approach that marshals the gifts of the faithful to meet the needs of survivors of clergy sexual abuse in our diocesan family. To share your feedback or volunteer your time contact Journey to Bethany director [Jennifer Prusa](#).

Are you ready for Spring? Ready for a return to fun? The social committee is gearing up for a return to normal activities and is seeking new members who want to get creative and love to party. The group is responsible for planning fun activities and utilizing Xavier Hall. Past events included a Valentine's Day party, game night, and Halloween party. Please contact [Shelby Siegel](#) if you are interested or if you have any questions about the group.

Calling All SFX Youth in Grades 7-12: Creating a Connected World-Social Justice Camp for Youth

June 7-8 (Tues-Wed) 6-8:30 p.m

Precious Blood Renewal Center in Liberty

Join Youth from around the Kansas City Metro Area who will gather for empowering talks, fun crafts and socializing. The aim is to know yourself better and meet some new friends. This is the third annual summer youth camp sponsored by the Precious Blood Renewal Center. FREE! Contact Mariann (mccormally@sfx-kc.org) for more information.

Monday Minute Do you miss The Catholic Key diocesan newspaper? Do you want to know more about what is happening around the diocese? Email [Ashlie Hand](mailto:Ashlie.Hand) to be added to the email distribution list for the Monday Minute.

HeART and Soul continues the first Tuesday of the month

May 3 11:00 am -12:30 pm on Zoom

Join SFX Parishioners Nancy Seibolt and Peg Hornsby in using mixed media as a way to express what is on our minds and in our hearts. This is NOT a gathering of artists. It's a kind of *visio divina* or art journaling. No previous experience necessary. No fee. Nancy, a spiritual director, and Peg, a retreat leader, are both graduates of the Ignatian Spirituality Center "Prayer Companions" certificate program. Space is limited to 12. Registration deadline is TODAY April 29. For more information or to register to receive Zoom link and supply packet contact Mariann.

Ignatian Year Pilgrimage last stops: TEXAS

Jesuit **Provincial Tom Greene, SJ** will be traveling to Texas for annual visitations. Mark your calendar and join the Jesuits and their lay colleagues for these presentations:

Monday, May 9 (from Houston): "Knowing Christ: The Grace of the Second Week" with Father Hanh Pham, S.J., at 7 pm Central. [YouTube](#) or [Zoom Meeting](#) ID 840 9243 4058 Passcode 050922.

Saturday, May 14 (from El Paso): "Migrating with the Migrant: Rich Possibilities for Spiritual Accompaniment of the Migrant Poor" with **Most Reverend Mark Seitz, Bishop of El Paso**, 6:45 pm Central. [YouTube](#) or [Zoom Meeting](#) ID 872 6360 8608 Passcode 051422

Synod on Synodality

LISTENING was identified as the most important issue by the respondents to our Synod Survey. This is the summary of those comments we sent to Bishop Johnston:

Respondents long for a Church that creates space for the laity, especially women, young people and those on the margins of society. They are disheartened by what they see as the exclusion of women, LGBTQ+ persons, and other marginalized groups. Many have the experience of "the Church is big on talking about listening, but only wants to hear from certain people – white men with money," "the hierarchy speaks first, rarely listens" and "the magisterium too often decrees without listening to those with lived experiences." Many have felt ignored. One respondent wrote of the desire for "real listening, the kind that transforms into action and change." There is concern that bishops and pastors want "yes men" and are more interested in "telling the laity what to do" than really listening. Over and over, respondents wrote of the need to listen to women, to those 30-50, to young people, to LGBTQ+ persons, and to the divorced and remarried and others in "unsanctioned" relationships. One respondent wrote that the Church "is doing a pretty good job of listening to refugees and migrants...but not to the cry of foster children. By barring LGBTQ+ couples from adopting, they turn a deaf ear to the cry of foster kids who desperately need a loving home." Another wrote that the Church is more interested in "apologetics...creeds, explanations, rebuttals and beliefs...than being the hands, the feet, the eyes, the ears, the heart of Christ."

Please continue to pray for our Bishops and Pope Francis – and all the Church – that we can truly listen to the Holy Spirit! To learn more about the Synod go to [Synod 2021-2023](#).

Are you feeling Easter Energy? Or not so much...? [Sue](#) and [Mariann](#) are certified spiritual directors available to listen to you as you reflect on what is going on in your life

and prayer. Many find this “deep listening” helps them grow and deepen their relationship with God. [Sue](#) and [Mariann](#) are willing to meet with you one time or on an ongoing (once-a-month) basis to help you explore aspects of your faith and relationship with God. Click the link to reach out!

Eid al-Fitr, the end of Ramadan, will be celebrated by our Muslim brothers and sisters on May 2. After a month of fasting from food and drink from dawn to dusk, the feast of Eid al-Fitr is a time of great celebration and joy, prayer and thanksgiving. Check out this article from America Magazine, The Jesuit Review: [An Inside Look at how Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar have revolutionized Catholic-Muslim relations](#).

Mark Your Calendars:

- **EmbRace Ministry** will meet **THIS Sunday May 1 in Xavier Hall from 9:00-10:15**. Join us as we work to understand our biases and racist attitudes, strive to be known as an anti-racist parish, and work within the community to effect change.
- ***EmbRace recommends: Attending our meeting!***
- **RIM (Refugees, Immigrants, and Migrants) Ministry** will meet **Sunday, May 15 from 9:00-10:15 in Xavier Hall**.

Migrant Farmworkers Collection and Dates - We have 3 dates to go to Lexington to serve the migrant families who put food on our tables. Mark your calendars for **August 22, September 19, and October 3**. We'll leave the SFX parking lot at 3:00 and return about 8:00 pm. All are welcome!

