

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# MARY

TRAVELED TO THE  
HILL COUNTRY  
IN HASTE.

— LUKE 1:39 —

## ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH (TAOS)

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024

# *St. Francis Xavier Parish*

7319 Route M Jefferson City (Taos) MO 65101

**REV. KELECHI UZUEGBU - PASTOR**  
Email: [kuzuegbu@sfxtaos.com](mailto:kuzuegbu@sfxtaos.com) (ext. 1004)

**DEACON MICHAEL BERENDZEN 573.694.4916**  
Email: [mberendzen@diojeffcity.org](mailto:mberendzen@diojeffcity.org)

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

***Welcome to St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church!** 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 worshipping 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](mailto:info@sfxtaos.com) Parish Website: [www.sfxtaos.com](http://www.sfxtaos.com)

Facebook: [St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church & St. Francis Xavier Parish](#)

Office: 573.395.4401 Fax: 573.395.4302

Bookkeeper- Cecilia Lock Email: [clock@sfxtaos.com](mailto:clock@sfxtaos.com) (ext. 1002)

Secretary - Laurie Herzing Email: [lherzing@sfxtaos.com](mailto:lherzing@sfxtaos.com) (ext. 1001)

Religious Education Director - Cathy Singer Email: [reled@sfxtaos.com](mailto: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 Strobe 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](mailto:jtobar@sfxtaos.com)**

**Office: 573.395.4612 Fax: 573.395.4017 School website: [www.sfxtaos.com](http://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.



# Mass Intentions

*“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 23rd: No Mass**

**Tuesday, Dec 24th: Christmas Eve**

**5:00 p.m.** – People of the Parish

**9:00 p.m.** – L&D of Fred & Mary Jane Henke & Tom LeComte Families

**Wednesday, Dec 25th: Christmas Day**

**9:00 a.m.** - Lucian, Laurine & Virginia Bias

**Thursday, Dec 26th: No Mass**

**Friday, Dec 27th:**

7:45 a.m. – L&D of Frank & Katherine Verslues

**Saturday, Dec 28th:**

5:00 p.m. – L&D of Clarence & Gesina Stegeman

**Sunday, Dec 29th:**

8:00 a.m. - L&D of Don Kerperin & Robert Hentges Fam.

10:00 a.m. - People of the Parish

For those of you who have your offertory collection done electronically and do not receive monthly envelopes, the special envelopes for Dec. are: Samaritan Center, Parish School, Capital Improvements/Repairs, First Offering, Seminarian Formation, and My Christmas Offering.

# mark your Calendar

**Dec 23** Contemporary Choir Practice 6:30 p.m.

**Dec 24 & 26** No Quilting

**Dec 25** Merry Christmas to Everyone!

**Dec 29** Children Liturgy of the Word 10 a.m. Mass

**Dec 31** New Year’s Eve Mass 5 p.m.

**Jan 1** New Year’s Day Mass 9 a.m.

**Jan 1** NO PSR Class, Confirmation, or OCIA Classes

**Jan 2** No Morning Mass

**Jan 3** Adoration with Benediction after Mass (till 4 pm)

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Goal for Dec	\$ 102,500.00 (5 Sundays)
Nov 30 & Dec 1	\$ 12,332.00
Dec 7 & 8	\$ 21,961.00
ACH	\$ 28,576.00
	\$ 62,869.00

### Offertory Collection Fiscal YTD 2024

Goal thru Nov	\$ 430,500.00
Actual thru Nov	\$ 395,985.60
End of the Year	\$ -34,514.40



Please keep Georgene Bernskoetter, Cynthia Forck, Grant Lamb, Cindy Stegeman, Mary Ann Thacker, Patty Verslues in your prayers and pray that each day that God will give them strength, determination, & healing.

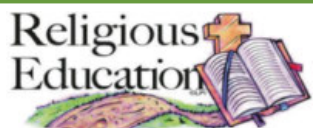
Liturgical Ministries			Weekend Masses			
Dec.	24th 5pm Church	24th 9pm Church	25th 9pm Church	28th 5pm Church	29th 8am Church	29th 10am Church
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Sarah Boss	<b>Volunteer Needed In Any Blank Spot</b>	Eddy Davis Elaine Callaway Charlie Callaway MB	Jean Decker Debbie Backes Sarah Boss MB	Shelle Sandbothe Shirley Toebben Glenda Vanderfeltz MB	Michael Winkler Linda Distler Laurie Herzing MB
<b>Lector</b>	Mike Winkler		Tina Davis	Lisa Berendzen	Justin Wegman	Lisa Reinke
<b>Ushers</b>	Tony Forck Carol Forck		Joe Otto	Carol Forck Tony Forck Art Greenbank Tom Henke	Dan Sandbothe Josh Sandbothe Ken Sandbothe Dan Sanning	Jim Thessen Steve Distler Andrea Forck Chris Reinke
<b>Servers</b>	Colton Allen <b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Liam Meyer <b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Bode Wilde Zoey Prenger	Gabby Sandbothe Libby Sandbothe	Kiptyn Thessen Aubrey Forck
<b>Musicians</b>	Children’s Choir	Kathy & Cheryl	SFXCE	Hood & Forbis	Kathy & Cheryl	Katnik

