



# CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

A JESUIT APOSTOLATE

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

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



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 28<sup>th</sup>

5:00pm Vigil Mass: Rev. Thomas Feely, SJ

### Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>

9:00am Mass: Rev. John Mulreany, SJ

11:30am Mass: Rev. Kenneth Boller, SJ

5:00pm Mass: Rev. Samuel Sawyer, 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

The celebration of Christmas is the celebration of *Emmanuel*, God dwelling among us. The familiar Nativity story reminds us that God's love for us is manifest in the vulnerable child born away from home into a family with limited resources but great faith in God's power to save.

As we celebrate this great solemnity, we renew our commitment to live out our incarnational mission statement to be prophetic, welcoming and inclusive. God's love was made manifest in the birth of a child who would grow in wisdom, stature, and grace. Local custom decorates our homes with evergreen trees as a sign of hope in the winter darkness. Pictured below is our ever green tree of ministries which provide hope and outreach as we try to incarnate God's love in today's world. Thank you for many ways you live the Christmas mystery each day of the year.



Fr. Kan  
Fr. John  
Hosaina H.  
Dandy bird

*Have a Blessed and  
Joyful Christmas!*

John Uehlein  
Bob L. A. ~~For~~  
Greg Tux  
duy n' prima Diaz



## CONGRATS L-STEP & HOMECOMING GRADS!

Our heartfelt congratulations to the graduates of our Forty-Eighth session of L-STEP, who shared their stories of struggle and triumph with our community On December 18. We welcome them into the L-STEP Alumni and the Xavier families! Congrats also to the graduates of the Homecoming program at our partner organization, RMM, who shared their stories on December 16. We are so proud of all of you!



## A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM XAVIER MISSION!

As we continue to grapple with deep divisions, hatred, racism, xenophobia, and sexual harassment & assault in our country, let's all remember a few things: Jesus was a brown-skinned refugee, and some called him a rabble-rouser. Embodying the peace of Christ does not mean that we are meek. It means we are not afraid to spread love and justice in the world despite the struggles we may face in doing so.

Thank you for helping us to spread love and justice all year round. For your continuing time, talent, treasure, prayers and support, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. May you be filled with light and love this Christmas season. We look forward to working together with you in the New Year!

With Love and Peace,  
*Cassandra, Rachel, Christina, Beverly, and Ray*

*"Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all to the good of all." – St. Óscar Romero*



## 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



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

The Giving Trees are up for one more week! 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!

## **LAST WEEKEND**

### **HOLIDAY CARD SALE TO BENEFIT HONDURAS PROJECT**

The Honduras Companion Communities Project will offer a selection of holiday cards for sale after all the masses during THIS FINAL WEEKEND. 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.

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.

The poster is titled "ART as Prayer" in a stylized font. It lists two sessions: "JANUARY 19, 1:30 PM" and "FEBRUARY 2, 16, 1:30 PM". The text continues: "ISEL ART WORKSHOP WITH ARTIST LOURDES BERNARD- EXPLORE ART MAKING AS EMBODIED PRAYER". It also states "THREE 2-HOUR SESSIONS @\$30 EACH" and "SUGGESTED DONATION INCLUDES FEE FOR ART SUPPLIES-TO SIGN UP EMAIL LOURDESBERNARDSTUDIO@GMAIL.COM". The website "WWW.LOURDESBERNARD.COM" is at the bottom. There is a small sun icon and a leaf illustration on the left side of the poster.

**ART as Prayer**  
JANUARY 19, 1:30 PM  
FEBRUARY 2, 16, 1:30 PM  
ISEL ART WORKSHOP WITH ARTIST  
LOURDES BERNARD- EXPLORE ART MAKING  
AS EMBODIED PRAYER  
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WWW.LOURDESBERNARD.COM

### **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



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> *Christmas Eve*

*Family Mass with Pageant: 4:00pm(3:15pm Carols begin)*  
*Night Mass: 11:00pm(10:00pm Carols begin)*

## DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> *Christmas Day*

*Masses: 9:00am & 11:30am*

## JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> *New Year's Day*

*Mass: 11:00am*

## OFFICE CLOSED

**Decemeber 26<sup>th</sup> & December 27<sup>th</sup>**

*One Mass will be celebrated at 9:00am.*  
*Please use 15<sup>th</sup> Street entrance.*

## Scriptures & Announced Masses

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

**FOURTH MONDAY OF ADVENT:**  
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66.

7:45AM LEO & ANTOINETTE BUONGIORNO (D)  
12:05PM JAMES RANELLO (D)

**FOURTH TUESDAY OF ADVENT:**  
2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79.

**WEDNESDAY~FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD:** Isa 9:1-6; Tit 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14.

**THURSDAY~FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN:**  
Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Matt 10:17-22.

**FRIDAY~FEAST OF ST. JOHN:** 1 John 1:1-1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8.

**SATURDAY~FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS:**  
1 John 1:5-2:2; Matt 2:13-18.

12:05PM IRENE RIVERA (D)

**SUNDAY~ FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH:**  
Sir 3:2-6; 12-14; Col 3:12-17; Matt 2:13-15, 19-23.

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

## Ongoing Parish Happenings

**ABILITY XAVIER:** Celebrating persons with disabilities. Contact [abilityxaviernewyork@gmail.com](mailto:abilityxaviernewyork@gmail.com)

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

**EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT GROUP:**  
Contact Katherine Cleary, [krcoff5th@netzero.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 [nlgnycc@gmail.com](mailto:nlgnycc@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](mailto:Xavierinterfaith@gmail.com)

**LITURGICAL COMMITTEES:** See website or Contact Luz, [LMDiaz@sfxavier.org](mailto: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](mailto:xavierpeaceandjustice@gmail.com).

**SPIRITUAL MINISTRIES:** Offers spiritual programs, including spiritual direction. Contact Marie Bannister, [mariebannister1@gmail.com](mailto:mariebannister1@gmail.com) or Gerry Moss, [gerrymoss@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:TheWomenWhoStayed@gmail.com)

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

**THE XAVIER IMMIGRATION INITIATIVE:** Advocacy, support, and education to empower immigrants. For more information contact [sanxnyc@gmail.com](mailto:sanxnyc@gmail.com)

**XAVIER YOGA:** Tuesdays at 6:15pm. Open to all levels. Contact [Ko@nyyogalife.com](mailto: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](mailto:sfxavier.youngadults@gmail.com)

**ZEN MEDITATION GROUP:** Mondays at 7pm. Newcomers welcome. Contact Peggy & Paul [schubertnyc@gmail.com](mailto:schubertnyc@gmail.com)

### XAVIER MISSION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**CLOTHING ROOM:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, contact Ann Mary: [xmClothingRoom@gmail.com](mailto:xmClothingRoom@gmail.com)

**FOOD PROGRAMS:** Every Sunday soup kitchen and 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday food pantry, contact Christine: [xmFoodPrograms@gmail.com](mailto:xmFoodPrograms@gmail.com)

**L-STEP:** Spring and Fall semesters, contact J: [xmLSTEP@gmail.com](mailto:xmLSTEP@gmail.com)

**SHELTER:** Every night, contact Jim: [xmShelter@gmail.com](mailto:xmShelter@gmail.com)