



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



While the younger son was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.” (Luke 15: 20-21)

SECOND COLLECTION
for the benefit of the Catholic Relief Services

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 6, 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. Joseph Marina, S.J. (Pastor) — 204
Cassandra Agredo (Executive Dir. Xavier Mission) — 208
Luz Marina Díaz (Dir. of Religious Education) — 207
Rev. Peter Fink, S.J. (Associate Pastor) — 211
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);
Stephen Alfieri; Kathleen Cagnina; Patricia Dahl;
Phil Gutierrez; Bob Lepisko;
Deborah Olley Murphy (secretary); 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, March 12th

5:00pm Vigil: *Rev. James Miracky, SJ*

Sunday, March 13th

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

11:30am Mass: *Rev. Joseph Marina, SJ*

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Paula Acuti, Angelina Alejandria, Australia Baez, Marc Boorstein, Jim Calimano, Alex Campbell, Caitlin Campbell, Kyle Chepic, Sheila Creasy, Louis DeFazio, Francisco Domingo, Joaquin Gager, Gary Gatza, Johnathan Gotay-Coban, Monsignor Neil Graham, Terri Harrington, Robyn Luisi, John Marshall, Betty & Ron Miller, Lou Mauro SJ, Kathy Mulvaney, Eileen O'Keeffe, Jake Ratcliffe, Riederman Family, Denyse Robinson, Cynthia Ruiz, Rocco Scura, Amando Solero, Matthew Tanck, Mary and Gabino Torres, Janet Townsend, Bess Vindigni, Molly Wolfe

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

Gregoria Arnaldo, Marisa Kruger, Joe Mattioli, Mary Montemurro, Joseph Muller, Clelia Venticinque, Lisa Wallace

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.

SEEKING THE LIGHT

*“In the beginning... God said, ‘Let there be light, and there was light.’ And God saw that it was good.
(Gen 1: 1,5)*

Light remains the pivotal element of God’s creation. Sun is essential to the growth of the crops that sustain us. A blackout evokes panic and chaos. Many suffer from SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder), depression caused by the darkness of winter days. Darkness affects us both physically and emotionally. How do we respond to our need for light? We seek medical and psychological treatment. We move to sunnier climes. We illuminate our homes and workplaces with sun-imitating artificial light. We pray for our souls to be nurtured and enlightened with God’s light of grace. We eagerly anticipate the burst of flame that will accompany the chant of “Lumen Christi” at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, March 26.

This year at Xavier we are blessed with the largest RCIA group in the history of the parish. They have reached the point of preparation known as the Scrutinies, very special ancient rites celebrated on the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent. These rites call to mind our need to examine (scrutinize) the areas of our lives where we are tempted to sin, in what we do and what we fail to do. The elect, having been instructed about the mysteries of sin, now long to be delivered from it. It is Christ the Redeemer, the light of the world, who makes this happen.

In the second reading for today, Paul tells the Ephesians that they once were darkness but now are light in the Lord. He exhorts them to live as children of the light for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth, reminding us once again of the value of light. The Gospel tells of the story of the man born blind whom Jesus heals and restores his sight to the light of day. These examples challenge us to seek out that light/ Earlier we spoke of the ways we provide for the physical light. How, then, do we seek out light for our souls, commonly referred to as grace? Asking God through prayer, participation in liturgy, and reception of the Sacraments are ways known to us all.

A strategy less well known is spiritual direction. In this process, you seek out a companion for your journey to the Source of Light. Once you are connected to an individual trained and skilled as a companion (director), you meet with that person regularly. First you learn the most appropriate style of praying for you. Your director will then help you find God working in all the aspects of your life and environment and to become more aware of your response to God in these areas. The process requires you to be willing to share your inner feelings, and to be open to the Spirit speaking through this guide. At first, you may find this difficult because you are not familiar with sharing your spiritual journey. All that is required, though, is the desire to be closer to God and to take the risk of growing this way. The rest is in God’s hands for us to experience.

