



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



That very day, the first day of the week, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. (Luke 24:13-35)

SPECIAL COLLECTION
to benefit the
Churches in Central and Eastern Europe

Third Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2017

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, May 6th

5:00pm Vigil Mass: *Rev. Robert VerEecke, SJ*

Sunday, May 7th

9:00am Mass: *Rev. Robert VerEecke, SJ*

11:30am Mass: *Rev. Sean Toole, SJ*

5:00pm Mass: *Rev. Sean Toole, SJ*

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

*Sean Adcroft, Maria Antonia Araujo, John Bucki SJ,
Alex Campbell, Luceil Carroll, Normita Crystal,
Florence Demopoulis, Monsignor Neil Graham,
Fr. Thomas Kallumady, Patricia Anne Keenan,
Robert Lapides, Molly Mae LeBlanc, June LeBell,
Molly Mae LeBlanc, Marian Lizzio, Lou Mauro SJ,
Nicole Minson, Marisol Miro, Kathy Mulvaney, Lillian May,
Edminda Sanchez, Rocco Scura, Sal Talarico, Carl Wassmann,
Diane Weyers*

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

*Msgr. John Ahern, Nicholas Antamos Sellas,
Michael Barbagallo, Amelia Blanquera, Fr. Neil Connolly,
Brian Danis, Jim Donohue, Pablo Forte
and Gloria Maldonado*

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

Dear Parishioners,

Last Sunday we celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation for 11 adults at the 11:30 Liturgy. Following the liturgy one of our parishioners was saying that she was somewhat confused since there was no bishop present and she had always thought that only a bishop could confirm. As I answered her question I was thinking that some of you may also be wondering how it is that a priest can confirm so I thought I'd take this opportunity to shed some light on this subject 😊.

First, a little history. In the early church there was no separation between the three Sacraments of Initiation. At the Easter Vigil, those who had been preparing for initiation into the Christian community experienced Baptism, Anointing and Eucharist. (This custom was reinstated for adults when the Easter Vigil regained its rightful place as the most important liturgy of the year after the Second Vatican Council.) When infant Baptism became the practice after Christianity became the "official" religion of the state, the other sacraments of Initiation were separated from Baptism. (The Eastern Churches, however, retained the custom of celebrating the three moments even for infants and they continue to do this.) The Sacrament of Anointing/ Chrismation was reserved to the Bishop. The other sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist were usually administered by a priest. That is why we associate the sacrament of Confirmation with a Bishop. For a variety of pastoral reasons, the ordinary of the Diocese can give permission to a priest who has worked in the RCIA with those who are seeking baptism and other candidates for full communion to administer the sacrament of Confirmation. There is also a special permission given in this Archdiocese for a priest to confirm baptized/ catechized Catholics who have participated in the RCIA program.

I have to say that one of the most powerful pastoral experiences I have had is "confirming". When I anoint the person, looking into their eyes, I say "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit". And what a gift it is!

Since the ordinary minister of the sacrament of Confirmation is the Bishop, that's who will be coming on Pentecost, June 4th to confirm our young people.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank Luz Marina Diaz and the RCIA team for the wonderful work they do with and for those who are seeking initiation into the Catholic community or who are looking to complete the sacraments of initiation. We are blessed at Xavier to have such a great leader and generous parishioners who devote their Sunday afternoons to nurture the faith of all who come seeking the sacramental of the Church.

In the peace of the Risen Christ,

Fr Bob

*Please mark your calendars for this
very powerful and timely event:*

FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

**Thursday, May 4th
6:30 PM in Keenan Commons
31 West 15th Street 3rd Floor
(Doors will open at 6 PM)**

13th is a powerful 2016 American documentary by director Ava DuVernay. Titled after the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution which freed the slaves and prohibited slavery (unless as punishment for a crime) it explores the “intersection of race, justice and mass incarceration in the United States”.

The film will be followed by discussion of:

- The fact that 25 percent of the people in the world who are incarcerated are incarcerated in the U.S., which has only 5 percent of the population;
- How the “war on drugs” contributed to the rise in the number of people in prisons despite the rate of crime declining since the late 20th century;
- How the over-incarceration of adults has severely damaged generations of black and minority families and their children;
- How private prison contractors have entered the market to satisfy demand as arrests and sentences increased, forming an independent group with its own economic incentives to criminalize minor activities and lengthen sentences to keep prisons full.

*We hope to see and hear from you, your families, and
your friends at this event. Peace and Love.
Thrive for Life Prison Project &
Xavier Peace and Justice*

Interested in growing closer to God?

