



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 Handicapped Accessible)
E-Mail Address: StFrancisXavier@sfxavier.org • Website: www.sfxavier.org



The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom.
They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song. (Isa 35:1-2)

SECOND COLLECTION
to benefit Religious Retirement

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2016

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 Handicapped 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. Robert VerEecke, S.J. (Pastor) — 204

Email: RVerееcke@sfxavier.org

Cassandra Agredo (Executive Dir. Xavier Mission) — 208

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

Stephanie Fuentes (Assistant to the Pastor) — 222

Moraima Hernandez (Plant Manager) - 201

James Martinez (Dir. of Stewardship and
Assistant for Financial Planning) - 205

Gregory Timmes (Assistant Dir. of Business) - 201

Damely Tineo (Dir. of Business) - 221

Rev. Sean Toole, S.J. (Associate Pastor) - 206
Receptionist — 201

John Uehlein (Dir. of Music Ministries) — 202

Pastoral Council

Jack Schmitt (Chair); Adel O'Regan (Vice-Chair);
Deborah Olley Murphy (Secretary); Stephen Alfieri;
Kathleen Cagnina; John Karle;

Bob Lepisko; Charles Mileski;

Catherine O'Hagan Wolfe; David Pais

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 7:30 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 mini-
mum of six months before qualifying for a
sponsor letter to be verified as a parishioner.**

Next Weekend Presider Schedule

Saturday, December 17th

5:00pm Mass (Vigil): Rev. Samuel Sawyer, SJ

Sunday, December 18th

9:00am Mass: Rev. Sean Toole, SJ

11:30am Mass: Rev. James Miracky, SJ

5:00pm Mass: Rev. Patrick Gilger, SJ

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Patricia Ahearn, Antonio Bird, John Bucki SJ, James Brassel,
Philip Brassel, Pia Brown, Alex Campbell, Caitlin Campbell,
Larry Capisi, Kyle Chepic, Carol Davis, Margaret English,
Susan Forbes, Joaquin Gager, Juan Garcia, Victor Gaston,
Harriett Gordon, Monsignor Neil Graham, Tom Hannan,
Richard Hogan, Phil Ingrassciotta, Lorraine Pavich,
James Leung, Marian Lizzio, Albert Longo, Manuel Lopez,
Greg Lugliani, John Marshall, Lou Mauro SJ, Steven Mays,
Kay Mazzo, Betty & Ron Miller, Marisol Miro, Lorraine B.
Nelson, Campbell Phillips, Jim Reidy, Riederman Family,
Joshua Rota-Tebb, Valerie Sanchez, Lorraine Szul,
Rocco Scura, Alice Sharkey, Ray and Terri Sharpe, Amando
Solero, Vincent Sullivan, Loretta Tommasulo, Gabino Torres,
Janet Townsend, Gregory Turner, Carl Wassmann

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

Donald Cataldo, Matthew Clarke, Sr.,
Matilde and Jose Dado, Craig Ducote, Rev. Robert Fruch,
Jason N. Gallero, Linda Martinez, Giles McGrath,
Nelda C. Salas, Larry Schwindt, William Sheehan,
Lorraine Szul, Rita Williamson, Jason Vermonty

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.**

CHRISTMAS REVELATIONS

Artistic Director

Rev. Robert VerEecke S.J.

What you will hear: The O Antiphons for Advent, The Christmas Story from the lips of Luke, the Evangelist, the Story of Harold the Herald and Shep the Sleepy Sheep!

What you will see: Original choreography by Father Bob VerEecke including O Come O Come Emmanuel, Gabriel's Message, Angels we Have Heard on High, Ave Maria, Gesu Bambino (composed by Xavier organist Pietro Yon in 1917) Tomorrow will be My Dancing Day, Carol of the Bells and more. (Father Bob did not choreograph the hip-hop or the Irish step sections 😊)

Whom you will see: A professional company of actors and dancers from Boston and New York including guest artist Steven Cornwall from Kingston Jamaica. A cast of children and a special "cameo" performance by parishioner Marjorie Ihrig 😊😊😊

December 17th

3:00pm/7:30pm

December 18th

3:00pm

*Sheen Center for Thought and Culture
18 Bleeker St*

sheencenter.org

**Tickets \$25 adults
\$15 children**

HOLIDAY CARD SALE TO BENEFIT HONDURAS PROJECT

As in previous years, the Honduras Companion Communities Project will again offer a selection of Alternative Giving holiday cards for sale after all the masses during the weekends of Advent. The cards provide a way for you to remember friends and loved ones while contributing to the local community projects in Honduras which Xavier and its parishioners have supported for the last 16 years. This is our major fund raising event for sustaining our efforts with several local community groups in Honduras, a country where the challenges of daily life in an environment of high crime, lack of opportunity and government corruption are formidable.

We have an extensive selection of cards this year, based on artwork created by the children who live in Casa Corazon, the home operated by the Sisters of Mercy for children who are HIV+. Aside from printing expenses, you can be sure that all the proceeds from the sale are used for continuing the scholarships we have been providing for secondary school students and for contributing to the expenses of providing a more comfortable life for children and families dealing with HIV.

