



CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

A JESUIT APOSTOLATE

West 16th Street, NYC • Phone: 212-627-2100 • Fax: 212-675-6997

Mailing Address: 55 West 15th Street, New York, NY 10011-6801
(Wheelchair Accessible 55 West 15th Street - All Masses are Wheelchair Accessible)
E-Mail Address: StFrancisXavier@sfxavier.org • Website: www.sfxavier.org



See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand. (Jas 5: 7-10)

*SECOND COLLECTION
to benefit Religious Retirement*

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2019

Eucharist

Main Church

Saturday: 12:05 pm, 5:00 pm (Vigil)

Sunday Masses: 9:00 am (Family Mass), 11:30 am, 5:00 pm

Weekday Masses: 7:45 am, 12:05 pm

(All Masses are Wheelchair Accessible)

Sacraments

Please call the office for information about
Baptism, Marriages & other needs.

Sick or Hospitalized

Please notify the office of parishioners who are
ill or in the hospital so that they can be included
in our prayers or be visited.

New Parishioners

Welcome! To register, please stop by the office
and fill out a registration form or register online at
www.sfxavier.org

Staff

Rev. Kenneth Boller, S.J. (Pastor) - 204

Rev. John Mulreany, SJ (Associate Pastor) - 206

Cassandra Agredo (Executive Dir. Xavier Mission) — 208

Robert Choiniere (Dir. of Adult Faith Formation)-225

Luz Marina Díaz (Dir. of Religious Education) — 207

Stephanie Fuentes (Assistant to the Pastor) — 222

Moraima Hernandez (Plant Manager) - 201

James Martinez (Assistant for Financial Planning)

Gregory Timmes (Assistant Dir. of Business) - 201

Damely Tineo (Dir. of Business) - 221

Receptionist — 201

John Uehlein (Dir. of Music Ministries) — 202

Pastoral Council

Catherine O'Hagan Wolfe (Chair);

Patrick Egan (Vice Chair); John Karle (Secretary)

Stephen Alfieri; Kathleen Cagnina; Belinda Conway;

Karen DeMasi; Andrea Foley-Murphy Michelle Jung;

Ron Oberdick;

PastoralCouncil@sfxavier.org

Mission Statement



The Church of St. Francis Xavier, a Roman Catholic parish in the Jesuit tradition, strives to be a prophetic, welcoming community, and an inclusive witness to the presence of Christ Jesus in our midst. Mindful of our utter reliance on God, and need for God's grace, we rejoice together in our celebration

of the sacraments and proclamation of the Gospel. As a people of hope, we commit ourselves through prayerful and creative discernment to respond to God in our time by: Being a respectful community Where seekers and their questions are welcomed, Where injustice is challenged, Where the poor, the alienated and the marginalized find a home, And where people are refreshed, reconciled and renewed.

OFFICE HOURS

Weekdays: 10:00 am to 7:00 pm

Saturday: 11:30 am to 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am to 6:00 pm

NOTE: for Bulletin Notices and Space Requests send e-mails to sfuentes@sfxavier.org

Deadline for bulletin copy—all copy should be in the office by 4:00 pm on Monday afternoon.

Confessions are offered
Saturdays from 1:00pm-2:00pm

To make an appointment for
confession please call Parish Office.

Note: You must be a registered parishioner for a minimum of six months before qualifying for a sponsor letter to be verified as a parishioner.

Next Weekend Presider Schedule

Saturday, December 21st

5:00pm Vigil Mass: Rev. John Mulreany, SJ

Sunday, December 22nd

9:00am Mass: Rev. Kenneth Boller, SJ

11:30am Mass: Rev. Thomas Feely, SJ

5:00pm Mass: Rev. James Miracky, SJ

PRAYER REQUESTS

Let us especially, remember those
who have asked for our prayers

*Jesus Andaluz, Jessica Appel, Stephen Appel,
Kathleen Fenton, Kathleen Friel, James Fox, Juan Garcia,
Manny Lopez, Sue Rosansky, Tom Rocha III, Jim Schwab,
Raymond and Terri Sharpe, Ava Sellitti, Anthony Sellitti,
Carl Wassmann*

Pray for the peaceful rest of all our beloved departed
parishioners and friends, especially:

*Crispina Diaz Aquino, Fr. Don Doherty, MM, Frank Faraci,
Larry Hooper, Stefania Hurko, William Kawka,
Altagracia Quezada, Thomas Morris, Carla Leto Sabini,
Matthew Simzik, Felicitas Tolentino, Mary Trainor and
Simone Vaccaro*

We also remember all those who have been killed or
wounded through the violence of war. May all those
who have gone before us share the joys of eternal life.