“Open the eyes of your heart and see.”-Isaiah 60:3

THE LAY SPIRITUALITY PROGRAM OF THE CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER OFFERS YOU A WAY.

For 30 years, Lay Spirits has sponsored a spiritual formation program. Through presentations from guest speakers, personal reflection and spiritual conversation, participants seek a closer connection to God and accompany each other on the journey.

Consider joining the next Lay Spirits group scheduled to begin in September 2017.

Join us for an information meeting.

**SUNDAY, MAY 7TH AT 1:30 PM
IN THE MARY CHAPEL**

**THURSDAY, MAY 25TH AT 6:30 PM
IN THE WEST ROOM**

Questions?

Claudette Pulido – claudettepulido@gmail.com or
Pat Galligan – patg48@hotmail.com

Call or email Lay Spirits:
(212) 627-2100, ext. 216 layspiritsnyc@gmail.com

Visit our website at www.layspiritsnyc.org.

AIDS WALK NEW YORK 2017 DONATION WEEKEND May 6th and 7th

Team members will be manning a table set up at the back of the church after each Mass.

Please consider making a cash/check donation
Checks made payable to: AIDS Walk New York (legend Team #1250)

Contribute online:
<https://ny.aidswalk.net/churchofstfrancisxavier>



HONDURAS PROJECT EVENT REV. DR. MONICA MAHER TO SPEAK AT XAVIER

Monica Maher, a former pastoral assistant at Xavier and now a resident of Quito, Ecuador, will speak at Xavier on **Sunday, May 7** after the 11:30 mass in the West Room. Monica helped start the Honduras project back in late 1998 and subsequently received her PhD from Union Theological Seminary and was later ordained by the United Church of Christ. Currently, she is employed by the Quakers as coordinator for the work of the Friends Peace Teams in Central America.

Monica will focus on the Friends Peace Teams work in Honduras, both in a prison with former gang members and with indigenous and Afro-descendent women who are resisting illegal takeovers of their ancestral lands by mining companies and tourism.

Catholic Lesbians

Friday, May 5th
(note first Friday of the month!)
6:00 pm—9:00 pm
West Room

Dr. Jackie Starkey continues her series on mystics. The first thirty minutes will be for settling in and socializing and then we'll begin at 6:30 p.m. Please bring a beverage and/or snack to share.

Contact SFXWomen@aol.com or (917) 297-6804 for more information.

Join members of the Catholic LGBT community and their families for a Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark on **Sunday, May 21 at 3:30PM**. After Mass, there will be a tour of this historic building, the largest French Gothic church in the US, which was elevated to a minor basilica by Pope John Paul II when he visited Newark in 1995. Finally, we hope to go to a restaurant in the Ironbound/Portuguese section of Newark for dinner.

For more information, email sacredheartigi@gmail.com. RSVP would be appreciated, especially if you are planning on joining us for dinner.

Stewardship at SFX

The Lord is risen! As Christ's disciples, we are called to go forth and spread the good news of His Resurrection. Our parish's many ministries are examples of how many of you answer that call. Our ministries require not only gifts of time and talent, but also of financial help. Please prayerfully consider supporting Xavier with our Faith Direct e-giving option. Faith Direct provides a convenient and secure way to support the parish via automatic payment from your checking account or credit card. There is no cost to you for using Faith Direct. You can sign up online by clicking the Donate Now button on the upper-right hand corner of our homepage or mail in an enrollment form available from the parish office.

ST. AGNES CATHEDRAL CHOIRS OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL L. BOWER



Friday, May 5th
7:30pm
Main Church

The Choirs of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, Long Island, under the direction of Michael Bower will fill our church with great sacred music from all ages highlighting such composers as Byrd and Tallis, Bach, Handel and Mozart through to John Rutter.

With the founding of the Diocese in 1957, the Choir of Men and Boys was established and the group performed with Leonard Bernstein at the Opening of the Kennedy Center, Washington D.C. In 1980, women's voices were added to the singing ensembles of the Cathedral, and this group (The Chorale) has performed such masterworks as Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, and Mahler's Symphony No. 2.

Zen Spirit/Christian Spirit at Xavier

Saturday, May 20th
9:30 am - 4pm
West Room

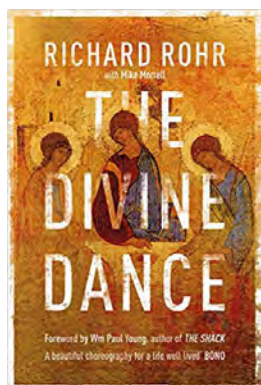
*Exploring Silence and Deepening Awareness
A day of teaching, reflection, and meditation*

Many Christians have discovered in Zen a profound connection to life. Through the practice of stillness and awareness, we wake to a world of wonder and gratitude for life in all its aspects. This day of meditation and discussion provides an excellent opportunity for both the curious and committed.