As always, thank you for your support !

SOME CHILDREN SEE HIM *THE IGNATIAN SCHOLA*

**Sunday, Dec. 11th
at 1:30 pm**

The Ignatian Schola presents Some Children See Him, an afternoon of prayerful music for Advent and Christmas, Sunday, Dec. 11 at 1:30 p.m. in the Main Church of St. Francis Xavier.

All are welcome. Admission is Free.

For more information,
visit **www.IgnatianSchola.com**.



Young Adults
CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Dear Fellow 20 & 30-Somethings! It's truly The Most Wonderful Time of the Year! Time for good food, cool friends, and lots of CHEER! You are ALL personally invited to participate in our much anticipated Annual Christmas Potluck! **Sunday, Dec 11th**, immediately following the 5pm mass in the West Room. So Deck the Halls... Grab a Mistletoe... Shout out with Glee... Join us as we celebrate the Merry Christmas Season with other gorgeous, socially-conscious, and dynamic individuals. Come meet other fantastic parishoners and make some new friends! ALL are welcome... single, married, gay or straight.

sfxavier.youngadults@gmail.com

ADULT ACTIVITIES ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCH

Wednesday, December 14th
1:00p.m. to 3:00p.m. at Aleo Restaurant

Join us for a fun afternoon with good friends and great food. Reservations are a must.

Please email *Tom and Nancy* at bowcol@hotmail.com, or call 212-929-3157 no later than **Monday, December 12th**. Aleo Restaurant is located at 7 west 20 street, between 5th and 6th avenues.

The cost of lunch is \$25.



On Thursday, December 15th, award-winning Irish tenor Emmet Cahill will present a concert of seasonal favorites at Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church in Brooklyn. Recalling his many childhood Christmas memories from Ireland, highlights include "Danny Boy", "The Wexford Carol", "I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen", "O Holy Night", "Silent Night" and much more.

Originally from Mullingar, County Westmeath, and considered by many as one of Ireland's most exciting young tenors, Emmet is best known as a principal singer with the popular Irish music show Celtic Thunder. He has toured across North America and Australia numerous times, singing to thousand of fans, and is set to release his official debut album next February.

Join Emmet, and his accompanist Seamus Brett, as they present an unforgettable evening of songs and stories that is sure to enrich us all in the festive spirit. The concert begins promptly at 7:30 p.m., and concludes with the 12th Annual Lighting of Trees & Angels!

Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church is located in the Windsor Terrace/Kensington neighborhood of Brooklyn. It is easily accessible by subway, only 1/2 block from the Ft. Hamilton stop on the F or G line.

For more info, call (718) 871-1310, visit IHMBrooklyn.org or EmmetCahill.com.

THE CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE

**Our Lady of Guadalupe
in the Mary Chapel on
December 12th at 7:00 pm**

*Screening of the documentary
Guadalupe: Living Image
Followed by reflections and prayer*

Light refreshments will be served.



L-STEP GRADUATION THIS WEDNESDAY!

Wednesday, December 16th 6:30pm
Church of St. Francis Xavier, East Transept
Reception to follow in Hurtado Hall

On Wednesday our seven graduates will share with you their personal experiences of homelessness, trauma, addiction and hardship, and their hopes and dreams for the future. This is truly one of the most moving and memorable events that we have here at Xavier; join us to celebrate the strength and perseverance of these amazing men and women!

GIVING TREES ARE UP!

The Giving Trees are up! Please take a tag (or two or three) and bring back the warm items to be distributed to the guests of our All Saints Clothing Room. Our guests depend on us to stay warm throughout the winter. We are grateful for your support!

1980s PROM TICKETS ON SALE!

Annual Dinner Dance Fundraiser: Saturday, February 18, 2017

It's Prom Night! Grab your posse, your fly girls and your hunks and get yourself over to the most righteous party of the year!

Rock your best side ponytail and acid wash -- 1980s-themed attire encouraged! (Prom dress not required but more than welcome!)

Cocktails, dinner and dancing. Music by Michael Jackson, Madonna and YOU (hint: Karaoke!)

Silent Auction, 50/50 Raffle and more!

Early-bird price is \$90 until 12/31/16! www.xaviermission.org/dinnerdance

The Epiphany School is currently accepting applications and holding guided tours for parents interested in enrolling their child for the 2017/2018 school year.

Our application process has changed so please visit our website at www.theepiphanyschool.org or call 212-473-4128 for information about tours and admissions.

LESSONS AND CAROLS: SHARING THE JOY!

THE ST. FRANCIS XAVIER MUSICIANS AND LECTORS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

7:00pm

Come celebrate the season with the community for an evening of contemporary readings and traditional carols. Under the direction of John Uehlein, the choir, the bell choir, the instrumentalists, the Family Faith Choir under the direction of Anne Holland and the dance ensemble will present an eclectic blend from World Music to Gospel to Classical, including many of our favorite Christmas Carols. Our amazing lectors will be gracing us with readings encompassing verse, prose, scripture and narrative. And don't forget the Christmas cookie reception afterwards!

