



# CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

## A JESUIT APOSTOLATE

West 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NYC • Phone: 212-627-2100 • Fax: 212-675-6997

Mailing Address: 55 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10011-6801  
(Wheelchair Accessible 55 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street - All Masses are Handicapped Accessible)  
E-Mail Address: [StFrancisXavier@sfxavier.org](mailto:StFrancisXavier@sfxavier.org) • Website: [www.sfxavier.org](http://www.sfxavier.org)



The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” (Luke 2:12-14)

Feast of the Nativity of the Lord

December 25, 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 31<sup>st</sup>**

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

### **Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**

9:00am Mass: *Rev. Samuel Sawyer, SJ*

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

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

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

*Antonio Bird, John Bucki SJ, Philip Brassel, Alex Campbell,  
Nicole and Jason Chauvin, Carol Davis, Margaret English,  
Joaquin Gager, Victor Gaston, Harriett Gordon, Monsignor  
Neil Graham, Marian Lizzio, Albert Longo, Greg Lugliani,  
Lou Mauro SJ, Steven Mays, Kay Mazzo, Marisol Miro,  
Lorraine B. Nelson, Lillian May Reilly Palmer,  
Campbell Phillips, Jim Reidy, Lorraine Szul, Rocco Scura,  
Alice Sharkey, Amando Solero, Patricia Sullivan,  
Loretta Tommasulo, Gregory Turner, Carl Wassmann*

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

*Julius Andrews, Nieva Cabreza, Hudson Andrew Chauvin,  
Francis Clark, Craig Ducote, Harry J. Gaffney,  
Myriam McGinnis, Giles McGrath, Nelda C. Salas,  
Marilyn Ann Shanabrook, William Sheehan, Lorraine Szul,  
Ana Zuniga*

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,

During the Advent Season the Peace Garden was a powerful source of hope and joy for many of us as we witnessed it grow and blossom and as many of you inscribed your prayers for peace on the stones in the garden. Now on Christmas Day, you will find the Crèche, Nativity Scene within the Peace Garden. How lovely to think that the manger that bears the “new born” child, the “Prince of Peace” is at the center of this symbol of peace that was wreathed around with Advent light! Yes, we know that Jesus was born into a world where imperial rule was at odds with God’s Reign: power and dominance versus humility and service. Jesus was born into a world like ours that was rife with conflict, hatred and prejudice. He, himself, would be a victim of the cruelty of this Imperial Rule. But he would ultimately become the Victor in the battle of Life vs. Death and Good vs. Evil. And it all began on a “Holy Night” where Angels sang “Glory to God in the Highest and on Earth PEACE to people of Good Will.” Let us continue to pray during the Christmas Season for the gift of peace in our world and that God’s reign of justice and love will have its day!

Blessings!

**Fr. Bob**

### **Looking at Lent**

All are invited to attend a Lenten Liturgy Planning session on **Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>** at 7:15pm in the Xavier High School Chapel. If you would like to share your thoughts and reflections on our parish celebrations of the Lenten Season, please let Fr. Bob know of your interest. [rvereecke@sfxavier.org](mailto:rvereecke@sfxavier.org).

## **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*

**Catholic Lesbians  
Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 pm—9:00 pm  
West Room**

*“I will tell of new things. . . .”*

“They are being created now. . . .” (Isaiah 48: -7) Please join us to kick-start the new year of this twenty-four-year-old ministry, and join us for an hour or so with our new pastor, Father Bob VerEecke, SJ. The first thirty minutes will be to socialize and settle in and then we’ll get started. Bring a beverage and/or snack to share, and contact [SFXWomen@aol.com](mailto:SFXWomen@aol.com) or (917) 297-6804 for more information.



## A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM XAVIER MISSION!

As we prepare for what is to come for our country in the New Year, let's all remember a few things: Jesus was a brown-skinned refugee, and some called him a rabble-rouser. Embodying the peace of Christ does not mean that we are meek. It means we are not afraid to spread love and justice in the world despite the struggles we may face in doing so.