If you wish to explore the possibility of experiencing spiritual direction, please contact either *Rose Allocca* at allocarose@gmail.com or *Marie Bannister* at mariebannister1@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, March 8th



Stations of the Cross
7:30pm

Wednesday March 23rd



Tenebrae Service
7:00pm

THE 2016 CARDINAL'S APPEAL IS IN PROGRESS!

"You are the light of the world. Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify our heavenly Father." (Matthew 5:14-16)

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, we are called to help one another and be merciful, as Jesus is for all of us. It is only with your help that the Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal continues to be a beacon of hope for our brothers and sisters through our ministries and charities.

PLEASE ANSWER THE CALL AND DONATE TODAY!
Envelopes available in your pews.

To make an online gift,
visit www.cardinalsappeal.org



**ADULT SESSIONS TAKE PLACE IN THE
XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
FROM 10:20 AM TO 11:25 AM**

MARCH 6TH-Roseann Bonadia
and Luz Marina Diaz On Women Spirituality

APRIL 17TH-Father Peter Fink, S.J.
Ritual on The Eucharist

CARE FOR CREATION

Forgo plastic bags: make it a point to carry reusable bags with you as you run your errands this week. According to the EPA, between 500 billion and a trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide each year, wasting natural resources and harming natural wildlife. Do what you can to stop this trend and reuse!

To be involved in the parish's Care for Creation efforts, email
xavierpeaceandjustice@gmail.com

GIVE UP YOUR ENVELOPES FOR LENT

Fast. Pray. Give up your Envelopes! We invite you to help us save money by giving up your offertory envelopes this Lent. Enrolling with Faith Direct will provide Xavier with consistent support and simplify your giving without the wasteful envelopes. Go Green and join us in giving up envelopes this Lenten season! You can quickly sign up online at www.faithdirect.net using our church code: NY406 or by mailing an enrollment form available in the parish office. Thank you for all you do to support Xavier.

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH!



The history of women in the Catholic Church continues to manifest. Male and female, we are all called to co-create that reality, moving forward in Christ, despite any past or present obstacles.

Towards that end, here are words of strength, perspective and experience from Joan Chittister, OSC, a Benedictine nun who has been hailed as an advocate for women in the Church:

*The moment a woman comes home to herself, the moment she knows that she has become a person of influence, an artist of her life, a sculptor of her universe, a person with rights and responsibilities who is respected and recognized, the resurrection of the world begins.

*Only ideas keep ideas flowing. When we close our minds to what is new, simply because we decide not to bother with it, we close our minds to our responsibility to ourselves - and to others - to keep on growing.

*Contemplation is a very dangerous activity. It not only brings us face to face with God. It brings us, as well, face to face with the world, face to face with the self. And then, of course, something must be done. Nothing stays the same once we have found the God within.... We carry the world in our hearts: the oppression of all peoples, the suffering of our friends, the burdens of our enemies, the joy of every laughing child....

Stay tuned for more throughout the month of March from Xavier's Women's Ministry.

Catholic Lesbians

**Friday, March 11th
6:00 pm—9:00 pm
West Room**

The Beguines, Christian lay religious orders active in the thirteenth to sixteenth centuries, lived in semimonastic communities, though they did not take religious vows. Join us for the story of a largely forgotten medieval women's movement, presented by *Dr. Jackie Starkey*. Contact SFXWomen@aol.com or (917) 297-6804 for more information.

Lenten Reconciliation and Adoration



**Monday, March 21st
3:00pm-9:00pm**

On Monday, March 21st, 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 3-9pm and the Blessed Sacrament will be present on the altar during these 6 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 Easter. All are welcome.

For Your Safety

Please do not use the altar steps when crossing our sanctuary space. We have had several falls over the last few years and it is much safer to use the side ramps. Your cooperation in this important matter is very much appreciated.

The SFX Women's Ministry
Presents

"JUBILANT VOICES"

Sr. Mary Galeone is celebrating her 50th Jubilee year
with the Sisters of Mercy

Sr. Andrea Dixon has been a Sister of Charity for
over fifty years.

