SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE FILLED.

**LUKE 3:5** 



# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH (TAOS)

7319 ROUTE M, JEFFERSON CITY, MO | 573.395.4401 | INFO@SFXTAOS.COM

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024** 

# St. Francis Xavier Parish

7319 Route M Jefferson City (Taos) MO 65101

REV. KELECHI UZUEGBU - PASTOR

Email: kuzuegbu@sfxtaos.com (ext. 1004)

**DEACON MICHAEL BERENDZEN 573.694.4916** 

Email: mberendzen@diojeffcity.org

WEEKEND MASSES: Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 8:00 & 10 a.m.

<u>Welcome to St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church!</u> We are glad that you came to join us for Mass. We hope that you feel welcome in our parish community. We are a Roman Catholic community dedicated to worshiping God, proclaiming the Gospel, teaching the faith, and serving our brothers and sisters. Whether you are just visiting or looking for a faith community to call home, we hope that you feel welcome with us. May God bless you!

Email: info@sfxtaos.com

Facebook: St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church & St. Francis Xavier Parish

Office: 573.395.4401 Fax: 573.395.4302 Parish Website: www.sfxtaos.com

Bookkeeper- Cecilia Lock Email: clock@sfxtaos.com (ext. 1002)
Secretary - Laurie Herzing Email: lherzing@sfxtaos.com (ext. 1001)

Religious Education Director - Cathy Singer Email: reled@sfxtaos.com (ext. 1003)

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Saturday 4:15 - 4:45 p.m.

or anytime by appointment.

PASTORAL COUNCIL (2024-25): Steve LePage, President 338-3909;

Randy Kempker, Vice President 619-8230; Maureen LeRoy, Secretary 694-4487; Jean Decker, Social Concerns 619-0282; Lacy Green 680-2321; Russell Richter 291-3745; Tom Sanning 694-1241; Stacy Strope 291-4323;

Wendy Sullivan 353-2191; Linda Tobar 619-7306; Kristen Wegman 619-1202; Diana Wekenborg 694-6707; Josh Sandbothe, Property Manager 690-2861

MISSION STATEMENT: St. Francis Xavier Parish is an example of Christ's Love by educating, serving and celebrating our faith with others in our community.

Adopted by Parish Council Fall 1997

St. Francis Xavier School 7307 Rt. M, Jefferson City, MO 65101 Jordan Tobar - Principal Email: jtobar@sfxtaos.com

**Office:** 573.395.4612 **Fax:** 573.395.4017 **School website: www.sfxtaos.com** 

- Pray the Rosary at 7:10 p.m. every first Wednesday of each month at the K of C Hall, Taos
- Pray the Rosary at Church before each Mass (Saturday 4:30 p.m., Sunday 7:30 & 9:30 a.m.)
- **Baptism:** Contact Father regarding preparation sessions and scheduling.
- **†** Marriage: Contact Father at least six months in advance for preparation and scheduling.
- † Interested in Joining the Catholic Faith? Contact Cathy Singer at the parish office 573-395-4401.



"For hope to find a home in our hearts as we embrace the joy of Christ's birth. Amid the jubilation, may we also find time in prayer to experience the calm and peace of God's presence in our lives.."

Monday, Dec 9th: Feast of the Immaculate Conception

7:45 a.m. - L&D of Elmer & George Wankum & August

Kerperin Families

Tuesday, Dec 10th: 7:00 p.m. – Clarence, Esther & Jackson Fromme

Wednesday, Dec 11th: 7:45 a.m. – Louis Eiken

Thursday, Dec 12th:

7:45 a.m. – Lawrence & Norine Lage

Friday, Dec 13th:

7:45 a.m. – James Cassmeyer

Saturday, Dec 14th:

5:00 p.m. – L&D of Mildred, Ted Struttmen and Minnie

& Anton Baumhoer

Sunday, Dec 15th:

8:00 a.m. - People of the Parish

10:00 a.m. - John Decker

For those of you who have your offertory collection done electronically and do not receive monthly envelopes, the special envelopes for <u>Dec.</u> are: Samaritan Center, Parish School, and Capital Improvements/Repairs.