Thank you for helping us to spread God's love and justice all year round. 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, Rachel, Christina, Beverly, Adrian, Kathleen, Shari, & Mary*

## ONLY ONE WEEK LEFT FOR REDUCED PRICE 1980s PROM TICKETS!

Annual Dinner Dance Fundraiser: Saturday February 18, 2017

Early-bird price is \$90 until 12/31/16! (\$110 after 1/1/17)

[www.xaviermission.org/dinnerdance](http://www.xaviermission.org/dinnerdance)

It's Prom Night! Grab your posse, your fly girls and your hunks and get yourself over to the most righteous party of the year! Rock your best side ponytail and acid wash -- 1980s-themed attire encouraged!  
(Prom dress not required but more than welcome!)

Cocktails, dinner and dancing. Music by Michael Jackson, Madonna and YOU (hint: Karaoke!)

Silent Auction, 50/50 Raffle and more!

### Annual Report Update

Our new Annual Report 2016 was released on Thanksgiving weekend. We apologize but there was a name omitted from our Finance Committee list. Ann McGowan is still an active member of the Finance Committee. We will place the updated version on our website.

Thank you.

## EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>

11:30am Mass

*Music Begins at 11:00am*

*Featuring Carols, Choir, Family  
Choir, Bells & Brass*

## Scriptures & Announced Masses

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

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

**TUESDAY~FEAST OF ST. JOHN:**  
1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8.

7:45AM MARY MAHER (D)  
12:05PM FR. JOE PALMISANO, SJ (D)

**WEDNESDAY~FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS:**  
1 John 1:5-2:2; Matt 2:13-18.

7:45AM LEO & ANTOINETTE BUONGIORNO (D)  
12:05PM NATALIE BIAGI (D)

**FIFTH THURSDAY WITHIN CHRISTMAS:**  
1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35.

7:45AM ETHEL WAGNER (D)  
12:05PM CHARLES SMYLEY (D)

**FRIDAY~FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH:**  
Sir 3:2-7, 12-14; Col 3:12-21.

7:45AM KATE & FRED CARNEY & FAMILY (L)  
12:05PM FRANCIS CLARK (D)

**FIFTH SATURDAY WITHIN CHRISTMAS:**  
1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18.

**SUNDAY~OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD; SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD:**  
Num 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21.

**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](mailto:abilityxaviernewyork@gmail.com)

**ADULT ACTIVITIES:** Once a month we have informative meetings or attend interesting events around the city. Contact [bowcol@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:b.a.good.apostle@gmail.com)

**CATHOLIC LESBIANS:** Ministry since 1993, meets 2nd Friday, 6 p.m., West Room, [SEXWomen@aol.com](mailto:SEXWomen@aol.com), (917) 297-6804.

**EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT GROUP:**  
Contact Katherine Cleary, [krcoff5th@netzero.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:sfxgsgroup@gmail.com)

**INTERFAITH COMMITTEE:** works toward ending religious discrimination and persecution, through prayer, education and other activities. Contact Jose Ramon, [joseramonperezlopez@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:thewomenwhostayed@gmail.com)

**LITURGICAL COMMITTEES:** See website or Contact Luz, [LMDiaz@sfxavier.org](mailto:LMDiaz@sfxavier.org)

**MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND:** To become a volunteer or arrange visits, Contact James Fox, [suniko120@nyc.rr.com](mailto:sunikol20@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 Ruth at [xavierpeaceandjustice@gmail.com](mailto:xavierpeaceandjustice@gmail.com).

**SPIRITUAL MINISTRIES:** Offers spiritual programs, including spiritual direction. Contact Rose Alloca, [allocarose@gmail.com](mailto:allocarose@gmail.com) or Marie Bannister, [mariebannister1@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:sfxavier.youngadults@gmail.com)

**ZEN MEDITATION GROUP:** Mondays at 7pm. Newcomers welcome. Contact Peggy & Paul 212-260-2486, [schubertnyc@gmail.com](mailto:schubertnyc@gmail.com)

### XAVIER MISSION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**CLOTHING ROOM:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, contact Ann Mary: [xmClothingRoom@gmail.com](mailto:xmClothingRoom@gmail.com)

**FOOD PROGRAMS:** Every Sunday soup kitchen and 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday food pantry, contact Christine: [xmFoodPrograms@gmail.com](mailto:xmFoodPrograms@gmail.com)

**L-STEP:** Spring and Fall semesters, contact J: [xmLSTEP@gmail.com](mailto:xmLSTEP@gmail.com)

**SHELTER:** Every night, contact Jim: [xmShelter@gmail.com](mailto:xmShelter@gmail.com)