Join us as we listen and learn from their experience
and wisdom. Come celebrate with us!

Please join us on **Sunday, March 13**
from **1-3pm** in the **Mary Chapel**.

PAPER TIGERS

One high school's unlikely success story.

Paper Tigers is a film that intimately examines the inspiring promise of Trauma Informed Communities - a movement that is showing great promise in healing youth struggling with the dark legacy of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)

Please join us as we watch and then discuss this powerful new documentary about one school's answer to childhood toxic stress.

FILM SCREENING & PANEL DISCUSSION
with critically acclaimed author and Pulitzer
Prize nominee Andrew Solomon
Monday, April 18 at 6 PM

Presented by Joy Farina Foskett,
Prevent Child Abuse NY Representative

Grace Church School
46 COOPER SQUARE MANHATTAN
(212) 675-6150 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Sponsored by: The Church of St. Francis Xavier,
Grace Church School, The First Presbyterian Church
in the City of New York, National Institute for the
Psychotherapies, Corlears School, Prevent Child Abuse
New York, Go Project, Academy of St. Joseph

YOUNG ADULT MASS WITH CARDINAL DOLAN

You are invited to join the Office of Young Adult Outreach on **Wednesday, March 9th** at **St. Patrick's Cathedral** (5th Avenue between 50th and 51st street, New York, NY) for Mass with *His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan*. Adoration and Confessions will be available from 6:30-7:30p.m. Mass begins at 7:30p.m. Music by Audrey Assad and Josh Blakesly. There will be a social after the Mass at Vermillion, 480 Lexington Ave, New York, NY.

For more information and to join the CatholicNYC events newsletter please visit www.catholicnyc.com.

Adult Activities

Wednesday, March 16th
1:00 pm in the West Room

Join the Adult Activities Group to celebrate St. Patrick and St. Joseph.

This year, at this annual event, we will take time to remember Paddy Loughlin and Eugene Curtis. Bring a dish to share and your ideas for future meetings.

The 12:05 mass will be dedicated to Paddy.

A FAREWELL CELEBRATION



Join us at the 11:30 mass next Sunday, **March 13**, as we say farewell to **Marge Zwanziger**, our oldest living parishioner and dear friend! Marge has been an endless source of God's love and grace to the Xavier

community for decades. As she prepares to move back to her beloved New Jersey for the next part of her journey, we will offer a special blessing and say goodbye in style to this wonderful woman.

Scriptures & Announced Masses

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT:
Josh 5:9a, 10-12; 2 Cor 5:17-21.

FOURTH MONDAY OF LENT:
Isa 65:17-21; John 4:43-54.

7:45AM LAZARUS SANGIRADI (D)
12:05PM PADDY LOUGHLIN (D)

FOURTH TUESDAY OF LENT:
Ezek 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16.

7:45AM MARTHA FALCO (D)
12:05PM RON AND JOSEPH WESTERFIELD (D)

FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF LENT:
Isa 49: 8-15; John 5:17-30.

7:45AM ARMANDO ORTIZ (L)
12:05PM NELLY FERNANDEZ CASTILLO (D)

FOURTH THURSDAY OF LENT:
Jer 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23.

7:45AM PETER FALCO (L)
12:05PM LEO AND ANTOINETTE BUONGIORNO (D)

THIRD FRIDAY OF LENT:
Hos 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34.

7:45AM BARBARA BEHARRY (D)
12:05PM ANN MARIE WILLIAMS (L)

THIRD SATURDAY OF LENT:
Hos 6:1-6; Luke 18:9-14.

12:05PM MILAGROS AND JUDE BARCENAS (D)

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT:
Josh 5:9a, 10-12; 2 Cor 5:17-21.

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

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

*"No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan."
(Joshua 5:12)*

Over the forty years that the Israelites journeyed through the desert, God provided them with manna to eat. As soon as they were able to enjoy the fruits of the Promised Land the manna ceased. Likewise, God's blessings to us may change over the years but it is important to trust that God will always provide us with all that we need.

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: 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