



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



Susan Yates, 2014

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. (Luke 1: 41-45)

SECOND COLLECTION
for the benefit of Parish Maintenance

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 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 Díaz (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.**

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 26th

5:00pm Vigil: *Rev. Joseph Marina, SJ*

Sunday, December 27th

9:00am Mass: *Rev. Joseph Marina, 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

*Mike Allocca, Jim Calimano, Alex Campbell, Maria Caruana,
Kyle Chepic, Sheila Creasy, Louis DeFazio, Carol Ferrone,
David Fuentes, Gary Gatz, Johnathan Gotay-Coban,
Monsignor Neil Graham, James Griffin, Jerica Elaine Harris,
Kvetka Kaplan, Anne Karle-Zenith, Ana Gerda Kennedy,
Robyn Luisi, Dee Kelly, Patrick Loughlin, John Marshall,
Ron and Elizabeth Miller, Barbara Mohr, Joseph Morrone,
Kathy Mulvaney, Anthony Muto, Nicole Mysak, John J. Nesbit,
Catherine Anne Olnek, Dorothy Oliva, Jacob Michael Olnek,
Denyse Robinson, Rocco Scura, Mary and Gabino Torres,
Janet Townsend, Dr. John Sony Valentino, Bess Vindigni,
Molly Wolfe*

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

*John Ciarcia, Wynne Greenwald, Alice Gonzales,
John Guiliano, Ferko Kaplan, Jordan Ling,
Martin McCormick, Scott McKinney, Martin Palmer,
Omar Ripalda, William Jude Schmitt, Clelia Venticinque,
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.**



THE CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Dear Friends in the Lord,

Grace and peace to you through Jesus Christ, today and always! The past year has been wondrous and filled with blessings. Our city welcomed Pope Francis and cheered him on! We said goodbye to some very good friends, including Jaqui Falco, and welcomed new ones into our community, including Fr. Sean Toole as associate pastor and Ms. Anne Holland as assistant director of music. Our parish staff, the pastoral council, finance council, and various ministries clearly embraced the proclamation of the Gospel, especially in advancing this year's common theme of the environment and care for our common home. And you have honored and strengthened our church community by your very generous contributions of time, talent and treasure.

With Christmas and the new year just days away now, our parish is well poised to listen to the voice of Christ and to continue following Him. We are doing so through our parish-wide efforts to cultivate a deeper understanding of Ignatian spirituality, enhance our celebration of the liturgy, increase our responsiveness to the sick and homebound, and engage the Jubilee Year of Mercy announced by Pope Francis.

Still, significant challenges remain on the horizon. And so I humbly ask your continued support in ways that will help us move into the future with hope and stability. We need your financial assistance more than ever as we continue to pay down our restoration debt; bolster our various ministries; grow the Family Faith Program; support the Xavier Mission and Catholic education. **Therefore, I ask you to please consider making a special gift to Xavier this Christmas that will help us continue to make a real difference in the lives of those we serve.** Using *Faith Direct* www.faithdirect.net is the best option for us but envelopes are in your pew if you prefer.

I am extremely grateful for all you have done already and ask you to keep our parish in your prayers throughout the days ahead and especially at Christmas. Be assured of the same in return. Thank you once again for your great generosity.

With love and best wishes at Christmas,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph G. Marina, SJ". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph G. Marina, SJ
Pastor

Parish Office: 55 West 15th Street
New York, NY 10011-6801

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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!



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED FOR
MINISTRY TO
DISABLED
PARISHIONERS**

Can you help out once a month before and after the 11:30 liturgy?

For further information or to volunteer, please contact *Lynn Corwin* at lccjs@aol.com or call 917 716 1265. Thank you.

WANT TO KNOW ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS HAPPENING AT THE CHURCH?



Get important updates from SFX and the Archdiocese of New York in a timely and convenient way. We want to communicate more effectively with you. But we also want to make it easy for you to control what types of announcements you get from us and how you are notified when we make them. In order to do this we are using a new service called FLOCKNOTE, as in sending "notes" to your "flock".

The service is free and will make it easy for you to stay plugged into the happenings at Xavier and the wider Church **via text message or email updates**. And don't worry, your information is completely safe and secure. It will NOT be sold or rented to third-parties. And you can unsubscribe at any time!

You can visit the parish website at www.sfxavier.org and click on the Flocknote icon pictured above.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3RD EPIPHANY



Holiday music with
The Choir, The Family Faith
Choir, The Bell Choir
and Brass preceding the
11:30am Mass at 11:00am.