## mark

# your Calendar

Dec 9 Contemporary Choir Practice 6:30 p.m. Cafeteria

**Dec 10** Quilting 8 a.m. Taos Park Office

Dec 10 SFX Penance at 10 a.m. Reker Hall

Dec 11 SFX Penance at 7 p.m. Cafeteria

Dec 11 PSR Class 7-8 p.m. SFX School

**Dec 12** Pray the Chaplet of our Lady of Guadalupe

**Dec 12** St. Stanislaus Church Penance at 6 p.m.

Dec 13 Wreath for Hero's 9 a.m. at School

Dec 14 Worship & Wine after 5 p.m. Mass

Dec 14 Giving Tree Gifts due by 6 p.m.

#### Dec 14 OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Goal for Nov \$ 82,000.00 (4 Sundays)

Nov 2 & 3 \$ 13,411.00 Nov 9 & 10 \$ 12,548.00 Nov 16 & 17 \$ 9,474.00 Nov 23 & 24 \$ 13,687.00 ACH \$ 27,841.00 \$ 76,961.00

#### Offertory Collection Fiscal YTD 2024

 Goal thru Oct
 \$ 348,500.00

 Actual thru Oct
 \$ 318,239.60

 End of the Year
 \$ -30,260.40



<u>Baptized in Christ</u>: Ryker Micheal Bexten was baptized in our church on Sunday, Nov. 24th, 2024.



BIRTHRIGHT SHOWER: Our parish will be having a shower for Birthright during the Advent Season. Birthright is in need of new and used baby items. We especially can use diapers and baby clothing. We will have a crib on display by the altar for you to place your gifts. This is just a

good way for our parish to reach out and help the less fortunate. Let's continue praying for Birthright volunteers and mothers. If you have any questions, you can call **Kathy Hayes at 694-4289**.



Liturgical Ministries			
Dec 14 & 15	5:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Debbie Backes	Charles Callaway	Lisa Reinke
	Sarah Boss	Elaine Callaway	Tammy Sachse
	Jean Decker	Eddy Davis	Lisa Scheulen
	Angeline Prenger	Tina Davis	Cathy Singer
Lector	Ava Kleffner	Glenda Vanderfeltz	Linda Tobar
Ushers	Jim Radmacher	Bill Vanderfeltz	James Singer
	Ruby Radmacher	Karl Lootens	Chris Reinke
	Art Greenbank	Robbie Lootens	Robin Reinkemeyer
	Tom Henke	Dan Sandbothe	Ross Reinkemeyer
Servers	Zoey Prenger	Stevie Howell	Ezra Yeager
	Elle Kleffner	Audrey Verslues	Liam Meyer
Musicians	Katnik	Hoffmeyer & Branum	Hood & Forbis Family

#### **Attention Quilters!**

"The quilters are in need of a volunteer to bind quilts for us. It would be appreciated very much. Also, if you know how or would like to learn to quilt we are in need of quilters."

Contact Janet @

janetprenger@gmail.com

Looking for a large flower pot to replant our big Piece Lilly in church. If anyone has one contact the parish office.

Parish now offers **Low-Gluten Hosts**. Come to the sacristy to make your request 15 minutes before Mass. **If you or someone you know is homebound and would like to receive communion or a visit, call the office at 395-4401.** 

Parish Prayer Line—Alma Sandbothe 573-395-4666 or Shirley Toebben 573-619-0674.

For emergencies, weekends or after-hours, Fr. Kelechi 395-4401

**2**<sup>nd</sup> **Sunday of Advent:** In the year 1995, in the seventeenth year of my life, when Fife Symington was governor of Arizona, Bill Clinton was president of the United States, Chuck Keiffer was pastor of St. Theresa parish in Phoenix, Arizona, and Ron and Mary were my parents, the word of God came to my youth minister Eric and through him I started to see the salvation of God. Soon, Christ came into my life never to leave. I'm thankful beyond words.

Why am I being so specific, you ask? Because in the Gospel this week we hear the specific names of people holding civic and religious authority in first century Palestine when "the word of God came to John the Baptist:" Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate, Herod, Philip, Lysanias, Annas, Caiaphas, and Zechariah. All this is meant to help us see that God breaks into our history, into real human events. Jesus is no mere myth. He is the Word-which-breaks-in, in concrete moments, you might say. And now we anticipate his coming once again in our specific situations.