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

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent:** The Blessed Virgin teaches us the secret to being blessed, happy, and full of joy. When Elizabeth, her cousin, greets her, she calls Mary “blessed” for two reasons, her motherhood of Jesus, and Our Lady’s belief that **“there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord”** (Luke 1:45). Mary is “blessed” entirely because of her relationship to the Incarnation of God in Jesus, and for no other. This of course makes perfect sense, because as the Lord, as God-in-the-flesh, her son is the source of all blessedness, life, and joy. Mary is blessed because of her contact with Jesus, and by her faith in him.

So, it is with us, too. We become blessed by our “motherly” contact with Christ in our souls through baptism. He lives in us and grows to maturity within us. We bear him to the world. This requires unshakeable faith that his promises to us will be fulfilled, despite all the problems and difficulties that plague us. We become blessed, happy, and joyful in the measure that we are in contact with Jesus and trust in him.

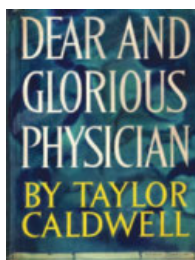
Advent challenges: 1.) This week go to someone who has borne the love of Jesus to you and tell her or him how they have been a blessing to you. 2.) Name someone in your life now to whom God has sent you to bring Jesus’ presence. Pray: “Lord, thank you for the blessing of sending me to bring your presence to this person. Help me bear you faithfully to him/her.” — *Father John Muir* ©LPI



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

**December 22**

Loving God,  
It is growing in my heart:  
An awareness and gratitude of your constant love for me;  
Like the sun rising in the East  
to warm and comfort my life  
and to bring new growth.  
Thank you for these weeks of prayer.  
In the spirit of the season  
my waiting, my patience,  
feels sacred.  
Bless my heart with generosity  
and make me ready to receive you.  
Come, Lord Jesus! Come! I am waiting in hope. Amen.



SFX December Book club pick is "Dear and Glorious Physician" This novel tells the story of St. Luke, called herein Lucanus, from childhood, adoption by a kindly Roman patrician as the latter's son, medical studies in Alexandria, to his wanderings to serve the poor. We will meet on **Jan. 6th** at 2pm in the office to discuss *his* pick the next book.

**Prayer for Vocations**



Oh Jesus, eternal Shepherd of souls! Deign to look with eyes of mercy on your beloved flock. Lord, we need a greater number of priests and consecrated men and women. We ask this by the intercession of our Lady of Guadalupe, your sweet and Holy Mother. Oh Jesus, give us priests and religious according to your heart. AMEN.



St. Francis Xavier  
Mary & Elizabeth  
Mothers' Group



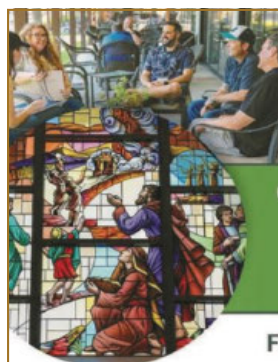
**Women in Faith**



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

**Inviting all women of the Parish!**

The Mary and Elizabeth group and the Women in Faith will meet together to see how we can collaborate on ministering to the women of our parish. Between them, a few of the things they are working on are Women's Bible studies, supporting mom's such as sending cards for things like Baptisms and illnesses, ladies Nite out. We will meet on **January 9, 2025** at 6:30 p.m. in the Commons Room. Come and share your thoughts and suggestions on how we can better support all the women of our parish.



**Want to deepen your faith & meet new people 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



- Jan. 13** 1pm Faith Formation in the Parish Office
- Jan. 19** 2pm Confirmation Retreat in the Cafeteria
- Feb. 27- March 1** Parish Mission
- June 22-27** Totus Tuus



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.



