A voice cries out:
In the desert prepare the way of the Lord!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!
Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill shall be made low.

Isaiah 40:3-4
St. Francis Xavier Parish

7319 Route M Jefferson City (Taos) MO 65101

REV. MICHAEL W. PENN - PASTOR
Email: mpenn@sfxtaos.com

DEACON MICHAEL BERENDZEN 573.694.4916
Email: mwberendzen@gmail.com

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 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: sfxchurch1@embarqmail.com
Facebook: St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church
Office: 573.395.4401  Fax: 573.395.4302
Parish Website: www.sfxtaosmo.org

Bookkeeper- Cecilia Lock  Email: clock@sfxtaos.com (ext. 1002)
Secretary - Laurie Herzing  Email: lherzing@sfxtaos.com (ext. 1001)
Religious Education Director - Shelle Sandbothe Email: reled@sfxtaos.com (ext. 1003)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4:15 - 4:45 p.m.
or anytime by appointment.

PASTORAL COUNCIL: Jason Hoffmeyer, President 395-4305; Mark Wankum, Vice President 573-808-5070; Sara Kerperin, Secretary 230-1112; Janet Klebba, Social Concerns 680-9925; Jody Bennett 353-4410; Bill Buschman 659-1583; Dale Heckman 645-1905; Jeff Pleus 395-4428; Tim Riley 291-3991; DeWayne Sprenger 690-3683; Sarah Twehus 528-7208; Julie Wilbers 291-6893; 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.
† Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet prior to Tuesday evening Mass at 6:40 p.m. in Church until 7:00p.m.
† Baptism: Contact Father regarding preparation sessions and scheduling.
† Marriage: Contact Father at least six months in advance for preparation and scheduling.
“For the sons and daughters of the Church: that we may be the light of God's love for the world by our sacrificial gifts for those in need, especially the children of our world.”

**Monday, Dec 7th:**
7:00 p.m. - BJ Breneke

**Tuesday, Dec 8th:** **Immaculate Conception of Mary**
10:00 a.m. *(School Mass Only)* People of the Parish
5:30 p.m. - L&D of Joe & Marie Holtmeyer Family

**Wednesday, Dec 9th:**
No Mass

**Thursday, Dec 10th:**
8:00 a.m. - Liturgy of the Word with Deacon Mike

**Friday, Dec 11th:**
8:00 a.m. - No Mass

**Saturday, Dec 12th:**
5:00 p.m. - Joe & Frances Radmacher

**Sunday, Dec 13th:**
8:00 a.m. - People of the Parish
10:00 a.m. - Diane Prenger

If you know of someone who no longer needs envelopes, please contact the parish office. This is a parish expense. For those of you who have your offertory collection done electronically and do not receive monthly envelopes, the special envelopes for Dec are: First Offering, Samaritan Center, Immaculate Conception, Parish School, Capital Improvements/Repairs, Christmas Offering, and Seminarian Formation & Priests Retirement.

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**Helias Catholic High School:** is seeking a **Theology Teacher** full or part-time beginning in January. For the full job description, please go to the Helias website at [www.heliascatholic.com/AboutUs/EmploymentOpportunities](http://www.heliascatholic.com/AboutUs/EmploymentOpportunities) or contact the office at 573-635-6139.

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**Important: Anointing of the Sick:** Due to hospitals’ strict protocols, it is important to seek the sacraments of the Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation prior to going to the hospital. Most hospitals only allow a priest to provide the sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick if the patient has been placed on comfort care (hospice) or is nearing death.

**Quilters!!!**

We have begun quilting, Josh Sandbothe has offered us his basement. Quilting Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m. Call Georgene (619-4610) if you have any questions. Can quilt daytime or evening. Please come join us!

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**Liturgical Ministries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dec 12 &amp; 13</th>
<th>5:00 p.m.</th>
<th>8:00 a.m.</th>
<th>10:00 a.m.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eucharistic Ministers</strong></td>
<td>Sharon Forck</td>
<td>Debbie Borgmeyer</td>
<td>Jean Pinnell</td>
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<td>Linda Heckman</td>
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<td><strong>Lector</strong></td>
<td>Tina Forbis</td>
<td>Wayne Verslues</td>
<td>Julie Grimshaw</td>
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<td><strong>Ushers</strong></td>
<td>Keith Henke</td>
<td>Dan Sandbothe</td>
<td>Robin Reinkemeyer</td>
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<td>Tom Henke</td>
<td>Dennis Sandbothe</td>
<td>Ross Reinkemeyer</td>
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<td>Jim Bax</td>
<td>Nyla Cartmell</td>
<td>Bev Thessen</td>
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<td>Steve Bas</td>
<td>Joe Otto</td>
<td>John Thessen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Musicians</strong></td>
<td>Hood Family</td>
<td>Hoffmeyer</td>
<td>Katnik</td>
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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.