Advent challenge: Name as many civic and religious leaders who are in authority currently in your life. Now, name who the potential John the Baptists may be. A spouse? A friend? A podcaster? A work colleague who brings God's word to you? Spend a moment considering that this comprises the concrete, historical setting into which Christ wishes to come. Then, with these specifics in mind, pray: "Come, Lord Jesus. Come." — Father John Muir ©LPi



Cathy Singer, Director of Religious Education 573-395-4401 ext. 1003

#### December 8: 2nd Sunday of Advent

In a world often marked by turmoil, we yearn for Your gift of peace.

May Your peace dwell in our hearts, bringing calm to our troubled spirits and foster unity and community.

We pray for those who are burdened by conflicts, both near and far.

During unrest and uncertainty, we ask for Your guidance and grace to be a beacon of peace to those in need. Amen.

Help us to remember that the birth of Your Son, Jesus, represents the ultimate gift of peace to the world. In His light, may we find the path to reconciliation, understanding and harmony.

We wait along this path. We wait in hope. Amen.

#### VOCATION MINISTRY

"We all have a vocation. We believe that **God** has placed us in this life to fill a special need that no one else can" St. Francis De Sales. If you are interested in helping to start a vocation ministry in our parish to pray for and help support the Catholic vocations of priesthood, marriage, consecrated life and singlehood, please contact Cathy Singer at the Parish office.



Join us on **December 12th** after morning Mass to pray the Chaplet of our Lady of Guadalupe.
Weather permitting,
we will go outside to her statue.



## **PSR Christmas Pageant**

Wednesday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the School Gym



Let us help you do your baking and support the school at the same time. The Ladies of the K of C will be selling goodies after each of the Christmas shows on **December 19th.** 





Or, look for the envelope in the December 6 issue of *The Catholic Missourian* and bring it to Mass or the parish office



Want to <u>deepen your</u>
<u>faith</u> & <u>meet new people</u>
in our parish?

Consider joining a small group for a four-session series on Parishes as Communities of the Beatitudes

For more information, contact:

Religious Ed. Director: Cathy Singer 573-395-4401



As you're planning your gift list for Christmas, why not consider one that will give beyond this season and maybe forever? Consider making a planned gift to **St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church**. To learn more about possibilities, please call the parish office.



On **Friday, December 20th** we will be having the 7:45am morning mass in the school gym! We will be celebrating the start of our Christmas break with an all-school mass! All are welcome to join us for our first all-school mass of the school year.

St. Francis Xavier School will be hosting the **Wreaths for Heroes** this year. On **Friday, December 13th** at 9:00am we invite anyone who would like to join us to meet in the school gym for this wonderful event.

Our annual Christmas Program will be taking place on Thursday, December 19th. We will have an afternoon showing at 1:30pm and an evening showing at 6:30pm. The Ladies Auxiliary will also be holding their annual bake sale at both the afternoon and evening showings. Can't wait to see everyone there.

#### Coming Up at S.F.X.

- Monday 12/9 Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass
   @ 7:45am
  - Friday 12/13 Wreaths For Heroes @ 9:00am
  - Thursday 12/19 Christmas Program @ 1:30pm and 6:30pm. Ladies Auxiliary Bake Sale following each of the showings.
- Friday 12/20 Early Dismissal @ 12:30pm. NO AFTERCARE
  - **12/21 1/5** Christmas Break

Blessings,

Mr. Jordan Tobar, Principal jtobar@sfxtaos.com

Job Opportunity, Parish Bookkeeper: St Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Taos, Missouri seeks to hire a part-time bookkeeper. This position involves Payroll & HR Duties, General Ledger Duties (Accts Rec & Accts Payables), School HL Program, Capital Campaign Duties, and Parish Collection Duties. Position will be required to work 20-25 hours per week. It is possible that duties could be shared. For an application and job description or for further information, contact Fr. Kelechi Uzuegbu, St Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 7319 Route M, Jefferson City, MO 65101, 573-395-4401, kuzuegbu@sfxtaos.com.

# Wardsville Perpetual Adoration Chapel Hours Available:

Thursday morning 12:00 midnight - 1:00 a.m.

