



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



You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust. (Matt 5: 46-47)

OFFICE CLOSED

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH

PRESIDENT'S DAY

One Mass will be celebrated at 9:00am.

Please use 15th street entrance.

SECOND COLLECTION

to benefit Parish Maintenance

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 19, 2017

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, February 25th

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

Sunday, February 26th

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

*June Best, Antonio Bird, John Bucki SJ, Philip Brassel,
Alex Campbell, Carol Davis, Charmaine Diehl,
Ellie DiLiberto, Margaret English, Joaquin Gager,
Victor Gaston, Monsignor Neil Graham, Marian Lizzio,
Albert Longo, Greg Lugliani, Lou Mauro SJ, Steven Mays,
Kay Mazzo, John McCarthy, Ron Miller, Nicole Minson,
Marisol Miro, Kathy Mulvaney, Leticia Mutuc, Lillian
May Reilly Palmer, Campbell Phillips, Jim Reidy, Vivian
Roth, Bert Sisco, Rocco Scura, Alice Sharkey, Amando Solero,
Loretta Tommasulo, Gregory Turner, Carl Wassmann*

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

*Joan Argiro, Eileen DeBernardis, Anne Legano,
Lino T. Macaraeg, Leonard Perroots*

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,

Last Sunday I went to La Mama to see *Life is a Dream*, directed by Fr George Drance. It is simply stunning! The staging and ensemble work is brilliant and I was mesmerized by each of the two versions of Calderón's classic play. What makes the production so fascinating is that you see how Calderón transformed his earlier work which raised the philosophical questions of "fate", "freedom" and the "meaning of life" into a theological reflection on the Trinity and the Incarnation. Without giving away any of the productions "secrets", I have to say that the portrayal of the Trinity is truly "awesome". I hope you will consider supporting George and his wonderful work as a Jesuit Artist. The production will be at LaMama through February 26th.

One of the reasons that I mention this artistic work is to remind us that our faith is not simply an intellectual assent to church teachings but is first and foremost the experience of encounter with the Mystery of God. We live this mystery in our daily lives in creation and in our relationships with friends, family and even those we do not love as we should. (Refer to today's Gospel!). The arts have such power to engage our religious imagination. Thank you, George and Magis Company for doing that for us!

Very soon the season of Lent will begin and I'd like to invite any who might be interested in joining me in reading Amy Jill Levine's "The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus" Since we are hearing Matthew's gospel which tries to address questions and biases facing the early Jewish-Christian community, I thought it would be beneficial to read together this work of a highly respected New Testament Scholar who herself is Jewish. If you are interested in reading and sharing your thoughts and questions, please let me know. I'm hoping to organize a few reflection sessions on Sundays during Lent/ March 5, 12, and 19th from 10:15-11:15am in the Mary Chapel.

I hope you will enjoy the long weekend and/or school vacation.

Sincerely,

Fr. Bob

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

We are grateful to all those who use their offertory envelopes to support our parish. We currently mail envelopes to 1,384 families. A recent review of our envelope giving found that only 421 families used an envelope at least once over the last two years. Therefore we have decided to stop mailing envelopes to the 963 families who did not use their envelopes. This change will start with the mailing of the March envelopes. Not only will this save us approximately \$5,000 annually in printing and postage costs but it will ease our impact on the environment by using less paper. If you have any questions please contact *Stephanie Fuentes* in the parish office.

Xavier Adult Group

XAVIER ADULT GROUP MEETING
Thursday, February 23rd
1:00 p.m. ~West Room

Join us for an informative and fun discussion about food. Jane Sprague MS, RD, CDN a Nutritionist / Registered Dietitian will help us understand why eating well has gotten so complicated. Bring your questions about good nutrition, reading food labels, and what about that food pyramid. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

"Old age has its own merits, its own magic, its own wisdom, its own sorrow."

Hermann Hesse, *The Seasons of the Soul*

CONSCIOUS AGING/AGING WITH MEANING, a once-per-week group discussion for older adults, will meet for seven weeks.

It is an opportunity to develop an awareness of one's later years as a time of special consciousness and spiritual opportunity.

If interested, call *Dolores D'Agostino* at **212-732-3091**.

The Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal 2017

If you have not already, you will be receiving a letter from Cardinal Dolan, along with materials that illustrate the depp importance of the *Cardinal's Appeal* to our community. Part of being a steward means living with trust in God's generosity and responsibly tending that which God has entrusted to us. Cardinal Dolan is asking you to participate by making a gift to this important annual initiative.

Your Gift to the *Appeal*:

- Supports offices, ministries, and programs throughout the archdiocese that nurture and encourage our journey in faith.
- Helps educate our children in our Catholic schools and religious education programs.
- Provides for retired priests and religious by giving them the retirement care they deserve after decades of service.
- Helps to educate our future clergy and prepare them for a life of service.
- Helps fund Catholic Charities, which provides loving care to millions of people in our archdiocese.

