



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

SFX UPDATE – May 6, 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.

Strong Blessings on Dashiell Francis Wagner who will receive his First Communion Sunday, May 8. May he – and all our children and teens – be nourished by Word and Sacrament.

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
- 49. William Jones, 25, on 4/28
- 50. David Bynum, 40, on 4/28

51. Carlos Barnett, 24, on 4/29

52. Unknown on 5/5

Our Prayers for Those Harmed by Clergy Sexual Abuse When we gathered the last Tuesday in April to pray for those harmed by clergy sexual abuse, we asked participants to write down and share their petitions. Here are a few of them:

- Dear Lord – give me the strength to support those victims of all abuse that I come into contact with. Give me the wisdom to guide them with compassion and legal wisdom. Continue to bless me with the understanding and patience and kindness. Help give them the peace that only you can grant. Amen.
- I pray that as a community we can come together to support victim-survivors and help them in some small way on their journey.
- Lord, bring understanding and patience to the families of the abused; bring peace and comfort to the abused; bring understanding and humility to the clergy.
- Forgiveness – How?
- Hope! Clarity! Release!
- True peace for all abused.

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](#).

RETREATS

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!

Parish Pentecost Retreat - Friday evening, June 3 5:30-9:00. Led by Mariann and Sue, this retreat is for couples and singles, young and old. In the presence of the Holy Spirit we'll get acquainted, enjoy a bit of creation, share a meal, listen to a reflection, have some quiet time and time to share, and close with prayer. **Limit: 50 people** and sign-ups are preferred so we have enough food and materials. [Sign up here](#) and contact Sue or Mariann for more information.

Ignatian Parish Justice Summit – TWO ways to participate!

IN PERSON - June 14-16, 2022 – Attend this 2 ½ day conference in St. Louis this year. Cost is \$350 which includes all food, lodging, and programming or \$150 if you stay off site. For more information and to sign up, go to [Ignatian Parish Justice Summit 2022 \(wufoo.com\)](#) and let Sue know you are attending!

VIRTUAL – June 15 11:15-5:15 pm via Zoom – Cost is \$50 [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

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.

May Prayer Walk Join us May 21, 9:30 am at the Neighborhood Park at 81st and Troost (just north of the Family Dollar). This is part of the **Investing in KC/Target Green Project** in the Marlborough Neighborhood. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the project. All ages welcome! Wheelchairs and strollers, dogs on leashes. We will walk and talk and share faith – and learn more about **green infrastructure**. Caring for Our Common Home is one of four [Universal Apostolic Preferences](#) of the Society of Jesus. For more information, contact [Mariann](#).

Soul Food Tuesday

Tuesdays, 11:00 am – 12:00 noon on Zoom. May 10 and 24. All are welcome to join this study/prayer group. This month, we'll be reading and reflecting on Nathan Schneider's piece in America Magazine [Have Catholics Been Praying the Our Father All Wrong?](#) Contact [Mariann](#) for more information or just join the [Zoom](#).

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.

HELP NEEDED: Please consider joining us as we rebuild our children and teen ministries at SFX! What a blessing to have so many new, young families. Now to provide them with great faith formation programming! Do you have ideas? Suggestions? Can you be a part of Children's Liturgy, Baptism Prep, First Sacraments, Family Faith, Middle School and High School Youth Group? All volunteers undergo a screening interview, a criminal background check, read and sign the "Ethics and Integrity in Ministry" Code of Conduct and must be certified in "Protecting God's Children," the diocesan safe environment training program. Volunteers receive on-going training and support. Please contact [Mariann](#) 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](#) to be added to the email distribution list for the Monday Minute.

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

COMPANIONS on the JOURNEY was identified as the second important issue by the respondents to our Synod Survey. This is the summary of those comments we sent to Bishop Johnston: *Respondents experience the St. Francis Xavier Parish Community as "companions on the journey," but are painfully aware that kind of companionship "depends on the parish and the diocese." Too many are left behind, not welcomed and not accompanied by the larger Church. Many respondents wrote of a spirit of judgment and exclusion in other parishes and in the diocese and US Catholic Church – especially when it comes to the issue of women in leadership and the acceptance of LGBTQ+ persons. "Women are not treated as true companions. Gay people are not treated as true companions." Divorced persons feel marginalized, too. One wrote that as they struggled through a broken marriage "only Christ held my hand, not His Church." In general, respondents feel "cardinals, bishops and priests seem to live in a sort of rarified atmosphere that is not part of the current world." "Too often politics and finances distract the hierarchy from God's original purpose and dream for the Church." One respondent said they feel "as if we are little lambs being led rather than going forth together." Another called the Church's teachings and disciplines about women's ordination, clerical celibacy, and LGBTQ+ sexuality "hateful barriers." The invitation to "come home" has "a lot of strings attached." There is a recognition that "we need each other to become our best self and to follow Jesus' guide" and a longing for "solidarity and focus on love and not rules."*

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](#).

Mark Your Calendars:

Pizza and a Movie! Join us **in the Romero Room THIS TUESDAY, May 10** for our 4:00 series of movies that highlights leaders of non-violence. This week, we will watch a one-hour documentary about Fr. George Zabelka who served as a Catholic Chaplain to the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bomb crews. Then, 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.)

RIM (Refugees, Immigrants, and Migrants) **Ministry** will meet **Sunday, May 15 from 9:00-10:15 in Xavier Hall**. Join us as we build community and support those seeking freedom from violence and corruption in their home countries.

Help give dignity and identity – We get several calls a month from people needing help obtaining an ID. We have one volunteer and really need 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](#).

Binding Us Together by Alvin Brooks – Few have faced adversity like Alvin Brooks has. He was born into an impoverished family, he nearly lost his adoptive father to the justice system of the South, and he barely survived a health crisis in infancy. Alvin Brooks proves that a good

heart, a generous spirit, and a lot of work can connect the world; one person can make a difference by binding us together.

We'll read and discuss Mr. Brooks' book via Zoom on Monday evening June 6 (Chapters 1-4), June 13 (Chapters 6-9), and June 20 (Chapters 10-13), and then host him in Xavier Hall on June 27 for an engaging discussion. Please consider purchasing the book from Rainy Day books. Let us know you're interested by signing up [here](#) or contact [Sue](#).

EmbRace recommends: For parents looking for books on social justice, civil rights and books by black authors for their young children, EmbRace Recommends checking out this link for suggestions from the Kansas City Public Library:

<https://kclibrary.bibliocommons.com/list/share/1167659367/1653908779>

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*. 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!

FROM OUR APOSTOLATES and FRIENDS

LIGHT A CANDLE FOR PEACE - Fr. Arturo Sosa, Superior General, is calling us to join our voices for peace in a prayer for justice and truth to shine in our world. Listen to his message or read it [here](#).

Easter Blessings!

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

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