Space is limited, please make a reservation by emailing *Peggy and Paul Schubert* at schubertnyc@gmail.com or calling 212-260-2486. A \$20 donation is suggested to cover lunch and refreshments.

THE DIVINE DANCE: THE TRINITY AND YOUR TRANSFORMATION BY RICHARD ROHR

During this Easter Season you are invited to join Fr Bob and other parishioners reflecting on “new” ways of imagining the Trinity. We will be reading Richard Rohr’s book and sharing thoughts and reactions to the ways in which he envisions this central tenet of our faith. There will be three meetings: **Sundays May 7th/14th/21st** from **10:15-11:15 in the Xavier High School Chapel**. (If you can only make two of the three meetings that’s fine. Please contact *Fr Bob* at rverecke@sfxavier.org to let him know if you are planning to come. We will be reading the first of three sections of the book for the first meeting on May 7th.



Applications are now being accepted for the 2017-19 cohort of CLA-NYC. To apply, visit contemplativeleaders.org/apply

CLA is a 2-year program that cultivates Ignatian spirituality and leadership in young professionals in their 20s and 30s. Participants join a vibrant faith-filled community of peers committed to becoming leaders in their fields and finding God in all things.

There will be an informal information session on May 4, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at 53 E. 83rd St. Contact Regional Director *Kaija DeWitt* with questions: kdewitt@contemplativeleaders.org

SPA FOR THE ARTIST’S AND WRITER’S SOUL: REFLECT, RELAX, AND RECHARGE

June 11 - June 17

The Mariandale Retreat and Conference Center

Set in the peaceful surroundings of the Mariandale Retreat Center, the week will be illuminated by optional morning writing workshops, time to explore the gardens and fields, time and space for personal writing and art, evening discussions on spirituality and an opportunity to simply rest and reflect in the stillness. Bring journals and writing and art supplies as desired. Relax, Reflect, and Recharge is a week for the self, and an invitation to a week of inspiration.

<http://mariandale.org/event/reflect-relax-recharge/>

The Mariandale Retreat and Conference Center is a sponsored ministry of the Dominican Sisters of Hope.

THE CARDINAL’S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL 2017

Thank you for all of your pledges. You can still pledge online at www.cardinalsappeal.org towards our parish goal of \$100,500. Please consider making a pledge. Thank you so much for your support of the Appeal and please pray for its success at our parish.

Scriptures & Announced Masses

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER:

Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35.

THIRD MONDAY OF EASTER:

Acts 6:8-15; John 6:22-29.

7:45AM ANTHONY DOHERTY (D)
12:05PM PATSY KEENAN (D)

TUESDAY~FEAST OF ST. ATHANASIUS:

Acts 7:51-8:1a; John 6:30-35.

7:45AM LEO & ANTOINETTE BUONGIORNO (D)
12:05PM JIMMY CANFIELD (D)

WEDNESDAY~FEAST OF PHILIP AND JAMES: 1 Cor 15:1-8; John 14:6-14.

7:45AM AVAILABLE
12:05PM MICHAEL LARICY (D)

THIRD THURSDAY OF EASTER:

Acts 8:26-40; John 6:44-51.

7:45AM AVAILABLE
12:05PM MICHAEL LARICY (D)

THIRD FRIDAY OF EASTER: Acts 9:1-20; John 6:52-59.

7:45AM ANA MARIA RODRIGUEZ-ANDALUZ (D)
12:05PM MARIE VAN BRUNT (D)

THIRD SATURDAY OF EASTER:

Acts 9:31-42; John 6:60-69.

12:05PM JOSEPH PEPPE (D)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 2:20b-25; John 10:1-10.

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

THE LITURGICAL MINISTRY

The Church of St. Francis Xavier offers different opportunities for adults, young adults, adolescents, and children to participate actively in our parish life. One of these opportunities is as liturgical minister at each Mass. At the moment we need women willing to serve as Eucharist ministers. We also need men and women ministers of hospitality at every Mass. For more information on these ministries, please visit our website <https://sfxavier.org/liturgical-ministries>.

Ongoing Parish Happenings

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

XAVIER ADULT GROUP: 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 of each month, 6 p.m., West Room, SFXWomen@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 sfxgcggroup@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 at xavierpeaceandjustice@gmail.com.

SPIRITUAL MINISTRIES: Offers spiritual programs, including spiritual direction. Contact Rose Alloca, allocarose@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