



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



“Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy.” --Pope Francis, 2015

SECOND COLLECTION
for the benefit of Religious Retirement

Third Sunday in Advent

December 13, 2015

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)

Reconciliation

Saturdays from 1:00 to 2:00 in the Main Church
confessional or by appointment with one of the priests.

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. Joseph Marina, S.J. (Pastor) — 204

Cassandra L. Agredo (Dir. Xavier Mission) — 208

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

Rev. Peter Fink, S.J. (Associate Pastor) — 211

Stephanie Fuentes (Parish Secretary) — 222

Moraima Hernandez (Plant Manager) - 201

Receptionist — 201

Dameley Tineo (Assistant to the Pastor) - 221

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

John Uehlein (Dir. of Music Ministries) — 202

Pastoral Council

Jack Schmitt (Chair); Adel O'Regan (Vice-Chair);
Stephen Alfieri; Kathleen Cagnina; Patricia Dahl;
Phil Gutierrez; Bob Lepisko; Deborah Olley Murphy;
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.

**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: 9:00 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 19th

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

Sunday, December 20th

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

11:30am Mass: *Rev. Peter Fink, SJ*

5:00pm Mass: *Rev. Peter Fink, SJ*

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

*Jim Calimano, Alex Campbell, Maria Caruana, Kyle Chepic,
Sheila Creasy, Louis DeFazio, Gloria DeFranco,
Carol Ferrone, David Fuentes, Gary Gatza,
Johnathan Gotay-Coban, Monsignor Neil Graham,
Jerica Elaine Harris, Terry Higgins, Thomas Higgins,
Kvetka Kaplan, Anne Karle-Zenith, Ana Gerda Kennedy,
Robyn Luisi, Dee Kelly, Patrick Loughlin, Ann Malebra,
John Marshall, Ron and Elizabeth Miller, Joseph Morrone,
Kathy Mulvaney, Nicole Mysak, John J. Nesbit,
Catherine Anne Olnek, Dorothy Oliva, Jacob Michael Olnek,
Denyse Robinson, Rocco Scura, Thomas Stemberg,
Mary and Gabino Torres, Janet Townsend,
Dr. John Sony Valentino, Molly Wolfe*

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

*John Ciarcia, Wynne Greenwald, Alice Gonzales,
Ferko Kaplan, Jordan Ling, Martin McCormick, Scott
McKinney, Martin Palmer, Lucille Salamida, Marie Sanetra,
Gerard Schmidt, William Jude Schmitt, Patricia Thornton,
Esperanza Trinidad, Jason Vermonty, Marilyn Bosh Vojta,
Michael Weber*

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

HOW DO YOU MEASURE A YEAR?

Dear Friends in Christ,

In January of 1996, a modern interpretation of Giacomo Puccini's *La Boheme* opened off Broadway. The show, called *Rent*, enjoyed a successful 12-year run and many of the songs of its score still play on in the minds of its fans. One of *Rent*'s more popular tunes, entitled "Seasons of Love," asks a simple yet provocative question: *How do you measure a year?* The lyrics go on to suggest a few ways: You can measure a year "in daylights, in sunsets, in cups of coffee." In the next stanza, some other possibilities: "In inches, in miles, in laughter, in strife." Finally, the song finds its way to the best possible means of measurement: Love. You can measure a year in love; by the way you love and were loved; and to the degree that you held love above every other gift and virtue. Who can possibly argue with that?

And so we, as a church (within a wider Church) within a world, begin a very special year that we would be wise to measure well --the Jubilee Year of Mercy. It was first announced by His Holiness Pope Francis in April 2015 in his letter *Misericordiae Vultus*. These Latin words mean "the face of mercy" and they are defined in the very first sentence of the Holy Father's letter: "Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy." The pope's letter is stunningly beautiful. It's over 9,000 words long and yet this first sentence seems to be more than enough: "Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy." Francis could have stopped right there!

What does it mean to engage and celebrate a year of mercy? Well, we're about to find out. On Monday, nine of my Jesuit brothers will make themselves available for what we affectionately call the "Confessions Marathon", when we take our places in the church twice per year to be humbled once again by the holiness of people who approach us so sheepishly, seeking God's mercy through the sacrament of Reconciliation. They seem so unaware of how much they teach us about mercy and yet these penitents always do more for the priests than we do for them.