1 Faith  
1 Family  
1 SFX

Thank you to all of our parish and community supporters that have helped make the first half of the school year one to remember. We had a great start to the school year filled with lots of learning, many laughs, and tons of memories that will last a lifetime. We have many blessings to be thankful for at St. Francis Xavier School, with your support being at the top of the list. Thank you for believing in Catholic education and thank you for your dedication to St. Francis Xavier School and parish. We couldn't continue to provide a quality, Catholic education without your generosity and your support. I hope that you all know how much you mean to our school and our community. Have a wonderful Christmas and I pray that you have the opportunity to enjoy the holiday season surrounded by family and friends.

Tiger Tales will be looking a little different when we come back from break. Starting **Jan. 10th** we will have a new program and new format coming home to families and community members each week. If you would like to hear about more of the wonderful things taking place at S.F.X., please email Mr. Tobar and we will get you on our mailing list!

**Coming Up at S.F.X.**

- **12/21 - 1/5** - Christmas Break

Blessings,

**Mr. Jordan Tobar, Principal**

[jtobar@sfxtaos.com](mailto:jtobar@sfxtaos.com)

**December 24th at 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass**

Come and hear the **SFXpressions** youth choir!

**You won't want to miss these angel voices!**



**Blair Oaks** will be hosting a blood drive on **January 9th** from 1:30 - 5:00 in the High School auditorium. Chance to win a Super Bowl Ticket. Scan QR for mor information.

**Support Our Seminarians & Infirm Priests**

Through the Christmas Special Collection



GIVE NOW AT  
[diojeffcity.org/](http://diojeffcity.org/)  
Donate-Christmas



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



**IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS OR PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS TO BE REFLECTED ON THE 2024 GIVING STATEMENT, PLEASE MAKE SURE THEY ARE IN THE PARISH OFFICE BEFORE 10:00 AM ON DECEMBER 30, 2024.**

**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.

**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](mailto:kuzuegbu@sfxtaos.com).

**Men of St. Francis Xavier Parish:** You are invited to join the Men of Signum Crucis at our next gathering, which begins at 6:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, December 18**, at Helias Catholic High School in Jefferson City. Our presenter this month is Father Dylan Schrader of St. Joseph Church, Westphalia. Just in time for Christmas, his topic is "The Gifts of the Holy Spirit."

Feel free to come early to pray the Rosary at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

We hope you can come every or any third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. to deepen your knowledge of and devotion to our faith.

As always, enter the school on the east end of the front Swifts Highway parking lot. Our Hospitality men will greet you right inside the door and direct you to the appropriate location.

The mission of the Men of Signum Crucis is to provide Fraternity through Catholic Study, Devotion, and Service, in order to sharpen ourselves to meet the many challenges of our day.

For more information, contact Ken Sandbothe at 573-644-4088, or visit us at [www.menofsignumcrucis.com](http://www.menofsignumcrucis.com).

**Attention Quilters!** We quilt every Tuesday and Thursday weather permitting. All are welcome to join us.

*We are never really separated from our loved ones. They are as close to us as our thoughts and prayers. Please remember in your prayers those names listed below. May they rest in peace!*



Thank you to all who donated towards the purchase of poinsettias. Your donations help make our church beautiful throughout Christmas Time.