We have been asked to collect:

- white rice (not instant)
- pinto beans (dry, not in cans)
- small paperback Spanish-English dictionaries
- baseball caps
- clean bath towels
- *clean sweatshirts - med, large, X-large
- *clean t-shirts - med, large, X-large

* For the non-food items, **please separate, sort, and label all donations:**

(Example: "t-shirts – medium) Neither MFAF nor SFX has the staff and time to sort all we receive. Thank you!

You may drop off your donations in the back of church when you come to Mass or bring them to the parish office during office hours. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

The Death Penalty - [Carman Deck](#) is the next human being scheduled to be executed on May 3. Here are opportunities to get more involved:

- On the eve of Mr. Deck's scheduled execution, we will have speakers covering the legal, medical, and theological aspects of the death penalty. Mark your calendars and join us **Monday evening, May 2 at 6:30 pm in Xavier Hall** for this important discussion. For more information, please contact [Sue](#) or Tom Bradshaw.
- Then if Mr. Deck's sentence is not commuted, we will gather with MADP from 5:00-6:00 on May 3 at 39th and Troost for an execution watch and prayer service. Watch the update for more details.

Pizza and a Movie! Join us May 10 and May 24 for our 4:00 showings of movies that highlight leaders of non-violence. On May 10, we will learn about Fr. George Zabelka who served as a Catholic Chaplain to the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bomb crews. On May 24 we will watch *King in the Wilderness*, a documentary about Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his prophetic voice of non-violence and peace. Don't get off until 5:00? Watch the movies on YouTube, then join us for the discussion. Contact [Peg Burns](#) or [Sue](#) for more information (or to RSVP, which is helpful, but not necessary.)

Women of SFX – It is not too late to get in on the May 19-22 Women's Retreat at the White House in St. Louis. For more information, contact Sue!

Ignatian Parish Justice Summit - June 14-16, 2022 – The Ignatian Spirituality Network is sponsoring this event in St. Louis this year. This is a terrific opportunity to:

- Connect with leaders from parishes across the U.S. seeking to enhance their community's work for justice inspired by the Ignatian charism.
- Exchange real-life strategies for parish justice engagement from your own work and the work of fellow parish leaders.
- Workshops and resource sharing will deepen knowledge and capacity for advocacy in the areas of migration, ecology, and racial justice.

The cost is \$350 (only \$150 if you know someone you can stay with in St. Louis). For more information and to sign up, go to [Ignatian Parish Justice Summit 2022 \(wufoo.com\)](#) and let Sue know you are attending!

Adopt a Street – Thank you! We have enough volunteers to proceed with the application and select our street. We'll keep you posted and let you know when and where our first clean-up will be! Thanks to all who signed up!

Help get ID cards – We get several calls a month from people needing help obtaining an ID. We have one volunteer and are looking for another person to meet people at the DMV on Emmanuel Cleaver II Blvd to pay (with SFX funds) for their ID. If you'd be willing to help with this, please contact Sue.

FROM OUR APOSTOLATES and FRIENDS

Living the Good News of Aging
Mondays, May 2, 9, & 16 on Zoom, 7:00pm

The Church and the world desperately need wise elders to develop and share their gifts for the good of the community. The **St. Elizabeth's Adult Faith Formation Team** is excited to host two accomplished leaders on second-half-of-life spirituality. This 3-session mini-retreat is an invitation to discover the spiritual gifts available to us in the autumn and winter of life. There will be excellent food for thought, a chance to ponder it in your heart, and an opportunity to share your experience as a gift for those on this sacred journey of aging together. **Presenters are from the Forest Dwelling Program: Spirituality for our Wisdom Years, at Oblate School of Theology.** Founded by Fr. Ron Rolheiser with the intent of providing guidance for mature spiritual seekers so that, in the words of Henri Nouwen, "they might be able to give both their life and death away" for the sake of the world. To register to receive the Zoom link, email Deacon Mike at mmclean@stekc.org, and spread the word!

The Risen Jesus: An Examination of the Resurrection Narratives

Wednesday evenings May 4, 11, 18, and 25, 2022 ~ 7-9 PM Central Time

Repeated on Thursday Mornings, May 4, 12, 19, 26, 2022 ~ 10 AM - Noon Central Time

The sessions will be facilitated via Zoom by Biagio Mazza, Pastoral Associate at St.

Sabina Parish in Belton, MO. To register email biagio@stsabinaparish.org or call 816-979-3153 with your name and time preference.

SFX recently became a congregational member of MORE² them for this Individual Member Mingle

Join

When: ***Wednesday, May 4th from 5-7 pm***

Where: ***Rockhurst Community Center, 5401 Troost Ave. KCMO 64110***

Come have a good time while enjoying music, food, and drinks with other individual members in the organization. We will share various issues the organization is currently working on as well as recap victories won in the past. This event is for INDIVIDUAL members so if you are part of a congregation and want to attend, don't show up without a friend!

Delicious appetizers will be provided by the city's own KC Cajun and MORE2 merchandise giveaways for members to gear up!

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

See something that interests you? Contact us:

Ann Sheridan, Pastoral Administrator – asheridan@sfx-kc.org

Becca Jackson, Facilities – rjackson@sfx-kc.org

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

Laura Worms, Music Director - lworms@sfx-kc.org

Mariann McCormally, Pastoral Associate, Faith Formation – mccormally@sfx-kc.org

Peggy Beaven-Calia, Administrative Assistant – pbeavencalia@sfx-kc.org

Sue Robb, Pastoral Associate, Justice & Life - srobb@sfx-kc.org