Our website has been loaded with spiritual resources received from the Vatican and the Archdiocese of New York. His Eminence Cardinal Dolan recently sent us a beautiful banner that now hangs in the corridor between our lobby and the Mary Chapel. This thoughtful gift was accompanied by an Advent card wishing all of us a blessed Advent, a happy Christmas, and a year of mercy and grace. Please pray for our Cardinal. He has one of the toughest jobs in the world and is working very hard at it.

We will continue to share guidance from His Eminence and Pope Francis regarding the Year of Mercy. Also, I have asked our priests and all of our parish ministries to pay special attention to the theme of mercy and how it can be incorporated into homilies, meetings, communications, and activities. Early responses from Family Faith, Bible Study, Music, LGBT Ministries, and others are impressive. We have a year to dive deep and I suggest we maximize it as creatively as we can! Because, as Francis reminds us, "mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life. All of her pastoral activity should be caught up in the tenderness she makes present to believers; nothing in her preaching and in her witness to the world can be lacking in mercy. The Church's very credibility is seen in how she shows merciful and compassionate love."

But, as we know so well, the effects of God's mercy will go only as far as our hearts allow. A word so beautiful as mercy will be totally empty unless we *choose* to forgive, from our hearts, those who have hurt us and who wait to be forgiven. And, lest we be misled, mercy is most certainly a choice that we make with the help of God's grace. We *decide* to forgive or we *decide* to hold on to our anger. This is true for bishops as much as it is for neophytes. So let's plunge ourselves into the depths of God's mercy as this most sacred year begins. So much can happen within a year! How can we possibly measure it? Let's measure it in love...and in mercy!

Your servant,
Fr. Marina

ARCHDIOCESAN DAY OF RECONCILIATION

Confession and Adoration
Monday, December 14th



3:00pm-8:00pm
Main Church

On **Monday, December 14th**, across the Archdiocese of New York, churches will offer the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Jesuit confessors will be available in our church from 3-8pm and the Blessed Sacrament will be present on the altar during these 5 hours. Please come to avail yourself of the grace of reconciliation or simply to rest and pray for a while as we make our way toward the great season of Christmas. All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 24TH
CHRISTMAS EVE

3:30PM MUSIC/4:00PM FAMILY MASS

10:00PM MUSIC

11:00PM MASS IN THE NIGHT

DECEMBER 25TH
NATIVITY OF THE LORD

9:00AM AND 11:30AM MASSES

JANUARY 1ST
NEW YEAR'S DAY

11:30AM MASS

ANNUAL CARD SALE FOR HONDURAS PROJECT

On Nov. 15, Padre Melo from Honduras visited our church and spoke about the purposes of his work and the mission of the Jesuit radio station, Radio Progreso, which he heads. He stated that the intent is to highlight injustices and violations of human rights, and to look at the root causes of those violations. The main areas of focus are youth formation, defense of natural resources from incursions by mining companies, formation of new organizations to defend human rights, and creation of support networks in communities to provide an alternative voice to that of the government.

As in previous years, the Honduras Companion Communities Project will offer a selection of Alternative Giving cards for sale after the masses during the weekends of Advent. The cards provide a way for you to remember friends and loved ones and to contribute to supporting the education of a new generation of Hondurans which is so essential to Padre Melo's goals. Xavier and its parishioners have supported our efforts with several local community groups in Honduras for the last 15 years. The selection this year is again based on artwork created by the children who live in Casa Corazon, a 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 flow directly to our local community groups in Honduras. As always, thank you for your support !

LESSONS AND CAROLS: Sharing the Joy

*Featuring: Parish Choir, Bell Choir, Dancers,
Xavier Players and String Quartet
And Parish Lectors*

*John Uehlein, Director of Music Ministries
Anne Holland, Assistant Director of Music Ministries*

On **Sunday, December 13th at 7:00pm** in the church, the music ministry will present Scripture, Poetry and Stories from writers like Thomas Merton, Fred Pratt Green, Henri Nouwen, Dietrich Bohhoeffer and Madeleine L'Engle. Musical favorites for the holiday season, Festive choral music and our favorite carols will be paired up with the various readings. Pieces like "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" and "O Holy Night." Afterwards, we will gather in Hurtado Hall for cookies, refreshments and fellowship to bring in the holiday season. Save the date for our Parish-wide Christmas Party.