The archdiocesan goal for the *2017 Appeal* is \$20 million. Our individual parish goal is **\$100,500.00**. You can pledge online at www.cardinalsappeal.org. If you need time to think about your gift, you will be given an opportunity to make your pledge during Mass on Commitment Weekend on March 18/19. Thank you so much for your support of the Appeal and please pray for its success at our parish.

THE LITURGICAL MINISTRY

The Church of St. Francis Xavier offers different opportunities for adults, young adults, adolescents, and children to participate actively in our parish life. One of these opportunities is as liturgical minister at each Mass. At the moment we need women willing to serve as Eucharist ministers. We also need men and women ministers of hospitality at every Mass.

For more information on these ministries, please visit our website <https://sfxavier.org/liturgical-ministries>. If you are interested, please fill out the form found on the webpage and you will be contacted immediately for an informational meeting.

XAVIER BIBLE STUDY

WOMEN'S POWER IN THE BIBLE

Where is it?

What is it?

How is it co-opted?



Miriam ©Laura James

And how can we grow in our connection to it? Wednesday evenings throughout the Lent and Easter Seasons, **beginning March 8th**, join us for lecture, discussion and faith-sharing as we encounter women's power in the Bible and see where it takes us. All women and men of the parish are welcome to attend.

To register contact XavierBibleStudy@gmail.com, call Parish Offices at 212-627-2100, or see the parish website under "Faith Formation" and "Bible Study".

This class is taught by Dr. Elizabeth Berne DeGear, BCC. A parishioner at Xavier since 1995, Lizzie has her doctorate in theology from Union Theological Seminary where she studied the Hebrew Bible and psychoanalytic theory. Her masters thesis at Fordham's Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education focused on the Sunday Lectionary and the Gospels. Recent publications include For She Has Heard: The Standing Stone in Joshua 24, and "The Bible as Transformational Object." Dr. DeGear is also a board-certified chaplain with the National Association of Catholic Chaplains.

**Annual Contribution
Statements have been mailed.
Please expect them shortly.**

**FROM THE DESKS OF
JIM MARTINEZ AND JOHN UEHLEIN**

Support for the Music Ministry Second Collection

Each year we have two second collections to help support our Music Ministry. Last year thanks to your generous support we received \$6,676 in our two collections. Our first collection this year is during the weekend of **February 26th**. The second collection will be the weekend of November 12th. If you use envelopes you will find in your envelope box a blue envelope marked for the Music Ministry collection. If you use Faith Direct select the Music Ministry gift option and your donation will be made in March and November.

The Music Ministry is an integral part of our liturgical life and consists of three separate but inter-related ministries which are also, in a very real sense, small church communities. The Choir community consists of 30 to 40 singers and gathers on Sunday mornings to lead the congregation in musical worship at the 11:30 liturgy. We also sing for all major Holy Days (Christmas and Easter). The Bell Choir community of 10 ringers continued to grow by leaps and bounds this past year playing music of increasing technical skill requiring greater musicianship than before. We play during the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Holy Week and the entire Easter season through Corpus Christi. Through grants and donations we currently ring with four octaves on hand bells and four octaves of hand chimes. The Xavier Players, our instrumental group, has exploded this year presently boasting two flutes, two violins, mandolin, guitar and a bass guitarist who doubles on cello, viola, violin and guitar, along with our pianist. We are hoping to add a small vocal school along with this group. The group meets on Sundays and prepares to accompany the 5PM liturgy.

Our largest single expense covers our cantors and musicians. As a general rule, we only hire outside musicians at Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve, Epiphany and Easter. The musicians we bring in are the very best in a city that boasts of the very best. We are paying a cantor stipend every week and we pride ourselves on the quality and wealth of the cantors found in our parish. Expenses also arise for music and materials, whether that is bell gloves or polish or choir binders or music stand lights.

We ask that you prayerfully consider supporting this second collection so that we can continue to provide the wonderful music that Xavier is known for.

With gratitude, ***Jim and John***

**AN AFTERNOON AT
THE XAVIER SALON**

Sunday February 26th at 2:30pm in the Church
Open dress rehearsal 2/24 at 7:30pm

**Refreshments and conversation
to follow in the Mary Chapel**

A salon is a gathering of people under the roof of an inspiring host, held partly to amuse one another and partly to refine the taste and increase the knowledge of the participants and audience through conversation and music. These gatherings often consciously followed Horace's definition of the aims of poetry, "either to please or to educate" ("aut delectare aut prodesse"). Salons, commonly associated with French literary and philosophical movements of the 17th and 18th centuries, were carried on until as recently as the 1940s in urban settings. Musical Salons were a staple of 19th Century Sunday afternoon leisure activities. In fact, there is in this day and age a flourishing salon movement in Philadelphia amongst musicians.

What is a Xavier Salon? It is an afternoon where seven of our best singers will serenade our community with the poetry and music of the great art song literature of all time from the early 19th century through the 20th century. It is an intimate affair and we will transform the music ministry area into a warm "Salon Space." Featured composers include Schubert, Shumann, Faure, Wolf, Strauss, Quilter, Villa-Lobos and more. Come and enjoy the recreation of a 19th Century Salon Repast. Juilliard Master Clinician, Arlene Shrut, directs the project. Afterwards, we will share conversation and refreshment in the Mary Chapel.