All prayer requests are listed for at least three consecutive weeks. Please contact the parish office for an extension.

From the Pastor's Desk

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice."

These uplifting words from the Entrance Antiphon of the Third Sunday of Advent don't always reflect our mood at this point of our Christmas preparations. In fact, I am reminded of an avuncular Jesuit from my seminary days who barked out the verse so that it formed a threatening command rather than a joy-filled exhortation.

Rejoice! The reminder three quarters of the way to Christmas is a cause to reflect on what I am grateful for in my life: the people, events, circumstances of my life which gift me with hope and joy. Do I appreciate them? Reverence them even? We all take things and especially people for granted. Now and again we should stop the whirlwind which is our life and pause to catch a breath and give thanks. We should be at peace with the people in our lives, the space in our lives and, most importantly, with God in our lives.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16 IS A DAY OF RECONCILIATION. Throughout the city, Catholic churches will be open for the sacrament of reconciliation from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. Come here or find a convenient church to receive the sacrament as a part of your personal Christmas preparation, the Rejoice at God's mercy and love.

Rejoice! Catch the spirit of the season by joining us for **LESSONS AND CAROLS, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT 7 P.M.** The mystery of Emmanuel, God dwelling among us, comes alive in readings, dance and song as we reflect on the presence of God in our outreach to the migrants, the homeless, the outcast, the hungry and others on the margins. The child Jesus was born into a harsh and unwelcoming world and brought redemption. Be uplifted by our celebration.

Rejoice! Our God is near.

There is a basket with ribbons and markers at the entrance of the church. We invite you to participate in this Advent and Christmas seasons by writing a prayer for migrants, refugees and the marginalized on the provided ribbons and tie it to the fence on the altar.

"flesh, and dwelt among us ..." John 1:1;14

This Christmas, experience the Gospel as never before. Get your tickets to The Gospel of John, conceived and performed by award-winning Broadway veteran Ken Jennings (Sweeney Todd, Grand Hotel, Side Show) and directed by John Pietrowski. Jennings brings the Gospel powerfully to life in a thrilling 90-minute solo performance.

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY! Visit SheenCenter.org or call (212) 925-2812

The Sheen Center for Thought & Culture, 18
Bleecker Street, NYC

TWO MORE WEEKENDS

HOLIDAY CARD SALE TO BENEFIT HONDURAS PROJECT

The Honduras Companion Communities Project will again offer a selection of holiday cards for sale after all the masses during the weekends of December 15 and 22. The cards provide a way for you to remember friends and loved ones while contributing to the local community projects in Honduras which Xavier parishioners have supported for the last 20 years. This is our major fund raising event for maintaining our scholarship programs managed by local community groups in Honduras. This has been another turbulent year in Honduras, with months of protests and popular demonstrations against the corrupt government which have often disrupted the school year and have resulted in many injuries and some deaths.

Again this year, our cards consist of artwork created by children who have lived in Casa Corazon, a home in Honduras operated by the Sisters of Mercy for orphaned children who are HIV+. Aside from printing expenses, all proceeds from the sale go to continuing the scholarships we have been providing for secondary school students in the hope that education will lead to satisfactory employment opportunities which will allow these students to remain in their country and work to bring about positive change.

As always, thank you for your support!

The Xavier Company, the resident theater company at St. Francis Xavier, is seeking a costume designer to help create new costumes for their Passion Play, No Greater Love. The play will be performed at Xavier and will tour to churches in the tri-state area throughout Lent. The fabric will be provided. For further information please contact Carol Ferrone, director of the Xavier Company at [**thexaviercompany@gmail.com**](mailto:thexaviercompany@gmail.com).

SUPPORT XAVIER DURING THE HOLIDAYS

During Advent we prepare our minds and hearts for the real meaning of Christmas, the birth of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. As we reflect on the upcoming Christmas season, it is likely that we will be busy with parties and family gatherings. Perhaps even a trip out of town to visit friends. With all of those joyous celebrations, we might miss Mass. That's where eGiving with Faith Direct can help simplify your life. By supporting Xavier, both you and our parish can save some time and peace of mind this holiday season.



Signing up is easy! Visit [**faith.direct/NY406**](https://faith.direct/NY406), or text the word ENROLL to (646) 681-7010. Already using Faith Direct? Log in to add your Christmas or End-of-Year contributions

to your account, or text a dollar amount to (646) 681-7010 to make a one-time gift today!