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

POPE FRANCIS CHRISTMAS BOOK SALE!

Discounted copies of "Laudato Si - On Care For Our Common Home" are on sale this 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 copies as Christmas gifts (or stocking stuffers) for your family and friends.

Catholic Lesbians

Friday, January 8th

6:00 pm—9:00 pm

West Room

*"You have blessings in reserve for many years to come.
Relax! Eat, drink and be merry!"*

(Luke 12:19, The Inclusive Bible)

Let's start the new year by celebrating the twenty-third anniversary of this ministry. Please bring a beverage and/or snack to share, and contact

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

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

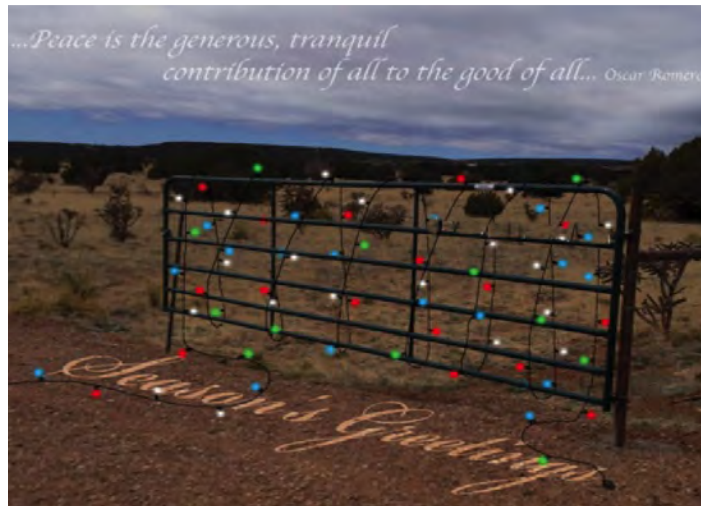
*As we enter into the Holy Year of Mercy,
Come ring in the Extraordinary Jubilee
at The Church of St. Francis Xavier
Sunday 3:30pm-4:45pm in the West Room*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH ~*Loving Kindness*
Our Bible study series will end the last Sunday of Advent, as we quietly approach Christmas through a look at God's loving kindness in the Old Testament.

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



A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM XAVIER MISSION!



As our nation grapples with the realities of racism and xenophobia and our world struggles with the daily horrors of war and poverty, we at Xavier Mission offer you our prayers and gratitude and simple message for this holiday season:

Peace Be With You.

For your continuing time, talent, treasure, prayers and support, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. May you be filled with God's light and love this Christmas season. We look forward to working together with you in the New Year!

Sincerely,

Cassandra, Alex, Rachel, Beverly, Adrian, Kathleen, Mirla, & Damaris

SAVE THE DATE!

November has Thanksgiving, December has Christmas and January has New Year's. But February? Poor February is just a dismal, dreary month, with nothing to look forward except more snow and a dismal, dreary March.

UNTIL NOW!!!!

Mark your calendars because on February 20, 2016, Xavier Mission will be hosting our third annual Dinner-Dance, with this year's theme "A Night at the Oscars"! There will be food, music, dancing, awards, and PLENTY of Oscar-worthy decorations to make you feel like you're really strutting the red carpet and rubbing elbows with celebrities! Watch the bulletin for the announcement of ticket sales. In the meantime, prepare to eat your way through the holidays and dance it all off in February!



GIVING TREES OFF TO A GREAT START!

Tags are already flying off of our Giving Trees to benefit the guests of our All Saints Clothing Room. We encourage you to take a tag (or two or three!), bring back the item(s) listed on the tag (UNWRAPPED, with the tag(s) attached please!) and place it back under the tree. Please help us to make the Christmas season a little warmer and more joyous for our homeless brothers and sisters!

Scriptures & Announced Masses



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

FOURTH MONDAY OF ADVENT: Song 2:8-14; Luke 1:39-45.

7:45AM PEGGY HAYES (D)
12:05PM CHRISTINE CARD PHELAN (D)

FOURTH TUESDAY OF ADVENT:
1 Sam 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56.

7:45AM ELIZABETH JOHNSON (D)
12:05PM MICHAEL WEBER (D)

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

7:45AM MARIO MISURAC (D)
12:05PM IRENE KLEGA (D)

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

FRIDAY~ FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD: Isa 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; John 1:1-18.

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

12:05PM MARIO & LUCILLE MISURAC (D)

SUNDAY~ FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH:
1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52.

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