URGENTLY NEEDED CAN YOU BAKE COOKIES?

Bakers sought for the Parish Holiday Celebration of Lessons and Carols. On **Sunday, December 13th at 7:00pm**, the music ministry will present scripture, poetry, music, dance and COOKIES! Wouldn't you like your COOKIES to be part of the celebration? After the program we will gather in Hurtado Hall for COOKIES and refreshments to bring in the holiday season in a great communal way. We are looking for 30 individuals to commit to baking 2 dozen COOKIES a piece (or other baked goods) for the reception. If you think you can help out, please email John Uehlein at juehlein@sfxavier.org or call 212-627-2100, ext. 202. Start softening up the butter!!!! (PS: leftovers will go to the shelter.)



COUGHLIN MEN'S SHELTER OPEN HOUSE

To celebrate the start of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, all are invited to an open house at the Fr. Ned Coughlin Shelter after the 11:30 Mass on Sunday, December 13. Light refreshments will be served. We especially welcome anyone interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities at the shelter, which will fully reopen in January following renovations.

Required training for all volunteers will be held on **Sunday, December 20th** at **1pm** and **Saturday, January 9th** at **9:30am in the shelter** (volunteers must attend one session). Please contact Fr. Sean at sptool@sfxavier.org for more information.

L-STEP BLESSING AND GRADUATION & STEPPING STONES!

BLESSING: Sunday, December 13th, 11:30am Mass

STEPPING STONES & GRADUATION:

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

We will be offering a special blessing to our L-STEP class and previewing one of their stories at the Mass, as a prelude to the Stepping Stones & Graduation ceremony!

On the 16th, four participants will face the nightmare of all nightmares--public speaking!--in order to 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, and we hope you will join us to celebrate the strength and perseverance of these amazing men and women!



Sunday, December 13th

On Consumerism
Mary Doyle Roche

Xavier High School Library
10:20 am to 11:25 am

The Merciful God of the Old Testament: An Advent Bible Study

*As we enter into the Holy Year of Mercy,
Come ring in the Extraordinary Jubilee
at The Church of St. Francis Xavier
Sundays 3:30-4:45 in the West Room*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13TH~*The Story of Hagar:
Mercy with our Muslim siblings*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH~*Loving Kindness*

See website for details Sfxavier.org/bible-study.

LGBT MINISTRIES CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday, December 18th

7:00 PM

Larkin-Hurtado Hall

Please come and celebrate! The party is potluck - a way to give to each other and to celebrate Christ's presence in our lives and within our ministries.

We especially encourage entrees, side dishes, salads, and desserts. *"All Are Welcome in this place"*

POPE FRANCIS CHRISTMAS BOOK SALE!

Discounted copies of "Laudato Si - On Care For Our Common Home" will be on sale next weekend in the back of the Church. Pope Francis relayed his urgent message in this beautiful environmental encyclical to all people. Therefore, unlike past academic encyclicals, its concepts on care for creation are beautifully written in common language. Please consider purchasing several copies as Christmas gifts (or stocking stuffers) for your family and friends.

Scriptures & Announced Masses



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT:
Zeph 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18.

MONDAY~ FEAST OF ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS: Num 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matt 21:23-27.

7:45AM DICK CAM & FRANCES RYAN (D)
12:05PM LEE HIRSCH (D)

THIRD TUESDAY OF ADVENT:
Zeph 3:1-2, 9-13; Matt 21:28-32.

7:45AM JANET DOYLE (D)
12:05PM LUCILLE SALAMIDA (D)

THIRD WEDNESDAY OF ADVENT:
Isa 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Luke 7:18b-23.

7:45AM JOHN J. & MARGARET A. HAYES (D)
12:05PM DENNIS MARSELLIS (D)

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

7:45AM RYAN HAYES (D)
12:05PM JOHN BURNS (D)

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

7:45AM BARBARA BEHARRY (D)
12:05PM LYNDA RYAN (D)

THIRD SATURDAY OF ADVENT:
Zech 2:14-17; Luke 1:5-25.

12:05PM WILLIAM SCHMITT (D)



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:
Mic 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45.

**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, 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 sfxgcgroup@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 Peter Locascio 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: Seeks volunteers to plan spiritual, service, and social activities for Xavier's 20s-30s community. Email sfxavier.youngadults@gmail.com for more information.

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