Thank you for your continued support of Xavier.

In week two of advent the winter forests from last year have returned to the choir loft. However this year a community of tents emerge from the greenery. The tents invite us to think about people without permanent dwellings, people in transition, and even what it means to live not on earth but with earth. As we ask these questions we notice that the tents are all open to and facing Christ.

CATHOLIC LESBIANS

**Friday, January 10, 2020, 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
West Room**

“There was a person with leprosy. Seeing Jesus, the sufferer fell to the ground and implored him, ‘Teacher, if you are willing, you can heal me.’ Jesus stretched out his hand, touched the person and said, ‘I am willing; be cleansed.’ Immediately the leprosy disappeared.” (Luke 5:12-13) Please bring a snack and/or beverage to share, and BYOCUPS (cups, utensils, plates, serviettes).

[**SFXWomen@aol.com**](mailto:SFXWomen@aol.com); (929) 333-5011



GIVE JESUS A HOME THIS CHRISTMAS

Depending on which account you go by, Jesus was born in a manger, a stable, or a cave. Regardless of which it actually was, I'm sure we all agree that a stable is no place for a family to live and a baby to be born. The same is true for a shelter. A shelter is no place for a family to live or for children to be raised, yet more than 60,000 of our fellow New Yorkers are doing just that – living in shelters every day. Kids are doing their homework, parents are trying to maintain jobs, and people just like you and me are trying to live in the same kind of conditions that we recognize were not fit for Jesus. So why are they fit for our brothers and sisters?

A large percentage of our holiday campaign funds goes to our Financial Assistance Program, which assists families in danger of eviction to pay their rental arrears and stay in their homes. Last year our program kept 78 families in their homes, safe and protected from the traumas of eviction and homelessness.

Make a gift to our Holiday Hope & Healing Campaign and keep families in their homes this Christmas. You are not only providing a home for a fellow New Yorker, you are providing a home for Jesus.

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” -Matthew 25:40

xaviermission.org/donate

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Giving Tuesday raffle! We blew our \$10,000 goal out of the water and raised more than \$12,000!

Congratulations to Cristina Maria Diaz Bauluz, the winner of the Hamptons Getaway!



OH GIVING TREE, OH GIVING TREE, HOW LOVELY ARE YOUR BRANCHES!

The Giving Trees are up! Each tag on the trees lists an item that is often requested and much needed by our clothing room guests in the winter, most of whom live on the streets.

Please take a tag (or two or three) and bring back the warm items to be distributed. Our guests depend on us to stay warm throughout the cold months. We are grateful for your support!

GET YOUR MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID CERTIFICATION!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2020

9:00am-5:00pm

In conjunction with the City of New York and St. Francis Xavier Church, Xavier Mission is offering a FREE Mental Health First Aid Certification Training for volunteers and parishioners. This all-day training covers topics such as depression, anxiety, self-injury, suicidality, panic attacks, traumatic events, psychosis, and substance use. The training will discuss the symptoms and how to engage someone who may be experiencing these illnesses. All participants who attend will receive an information manual and a certificate of completion from the National Council for Behavioral Health. Please RSVP by visiting this website: <https://xm.timetap.com/>

UPCOMING EVENTS



DECEMBER 15TH

Lessons and Carols

7:00pm~Followed by a Cookie Reception

DECEMBER 16TH

Advent Reconciliation

4:00pm-8:00pm~Main Church

DECEMBER 24TH

Christmas Eve

Family Mass with Pageant: 4:00pm(3:15pm Carols begin)

Night Mass: 11:00pm(10:00pm Carols begin)

DECEMBER 25TH

Christmas Day

Masses: 9:00am & 11:30am

JANUARY 1ST

New Year's Day

Mass: 11:00am

Scriptures & Announced Masses

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Isa 35:1-6a, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Matt 11:2-11.

THIRD MONDAY OF ADVENT:
Num 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matt 21:23-27.

7:45AM JOSEPHINE D'ALESSANSANDRO (D)
12:05PM EUSEBIA MARZAN (D)

THIRD TUESDAY OF ADVENT:
Gen 49:2, 8-10; Matt 1:1-17.

7:45AM LEO & ANTOINETTE BUONGIORNO (D)
12:05PM JOSEPHINE D'ALESSANDRO (D)

THIRD WEDNESDAY OF ADVENT:
Jer 23:5-8; Matt 1:18-25.

