



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



O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord! (Isa 2:5)

SECOND COLLECTION
to benefit Maintenance

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 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 3rd

5:00pm Mass (Vigil): Rev. Sean Toole, SJ

Sunday, November 4th

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

11:30am Mass: Rev. Robert VerEecke, SJ

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Patricia Ahearn, John Bucki SJ, James Brassel, Philip Brassel,
Pia Brown, Alex Campbell, Caitlin Campbell, Larry Capisi,
Kyle Chepic, Margaret English, Susan Forbes, Joaquin Gager,
Juan Garcia, 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, Rev. Robert Fruch, Jason N. Gallero,
Linda Martinez, Laura Samoy, Larry Schwindt,
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.**

Dear Parishioners,

When a group of us met on November 1st to discuss the Advent Season and Scriptures, we came up with a theme that we thought reflected the joy, the expectation and the hope for the future that is embedded in the Advent scriptures. We also noted the many examples of growth and flowering from unexpected places.. And so the theme for this Advent season that we thought reflected this movement of the scriptures is “We Wait and Walk in Joyful Hope”. After the events of these past weeks, however, I wonder if there should be question marks at the end of the sentence. “ We Wait and Walk in Joyful Hope???” As we enter this Advent season, there are so many that are anxious, worried, fearful of the future. Wherever we may stand on issues, in our hearts we know that the divisions that separate us and the fear that new leadership will not hear the “cry of the poor, the marginalized, mother earth herself” will be the cause of pain, disappointment and disillusionment. So how can we “walk and wait in joyful hope”?

At a time like this when we are wondering what the future holds, I believe that we can take some encouragement from the Advent Scriptures that remind us that God is accompanying us on our journey and that God is creating life and hope where there was only barren soil. It is one of the reasons that we have decided to use a “peace garden” as a primary symbol during the Advent Season. A garden is the place where we wait expectantly for the surprise of new growth, beauty, flowering and blossoming. A garden can be such a peaceful place where we are invited to contemplate the mystery of life and growth. The scriptures speak so powerfully of changing instruments of war and destruction into instruments of peace and growth. “They will turn their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks” We know this seems like a “pipe dream” since there are still so many places ravaged by sectarian conflicts, war and terror. And yet we hear the prophet Isaiah’s vision of a “peaceable kingdom” and hear the psalmist sing “Justice and Peace shall kiss, Loving Kindness and Truth shall meet”.

In the midst of anxiety and fear about the future, I’m hoping that our Xavier Parish community can be a source of joy as we walk together in faith, hope and love. One of the sources of joy for me, in addition to getting to know more and more of the wonderful people who call Xavier their spiritual home, has been my work on Christmas Revelations. For 35 years I have been creating a “Christmas Spectacular” that rivals Radio City Music Hall’s. (except for the camels!) ☺ Although I was wondering whether I’d be able to continue the tradition with my move to Xavier, I’m happy to say that it’s a GO! The performance will be held at the Sheen Center on December 17/18. I hope you will be able to attend one of the performances that will give you a glimpse of a God who loves to share our stories and our dances.

I hope and pray that the question marks at the end of “We Walk and Wait in Joyful Hope” will become !!! as we journey together during this Advent Season. (See the other side for opportunities to “share the joy”.)

Sincerely,
Father Bob

Share the Joy!

3rd Sunday of Advent/ Gaudete Sunday
Bilingual Mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe
December 11th
9AM

¡Comparte la Alegría!

El Tercer Domingo de Adviento/Domingo de
Gozo
Misa Bilingüe en honor de Nuestra Señora de
Guadalupe
El 11 de diciembre
9AM

Christmas Revelations

December 17 3PM and 7:30
December 18 3PM
Tickets: \$25 (adults) \$15 (children)
Online: sheencenter.org
Box office 212-925-2812

Lessons and Carols

December 18th 7:30
With St Francis Xavier Choir, Dancers and
Instrumentalists
St Francis Xavier Church



PLEASE PASS THE GRAVY(LINE)!

Due to the early press deadline of this bulletin (11/17), we are unable to provide an accurate report of the Meal Fund drive, because we hope it will be out of date as soon as we print it!

I refer you to Tom-the-Turkey-Baster at the front of the church, who can show you just how close to our goal we are (as of Wednesday 11/23). We hope that if you have not yet joined us for this drive, you'll consider making a gift to help us push the gravy line over the top!

Thank you so much to everyone who has participated in this drive and made our Thanksgiving Meal possible once more! We are so grateful for your support!

Visit www.xaviermission.org/Thanksgiving to contribute!

THANKSGIVING THANK YOUS!!!

A HUGE thank you to the following people for their contributions to our Thanksgiving Festivities!