Saturday 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Saturday 1:00 - 2:00 a.m. (every other Saturday)

Sunday 2:00 - 3:00 a.m. (1st & 3rd)

Call Donna at 680-1470 if interested

#### **Penance Dates, Time & Locations**

**Dec. 10th** St. Francis Xavier Church (Reker Hall): 10 a.m. Fr. Kelechi & Msgr. Cox

Dec. 11th St. Francis Xavier School (Cafeteria): 6 p.m. Fr. Kelechi, Msgr. Cox, Fr. Cordes, & Fr. Flatley Dec. 12th St. Stanislaus Church 6 p.m.

### **Holiday Mass Times**

#### Tuesday, December 24th

Vigil Mass of Christmas 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Mass during the Night 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 25th

The Nativity of the Lord 9:00 a.m.

#### **New Year's Eve Mass**

Tuesday, December 31 at 5:00 p.m. New Year's Day Mass

Wednesday, January 1 at 9:00 a.m.

#### **SFX Parishioners!**

Come and hear the **SFXpressions** youth choir! They are scheduled to sing at the 5pm **Christmas Eve mass**!

You won't want to miss these angel voices!

"It is in prayer that we discover the glory of God.

And it is by living what we discover in prayer that
we become the glory of God."

MATTHEW KELLY



#### The 2025 Taos Knights of Columbus Winterfest

will be held on **January 18th, 2025.** Tickets are \$150, which includes dinner for two, drinks, 50/50 raffle tickets, and a bingo card. We will also have auction items to bid on this year. Please contact Matt Forck at 573-690-5058 for details, or email Jeff Pleus **jpleus@hotmail.com** for an order form.



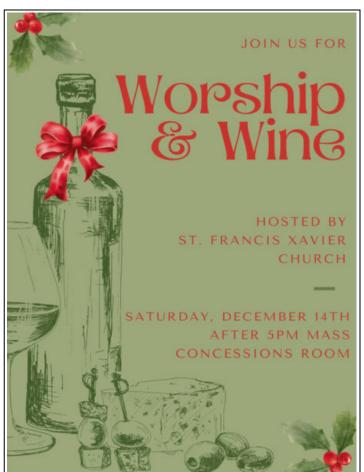


Holiday Memorials: are a great way to remember those who have died. If you would like to make a donation in the memory of a loved one, his or her name will appear in the holiday bulletin. A suggested offering would be \$15. This offering will go toward the upkeep and decorating of our beautiful church. Must be received by Tuesday, December 10th to get in the Christmas bulletin as it goes to print early due to the holidays.



Taos Wreaths for Heroes: Please join the Taos Wreaths for Heroes committee in the honoring our deceased veterans on Friday, December 13th at 9 am in St Francis Xavier School Gymnasium (moved due to church

renovation) with wreath laying on veteran's graves to take place at the parish cemetery immediately following the indoor program. The students of SFX Grade School will be significant players in this year's program which has the theme "Live with Purpose." Please help us honor veterans and their families this Christmas season and throughout the year. Family members and friends are especially encouraged to attend. Feel free to contact Dan or Charlotte Schnieders if you have any questions or comments at 573-635-2662 or dan.schnieders@yahoo.com.





Giving Tree: Our parish has adopted 10 families from the Samaritan Center for Christmas. All gifts purchased need to be wrapped with their ornament attached and returned to parish office or gym by 6 p.m. Saturday, December 14th. Thank you for your support of the adoption program. In some cases this may be the only Christmas they may have. The families are very appreciative of the gifts they receive. If you have questions regarding the

Giving Tree, please call Jane Haslag @ 690-6101 or Andrea Forck @ 694-3316. Thank you for all you do to improve the lives of these families.

Men of Signum Crucis: We gather the **3rd Wednesday** of each month, from 6:30-8 p.m. at Helias Catholic High School. Chaplain is Father Paul Clark. **Next gathering: Dec. 18th** Call Ken Sandbothe at 573-644-4088 for directions or more information.



If your family would like to donate toward a Christmas Gift for Father Kelechi and Deacon Mike, please put it in an envelope marked Christmas gift and drop in the collection basket by December 20th.



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