7:45AM DWAYNE SIELA
12:05PM CHARLOTTE LUZZI (D)

THIRD THURSDAY OF ADVENT:
Judg 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25.

7:45AM WILLIAM O'FARRELL (D)
12:05PM KEVIN KANE (D)

THIRD FRIDAY OF ADVENT: Isa 7:10-14;
Luke 1:26-38.

7:45AM FELICITAS TOLENTINO (D)
12:05PM THOMAS CORWIN (D)

THIRD SATURDAY OF ADVENT:
Song 2:8-14; Luke 1:39-45.

12:05PM GEROLD SOTO (D)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Isa 7:10-14;
Rpm 1:1-7; Matt 1:18-24.

YOU MAY RESERVE AN AVAILABLE MASS FOR
YOUR INTENTIONS BY CONTACTING THE PARISH
OFFICE AT 212-627-2100.

XAVIER MISSION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

CLOTHING ROOM: 2nd & 4th Sundays, contact
Ann Mary: xmClothingRoom@gmail.com

FOOD PROGRAMS: Every Sunday soup kitchen and
2nd Saturday food pantry, contact
Christine: xmFoodPrograms@gmail.com

L-STEP: Spring and Fall semesters,
contact J: xmLSTEP@gmail.com

SHELTER: Every night, contact Jim:
xmShelter@gmail.com

Ongoing Parish Happenings

ABILITY XAVIER: Celebrating persons with
disabilities. Contact abilityxaviernewyork@gmail.com

CATHOLIC LESBIANS: Ministry since 1993, meets 2nd
Friday of each month, 6 p.m., West Room (offsite July & August),
SFXWomen@aol.com (929) 333-5011.

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT GROUP:
Contact Katherine Cleary, krcoff5th@netzero.com

THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY: promotes care for all of
God's creation, and follows the message of Laudato Si. For more
information refer to the link on the parish website under Outreach
Programs or contact: SFXEnvironmentMinistry@gmail.com

FAMILY FAITH: Catechetical ministry for parents/guardians
and children pre-K through 12th grade. Meets Sundays 10:00am,
Mary Chapel. Contact Luz, LMDiaz@sfxavier.org

GAY CATHOLICS: Men meet in a caring and affirming
environment on the first and third Fridays, 7pm Mary Chapel.
Contact sfxgcgroup@gmail.com

**HOLY COMMUNION MINISTRY FOR THE SICK AND
HOMEBOUND:** Eucharistic Ministers bring Communion to
parishioners who are sick, homebound, hospitalized, or in care
facilities in local proximity to Xavier. *To arrange visits or to
become a Eucharistic Minister to the Sick and Homebound*, please
contact Nick Grimaldi at nlgny@gmail.com. *To arrange for the
Sacraments of Reconciliation and/or Anointing of the Sick, please
call the parish office.*

INTERFAITH COMMITTEE: works toward ending
religious discrimination and persecution, through prayer,
education and other activities. Contact
Xavierinterfaith@gmail.com

LITURGICAL COMMITTEES: See website or
Contact Luz, LMDiaz@sfxavier.org

PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE:
Examines root causes of injustice and works towards a
more just and sustainable world. Contact Tracey Tynan at
xavierpeaceandjustice@gmail.com.

SPIRITUAL MINISTRIES: Offers spiritual programs,
including spiritual direction. Contact Marie Bannister,
mariebannister1@gmail.com or Gerry Moss,
gerrymoss@gmail.com

THE WOMEN WHO STAYED: nurtures, empowers, calls
forth and celebrates the emotional, intellectual and spiritual
growth of women and men at SFX. For more information:
TheWomenWhoStayed@gmail.com

XAVIER ADULT GROUP: Once a month we have informative
meetings or attend interesting events around the city. Contact
xaversharingandlearninggroup@gmail.com

THE XAVIER IMMIGRATION INITIATIVE: Advocacy,
support, and education to empower immigrants. For more
information contact sanxnyc@gmail.com

XAVIER YOGA: Tuesdays at 6:15pm. Open to all levels. Contact
Ko@nyyogalife.com

XAVIER YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: Spiritual, service, and
social activities for parishioners 20s-30s, and the young in spirit.
We meet every 3rd Sunday of the month in the West Room after
the 5pm mass. Contact sfxavier.youngadults@gmail.com

ZEN MEDITATION GROUP: Mondays at 7pm.
Newcomers welcome. Contact Peggy & Paul
schubertnyc@gmail.com