## *In Loving Memory*

Ahlers, Chad	Forck, Linda K.	Long, Chip	Scheppers, Charles Andrew
Ahlers, Jan	Forck, Paul & Margaret	Lueckenhoff, Lawrence & Adele	Scheppers, Rosemary C.
Ahlers, Larry	Forck, Robert & Regina	Martin, Bill	Schollmeyer, Joseph Jr.
Ahlers, Leo & Emily	Fromme, Clarence & Esther	Meyer, Dorothy	Selva, Dominic & Mary
Ahlers, Ron	Fromme, David	Niekamp, Albert & Frances	Shiverdecker, Donnie
Angenendt, Nell, Theodore & Margaret	Fromme, Jackson	Norton, Sharon	Smith, Ross
Atnip, Alan & Garrett	Gabelsberger, Leslie	Ortmeyer, Emil & Helen	Smith, Tanner
Bilyeu, Katie Lootens	Graessle, Tom	Ortmeyer, Michael	Smith, Tom
Bisges Family L/D	Gratz, Bob & Mary	Paschal, Kathy	Stegeman, August & Olivia
Bock, Walter & Catherine	Hake, William	Peters Family L/D	Stegeman, Gene & Martha
Boehmer, Frank & Rose Mary	Heet, Bernard & Laurine	Poettgen, Edwin & Emma	Stegeman, Joseph & Emma
Bollinger, John Anthony	Heet, Joey	Pope, Jim	Stieffermann, Mary
Bollinger, Mary	Heislen, Lisa	Prenger, Martha, Edna & Bill	Stratman, Judy
Borgmeyer, Ray & Marie	Henke, Fred, Mary Jane & Jim	Prenger, Carl & Cyrilla	Talken, Harry & Marcella
Bradley, Rod	Herigon, Dawn	Prenger, Donald	Thessen, William J. & Joann
Bruemmer, Leon & Cathy	Herzing, Mildred Sue L/D	Prenger, Edmund & Margaret	Thessen, William & Walburga
Bruemmer, Leonard & Mildred	Hickman, Bryce	Prenger, Rosemary	Toeppen, Edwin, Veronica & Bobby
Buhr, Roger & Beverly	Hofer, Otto & Martha	Prenger, Shirley	Twehous, Martin & Celeste
Bui, Thi Thoi	Holliday, William & Mary	Prenger, Stanley	Verslues, Albert & Regina
Bui, Van Bang	Holzer, Alan	Rackers, David	Verslues, Brad
Bui, Van Hai	Jurd, Ben, Agnes & Donna	Rackers, Edward & Ludvinia	Verslues, Charles
Bui, Van Hai	Kampeter, Mary Clair	Rackers, Frank & Sophia	Verslues, Chuck
Bui, Van Su	Kampeter, Roger	Rackers, Herb & Emma	Verslues, Frank & Katherine
Bui, Van Trang	Kampeter, Roman Mr. & Mrs.	Rackers, John Alvin	Verslues, Fred, Meg & Tom
Butler, Allen & Norma	Katnik, Richard & Lorie	Rackers, Mark	Verslues, Herb & Chris
Cassmeyer, James	Kempker, Scott	Radmacher, Joe & Frances	Verslues, Jim & Kay
Cassmeyer, Stanley	Kerperin, August & Marcella	Raithel, John	Verslues, Mike
Cassmeyer, Vincent & Ella	Klebba, Anthony & Pauline	Rehagen, Otto & Lucy	Vieth, Joe
Cortvrient, Paul	Klebba Family L/D	Riddle, Jane	Vieth, Ronnie
Cronin, Fr. Richard	Kliethermes, Oscar & Eva	Sandberg, Ray & Jeanne	Wankum, Carla
Cynova, David & Virginia	Kloepfel, Andrew & Teresa	Sandbothe, Ed & Dennis	Wankum, Elmer
Cynova, Jerry	Knaebel Family L/D	Sandbothe, Jeron	Wankum, George & Louise Family L/D
Distler, Jerry	Knaebel, Glenn	Sandbothe, Lee & Kat	Weavers, Eleanor
Distler, Louis L. & Mary	Knaebel, James & Anna Marie	Sandbothe, Raymond & Virginia	Wegman, Corbin
Distler, Pat	Kroll, Diane	Sanning, John Family L/D	Wegman, Sophia & Florian
Dorge Family L/D	Lauf, Frank, Martha & Leona	Sanning, Leonard, Ted & Antonia	Wegman, Ricky & Starla
Eichholz, Bob & Vicki	Le, Thi Het	Schenewerk, Bob & Ardie	Wekenborg, Henry & Anna
Eichholz, Clem & Bernadine	LeComte, Tom	Schenewerk, David	Wekenborg, Wm (Shorty) & Grace
Eiken, Louis	LeCuru, Kevin & Kathy	Schenewerk, Harry & Frances	Wilbers, Deanna
Eiken, Silver	Lewis, Winiford	Schenewerk, Margaret	Wilbers, Leroy & Dean
Forck, Cole	Lipskoch, Beulah	Schenewerk, John, Judie & Susan	Wolfe, Rita
Forck, Lauren Hope	Lipskoch, Bill	Schenewerk, John, Judie & Susan	Yancey, Charles & Delphine
Forck, Linda	Lipskoch, Selma	Schepker, Ed & Adelaide	Yancey, Samuel L/D
	Lock Family L/D		
	Lootens, Carolyn		
	Lootens, Jerry		

**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](mailto:jpleus@hotmail.com) for an order form.

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

*Wishing you a Joyful Christmas Season*

*Many blessings to you and your family as we remember and rejoice in our Savior's birth*

**Say Good-bye to Clogged Gutters!**



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Receive a \$100 Visa gift card with your FREE in-home estimate

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