For emergencies, weekends or after-hours, Fr. Penn 395-4401
What is your way? What is your direction in life? If it is the path the world wants us to follow, then this Advent Season is not for us. John the Baptist, in heralding the coming of the Messiah, told his listeners to straighten the pathway of their lives so that the Lord might journey to them and them to the Lord. This message is for us today as well. We may be drawn to what the world calls us to rather than patiently and deliberately preparing ourselves to welcome the Lord in our lives. This year of the pandemic has required us to practice patience and to avoid reckless and unhealthy behavior and Advent teaches us the same. May we avoid the way of the world and seek the way of the Lord and welcome Him into our lives.

This Tuesday, December 8th, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holy Day of Obligation. Due to the pandemic, use your common sense about attending Mass as is mentioned in Bishop McKnight’s Pastoral Decree. The following Masses to fulfill the obligation will be celebrated in the church:

**Monday 7 December:** 7:00 p.m.

The Mass on December 7th will be live streamed.

**Tuesday 8 December:** 5:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars for additional times for the Sacrament of Penance. Due to the pandemic, Communal Penance Services will not be held in the diocese.

Tuesday 15 December: 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Thursday 17 December: 6:00 -8:00 p.m.

Fr. Ignazio Medina will assist me in the church on these above two days

Monday 21 December: 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Tuesday 22 December: 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

As always I am available for the Sacrament by calling me at the Parish Office.

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**Catholic Charities**

**WE'RE HIRING!**

Are you interested in applying?

Please email a cover letter and resume to:
-Dan Lester, Executive Director at dlester@cccncmo.org

OR mail to:

Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri
PO Box 104626
Jefferson City, MO 65110

(RTAC) Case Manager applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to Sam Moog, Director of Refugee Resettlement at smoog@cccncmo.org

Housing Counselor applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to Alissa Marlow, Director of Community Services at amarlow@cccncmo.org

Learn more: cccncmo.diojeffcity.org/about-us/careers

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**Shelle Sandbothe, Director of Religious Education, 573-395-4401 ext.1003**

**Prayer for Communion of Desire**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, renew my heart now with the power of Your Spirit. I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You. Unite me more closely to Your Body, the Church. And never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen

---

**Totus Tuus Applications**

Are you a Catholic young adult interested in bringing the Gospel to kids and teens across our diocese? Please consider applying to be a Totus Tuus missionary. Download the materials at diojeffcity.org/totus-tuus/ and return your application to khartman@diojeffcity.org. We do hire on a rolling basis, so the earlier the better! The application packet includes a job description, application, and instructions for a letter of recommendation. Totus Tuus Missionaries serve from May 27 – Aug 1. This is a full-time, paid position.

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**Second Sunday of Advent**

Prepare the way of the Lord!
Hello! Emma Luebbering and I (Claire Koenigsfeld) are FCCLA officers at Fatima Highschool. For our STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) project we have created a flipgrid that has many books on it. This link [https://flipgrid.com/libbert2864](https://flipgrid.com/libbert2864) can lead children to books that all it takes is hitting the play button to listen to. Reading is incredibly important for youth and we want it to be possible for as many children as possible to listen to them. If at all possible, we would greatly appreciate it if you shared this with children you know, teachers at your community schools, and parents as well. Thank you for any advertising you may do for this. We hope you enjoy these as much as the elementary at Fatima has. Let me know if you have any questions.

"Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayers."

- Maya Angelou
**upcoming EVENTS**

**Ladies KC Auxiliary**: With Covid-19 concerns, the December KC Auxiliary Bake Sale & Auxiliary Christmas Party events held in December have been **cancelled**. Also, there will be no December meeting. Next scheduled meeting will be **Monday, January 11, 2021**.

**New criteria for KC Ladies Auxiliary membership**: Members must be at least 17 ½ years old and a practicing Catholic. New members no longer need to have a spouse or father to be a KC member for them to become a KC Ladies Auxiliary member. If anyone is interested in becoming an auxiliary member, please contact Dolores Urban at 573-680-0716.