Christina Cataldo, Director of Outreach

Beverly Torres, Chef

Adrian Morrissette, Maintenance & Inventory Manager

Christine Strumpen-Darrie, Volunteer Coordinator

Michael Costello, Homebound Meal Coordinator

Danny Tore & Jennie Tichenor, Congregate Meal Coordinators

Wing Wendy Lee, Volunteer Communications

The Kitchen Crew and Volunteer Teams, Decorating/Preparing/Cooking/Serving/Delivering/Cleaning!

THANKS TO ALL OF OUR DONORS! WITHOUT THEIR GENEROSITY, THIS MEAL WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE!

City Harvest (Turkeys)

Dave's (Plastic Bags)

Frank Gargiulo & Son, Inc.—Michael Gargiulo (Fresh fruit and vegetables)

Porto Rico Importing Co.—Peter Longo (Coffee)

St. Francis Food Pantries & Shelters—Joe Sano & Bob Wechtenhiser (Turkeys)

A very special thank you goes out to Paul Wendel & the Student Body of Xavier High School for collecting 13,000+ items of food and Jennie Tichenor and the NYU Administrative Management Council for collecting 1000+ items of food for our Thanksgiving Food Pantry baskets! We distributed 230 complete Thanksgiving baskets to 160 families in need!



SAVE THE DATE

LESSONS AND CAROLS: SHARING THE JOY!

THE ST. FRANCIS XAVIER MUSICIANS AND LECTORS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH
7:00pm



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.)

YOU'RE INVITED...

On Sunday, December 4th following the 5 PM mass, the Pastoral Council invites all parishioners and visitors to a wine and cheese social hour in the **Mary Chapel**. Enjoy some refreshments, meet your fellow 5PM mass attendees and the folks who serve on the altar during mass, and do some Christmas shopping by browsing the Fair Trade gifts offered by the Peace & Justice Committee. Please contact us at pastoralcouncil@sfxavier.org if you have any questions about this event, the Pastoral Council or St. Francis Xavier. We look forward to seeing you at the event!

WORLD AIDS DAY MASS

On Friday, December 2, 2016 at 7:00 PM, the community of Saint Francis Xavier will commemorate World AIDS Day with a mass in the main church.

Observed worldwide since 1998, World AIDS Day unites people from around the world to raise awareness of the global AIDS response.

Please take this time to be with us and pray for those we have lost, for those currently living with HIV/AIDS and that one day we will "Get to Zero".

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 & Friends—All Are Welcome!

14th Annual Christmas Wrapping Party

Friday, December 9th, 6:00 pm—9:00 pm



We have 91 unclaimed children and only 12 days remaining to cover all of them! Please contact SFXWomen@aol.com or (917) 297-6804 for one (or two or three) from Community Voices Heard and Life Experience & Faith Sharing. 92 kids from Picture the Homeless and STEPS to End Family Violence have been taken care of. Many thanks!

Like Little Bo-Peep, Fr Bob has lost his sheep and doesn't know where to find them! He's been searching for the lost sheep so they can perform with him in Christmas Revelations at the Sheen Center on the weekend of December 17th and 18th. If you can help Fr. Bob find some sheep (ages 3-8) for these performance, Fr Bob will stop losing sleep! Please contact him rverecke@sfxavier.org for more information.

Scriptures & Announced Masses



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT:
Isa 2:1-5; Rom 13:11-14; Matt 24:37-44.

FIRST MONDAY OF ADVENT:
Isa 4:2-6; Rom 13:11-14; Matt 24:37-44.

7:45AM BRIGID BERGIN (D)
12:05PM SANDRA MARRA (D)

FIRST TUESDAY OF ADVENT:
Isa 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24.

7:45AM JAMES GORRA JR. (D)
12:05PM GEORGE A. SPLAIN (D)

WEDNESDAY~FEAST OF ST. ANDREW:
Rom 10:9-18; Matt 4:18-22.

7:45AM THERESA POWERS (D)
12:05PM JASON VERMONTY (D)

**THURSDAY~FEAST OF SS. EDMUND
CAMPION & ROBERT SOUTHWELL:**
Isa 26:1-6; Matt 7:21, 24-27.

7:45AM PETER JAMES HAWKES (D)
12:05PM KENNETH WILSON (D)

FIRST FRIDAY OF ADVENT: Isa 29:17-24;
Matt 9:27-31.

7:45AM PETER JAMES HAWKES (D)
12:05PM NOELIA ROBLES (D)

**SATURDAY~ FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS
XAVIER:** 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 16:15-20.

12:05PM EILEEN HEMRICK DOSCHER (D)



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT:
Isa 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Matt 3:1-12.

**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 Ruthv 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