FREE WILL OFFERING



CAN YOU BAKE COOKIES ?

Bakers sought for our annual *Lessons and Carols program* on Dec. 18th at 7PM. Wonderful contemporary readings with many of your favorite Christmas carols will be represented. Wouldn't you like your cookies to be eaten along side of these great readings and carols? We are looking for 30 individuals to commit to baking 2 dozen cookies (or other baked goods). If you think you can help out, please email John Uehlein in the parish office at juehlein@sfxavier.org or if you don't have email, call John at 646-573-0099. Start softening up the butter!!!!

(PS: leftovers will go to the shelter.)

REMEMBER XAVIER WHEN CONSIDERING A YEAR-END GIFT

First we want to thank all of you who have given so much of your time, talent, and treasure to support our parish throughout the year. As the end of the year approaches, we begin to reflect upon the many blessings bestowed upon us. The end of the year also provides a great opportunity to thank God for these blessings by gifting to Xavier. The parish is budgeting a \$49,408 deficit for this fiscal year and projecting deficits totaling \$65,000 over the next three years. Your year-end gift can help us reduce this deficit and thereby allow us to continue to celebrate vibrant liturgies and support our many ministries.

The benefits of income tax deductions, capital gains savings and other financial benefits are significant advantages that provide an incentive to make a gift at the year-end. A gift can also help support Xavier for years to come. There are many different ways of contributing a gift. Two of the easiest and most direct methods to gift are donations of cash and appreciated stock or other investments. You can also make other financially advantageous gifts such as real estate, life insurance, charitable remainder trusts, gift annuities, will/trust bequests and IRA/retirement accounts. For more information on how you can help make a difference by contributing a year-end gift please contact *Jim Martinez* in the parish office.

Catholic Lesbians

Catholic Lesbians
Friday, January 13th
6:00 pm—9:00 pm
West Room

"I will tell of new things. . ."

"They are being created now. . ." (Isaiah 48: -7) Please join us to kick-start the new year of this twenty-four-year-old ministry, and join us for an hour or so with our new pastor, Father Bob VerEecke, SJ. The first thirty minutes will be to socialize and settle in and then we'll get started. Bring a beverage and/or snack to share, and contact SFXWomen@aol.com or (917) 297-6804 for more information.

Scriptures & Announced Masses



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

MONDAY~FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE: Zech 2:14-17; Luke 1:26-38.

7:45AM SISTER OF ROSEMARY McGRATH (D)
12:05PM JAMES & MELINDA MARTINEZ (D)

TUESDAY~FEAST OF ST. LUCY:
Zeph 3:1-2, 9-13; Matt 21:28-32

7:45AM MARIA GRACE GRAZIANO (D)
12:05PM FR. JESUS A. DIAZ, SJ (D)

WEDNESDAY~FEAST OF ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS: Isa 45:6b-8,18,21b-25; Luke 7:18b-23.

7:45AM DORIS AUGUST (D)
12:05PM STANISLAWA SVAVA BOGATYNSKA(D)

THIRD THURSDAY OF ADVENT:
Isa 54:1-10; Luke 7:24-30.

7:45AM THOSE STRUGGLING WITH ADDICTION
12:05PM ANNE MARTIN (D)

THIRD FRIDAY OF ADVENT: Isa 56:1-3a;
John 5:33-36.

7:45AM NATALIE BIAGI (D)
12:05PM ELIZABETH BOLUS WILSON (D)

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

12:05PM GEORGE DEAN JR. (D)



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Isa 7:10-14; Rom 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.



Ongoing Parish Happenings

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

ADULT ACTIVITIES: Once a month we have informative meetings or attend interesting events around the city. Contact bowcol@hotmail.com

BAGA: A parish youth group (for teens) that meets monthly to promote peace and justice by performing corporal works of mercy. Contact b.a.good.apostle@gmail.com

CATHOLIC LESBIANS: Ministry since 1993, meets 2nd Friday, 6 p.m., West Room, SEXWomen@aol.com, (917) 297-6804.

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

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

SFX WOMEN: We continue to stay to address the specific concerns of women in the church. Xavier women are invited to join our ministry. Contact thewomenwhostayed@gmail.com

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

MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND: To become a volunteer or arrange visits, Contact James Fox, sumiko120@nyc.rr.com, (212) 427-5070

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

SPIRITUAL MINISTRIES: Offers spiritual programs, including spiritual direction. Contact Rose Alloca, alloccarose@gmail.com or Marie Bannister, mariebannister1@gmail.com.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: Spiritual, Service, and Social Activities for Xavier's 20's-30's. Meets every 2nd Sunday of the month after the 5pm Young Adult's Mass, in the West Room. Contact sfxavier.youngadults@gmail.com

ZEN MEDITATION GROUP: Mondays at 7pm. Newcomers welcome. Contact Peggy & Paul 212-260-2486, schubertnyc@gmail.com

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