FEATURED SINGERS INCLUDE:



***Ladd Boris, Alexander Grant, Marti Holmes,
Joe Palarca, HaQuyen Pham, John Uehlein,
Anna Zhukovskaya***

***With the incomparable
Sidney Marquez Boquiren at the piano.***



“Out of darkness the light shall shine.”

A Lenten Retreat at Xavier

Opening: Sunday, March 5, 1:30pm
Closing: Saturday April 8, 10:00am

This Lent, find peace in your life in a personal retreat.

Spend time each day with suggested Lenten scripture and seasonal readings.

Meet one-on-one with a Spiritual Director for 5 weeks to explore and deepen your Lenten experience.

Spiritual Direction will be offered on Wednesday evenings or other times scheduled with your director.

Suggested donation is \$50.

Please apply by Ash Wednesday, March 1.
Space is limited.

Applications are available by email and at reception or church entrance.

Please return to reception at 55 West 15th St. or by email. mariebannister1@gmail.com. Questions? Call 917.301. 2426

A PARISH “READ” FOR THE LENTEN SEASON

The Misunderstood Jew: The Scandal of the Church and the Jewish Jesus

A conversation on the scholarly work of Amy Jill Levine. March 5, 12, 19 from 10:15-11:15am in the Mary Chapel facilitated by Fr. Bob.

The book is available on Kindle for \$9.99. Please let Fr Bob know if you are interested in attending.
rverecke@sfxavier.org

If you are unable to gather on Sunday mornings, we can arrange other times for conversation.

BOOK READING, DISCUSSION AND Q&A

Followed by book signing



Tuesday, February 28th

6:00 pm

Fernandez-Duminuco Hall
Keenan Commons
31 West 15th Street~3rd Floor

One of Booklist's Top Ten Religion and Spirituality Books of 2016. Books will be available for purchase.

A Closer Walk with Jesus presents . . .

SAYYDAH GARRETT, Pastoralist Child Foundation

Friday, March 3rd~7:00 p.m., Mary Chapel

SayyDAH Garrett founded Pastoralist Child Foundation in 2012 while on Safari in Kenya. The charity works at the grassroots level to eradicate female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage in Samburu and Maasai Mara counties and provides scholarships for girls to attend secondary boarding schools, giving them a chance to fulfill their dreams of a better life for their families and, ultimately, for their communities. SayyDAH is a true global citizen, having traveled to twenty-five countries, and enjoys learning languages and meeting people from all over the world. Her personal mission statement is “Tell me what you want, and I’ll help you get it.”

Cosponsored by

It Was the Women Who Stayed & Catholic Lesbians

For more information, contact

ACloserWalkJesus@aol.com or (917) 297-6804.

Save the date for a *Social Hour*

on February 25th
after the Saturday 5pm Mass

sponsored by the *Pastoral Council*.

Come for refreshments and conversation with your fellow parishioners.

All are welcome.

Scriptures & Announced Masses

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME:
Lev 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Matt 5:38-48.

SEVENTH MONDAY IN ORDINARY TIME:
Sir 1:1-10; Mark 9:14-29.

SEVENTH TUESDAY IN ORDINARY TIME:
Sir 2:1-11; Mark 9:30-37.

7:45AM ALFRED MANNIERINO (D)
12:05PM JUDITH RODRIGUEZ BIAZ (D)

WEDNESDAY~FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER THE APOSTLE: 1 Pet 5:1-4; Matt 16:13-19.

7:45AM LEO & ANTOINETTE BUONGIORNO (D)
12:05PM LOUISE MADDI (L)

THURSDAY~FEAST OF ST. POLYCARP:
Sir 5:1-8; Mark 9:41-50.

7:45AM FELICIA MANNERINO (L)
12:05PM ANDRES GARCIA BORRAS (D)

SEVENTH FRIDAY IN ORDINARY TIME:
Sir 6:5-17 Mark 10:1-12.

7:45AM DANIEL WOODY (D)
12:05PM STEVEN STINSON (D)

SEVENTH SATURDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: Sir 17:1-15; Mark 10:13-16.

12:05PM MASS FOR THANKSGIVING

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME:
Isa 49:14-15; 1 Cor 4:1-5; Matt 6:24-34.

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

IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY: ONLINE RESOURCES

To prepare for Lent, check out these links. You'll find prayers and meditation, guides to online retreats, and more. In some cases, you can even sign up for emails delivered right to your inbox!

<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>

<http://www.loyolapress.com/>

<http://www.ignatianspirituality.com/ignatian-prayer/prayer-online/>

Ongoing Parish Happenings

ABILITY XAVIER: Celebrating persons with disabilities. Contact abilityxaviernewyork@gmail.com

XAVIER ADULT GROUP: 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 Friday, 6 p.m., West Room, SEXWomen@aol.com.

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 sfxggroup@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 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