**Taos Wreaths for Heroes**: Please join us in participating in the Annual Taos Wreaths for Heroes Program on **Saturday, December 19th** at 9 am in St Francis Xavier Church with wreath laying on veteran’s graves to take place at the parish cemetery

**CSA**: **Saint Francis Xavier Parish, Taos**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>$36,000.00</th>
<th>% Goal</th>
<th>67.2%</th>
<th>Over(-Under):</th>
<th>$11,804.00</th>
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<tr>
<td>$ Received</td>
<td>$24,196.67</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

**St. Francis Xavier’s Giving Tree** has been **cancelled** this year, but you can still help the **Samaritan Center** by getting involved in one of the two programs listed below. All information is on their website. [www.midmosamaritan.org](http://www.midmosamaritan.org). **Thank you!**

**Santa’s Workshop**

**Samaritan Center** is in need of **gifts for Santa’s Workshop**. Toys in the range of a minimum of $10-$15 each, for ages from newborn to age 12. We do offer smaller items as bonus gifts when available. Examples are coloring books, story books, crayons, sticker books, new hats and gloves, etc. Toys can be combined. Examples-two packages of hot wheels or a doll and clothes put together as one gift. For older ages items like makeup, nail polish, curling iron, blow dryer, basketballs, footballs, cologne, body sprays, etc. are acceptable. If you have any questions, please contact Amber or Denise at 573-634-7776. **Program runs Dec. 1st - 10th.**

**Area Churches - Every 1st and 3rd Monday, at St. Stanislaus Church**, prayer service for an end to, and truth regarding Covid-19. **7-7:30 p.m.**

**St. Joseph parish in Westphalia** will hold a Patriotic prayer service at 6 p.m. one Sunday each month. Date: **Dec. 13**.

**Celebrating the Season**

**Samaritan Center Adoption 2020**

If you’re interested in adopting a family for Christmas from the Samaritan Center please go to [www.midmosamaritan.org](http://www.midmosamaritan.org) to download the form. Adoption forms are located under the forms tab. They can also, be picked up at the parish office or in the back of church.

Examples of Minimum Expectations for a Family Adoption

**Family of 5** - (2 Parents, 2 children under 12, and 1 child 15, estimated cost $180.00).

- 2 gifts for each child (12 or younger) averaging $15.00 each ($60.00).
- 1 gift for each parent and each child age 13-19 at $15.00 ($45.00).

A gift card to local grocery store for a Christmas meal at $15.00 per person ($75.00)

**Processing Costs** (paper, bags, bows, name tags, shopping, etc.) $4.00 per person ($20.00).

Total for Family is **$200.00**

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**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

**CHURCH CLEANING POLICY**: If you are unable to work on your assigned date, let your coordinator know and turn in your **$15** to the parish office. **Coordinators listed below**. Students who are seeking service hours are welcome to help clean. Please contact the weekly coordinator to verify when you will be there (1-2 hours Saturday morning, or occasionally a Friday evening).

**Week 1: Dec 5**

Elaine Callaway 690-8966

Kim Feltrup, Dana Fennewald, Loretta Fennewald, Jillian Fidler, Diana Findley

**Week 2: Dec 12**

Debbie Borgmeyer 680-9748 & Elaine Ready 619-6803

Tina Forbis, Lisa Forck, Margaret Forck, Teri Forck, Cynthia Forck

**Week 3: Dec 19**

Jean Pinnell 694-2111

Carolyn Forck (Dennis), Shawna Forck, Imogene Forck, Rhonda Forck, Debbie Forck

**Week: 4 Dec 26**

Sue Sandbothe 230-3154

Laurie Forck, Elaine Forck, Carolyn Forck (Joe), Sonya Forck, Jana Forck
Say Good-bye to Clogged Gutters!

• LeafGuard® is guaranteed never to clog or we’ll clean it for FREE!
• Seamless, one-piece system keeps out leaves, pine needles, and debris
• Eliminates the risk of falling off a ladder to clean clogged gutters
• Durable, all-weather tested system not a flimsy attachment

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For more information contact:
The National Center on Sexual Exploitation:
440 1st Street NW, Suite 540,
Washington, DC 20001
Email: public@ncose.com www.EndSexualExploitation.org

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