



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



At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil 2:10)

SPECIAL COLLECTION
to benefit Parish Maintenance

Palm Sunday

April 9, 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: RVereecke@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, April 15th Easter Vigil

7:30pm Mass: Rev. Robert VerEecke, SJ

Sunday, April 16th Easter Sunday

9:00am Mass: Rev. James Miracky, SJ

11:30am Mass: Rev. Sean Toole, SJ

5:00pm Mass: Rev. Robert VerEecke, SJ

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

*Maria Antonia Araujo, John Bucki SJ, Alex Campbell,
Normita Crystal, Florence Demopoulos,
Monsignor Neil Graham, Fr. Thomas Kallumady,
Robert Lapidés, June LeBell, Molly Mae LeBlanc,
Marian Lizzio, Lou Mauro SJ, Nicole Minson, Marisol Miro,
Kathy Mulvaney, Lillian May, Edminda Sanchez,
Rocco Scura, Sal Talarico, Diane Weyers*

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

Nicholas Antamos Sellas, Pablo Forte and Gloria Maldonado

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,

Every Palm Sunday for the past 40 years I have created a presentation of the Passion that involves visual elements in concert with the reading. I wanted to share this with my new parish and so by the time you are reading this, you will probably have seen it. Since the sanctuary space at Xavier is configured differently than either St Ignatius in Chestnut Hill or Trinity Chapel on the BC Campus, I am adapting the work for this space. I'm hoping it will be as effective here as it has been in other spaces. Although the majority of "performers" are Xavier parishioners, there are as well professional actors and dancers with whom I've worked before. It's always a thrilling experience to "retell" this central story of our Christian faith. In my retelling this year, I have added a character who represents the Holy Spirit. Will see how it works!

As you most likely know, each of the 4 Passion Narratives are very different one from another. The voice and theology of the Evangelist shapes the story according to the needs of his community. This year we hear Matthew's version which is fraught with many difficulties for a "modern" listener. Matthew was writing for a Jewish/ Christian community who was struggling with their identity as Jews who had come to belief in Jesus as the Messiah. The "other" Jews who did not recognize Jesus as the Messiah are portrayed in Matthew's version not only as the 'enemy' but also as those responsible for the death of Jesus. (Those of us who have just finished reading Amy Jill Levine's "The Misunderstood Jew" know how complex this issue is). For that reason, I have "edited" some of the text that is very controversial and has been the cause of anti Jewish sentiment for centuries. We need to hear the story of God's love for us in Jesus Christ without assigning blame to a whole people.

In addition to this unique presentation of the Passion on Palm Sunday, there is a danced evening prayer on Wednesday the 12th at 7:30. I have been doing this kind of service during Holy Week for the past 27 years. I think it's a very good "primer" for the triduum. This year it is called What Wondrous Love is This and I'm using the framework of the Seven Last Words for the service which is comprised of music, dance and reflections on the Seven Last Words. In addition to the Xavier dancers, there are professional dancers from NY and Kingston Jamaica whom many of you saw in Christmas Revelations. I hope you will be able to join us for this special service.

I'm looking forward to praying with you during the holiest season of the year!

Peace!

Fr Bob

THE CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL 2017

Thank you for all of your pledges. You can still pledge online at www.cardinalsappeal.org towards our parish goal of **\$100,500**. Please consider making a pledge. Thank you so much for your support of the Appeal and please pray for its success at our parish.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

The parish is looking for people who work with social media, websites and other areas of communication to come together and look at our use of media and help us to improve communications with our parishioners and others. If you have the skill and the interest, please contact *Stephanie Fuentes* at sfuentes@sfxavier.org

Congratulations to parishioners *Zeg and Kinga Norsworthy* who celebrate their 10th Wedding Anniversary on April 14th! May God continue to bless them with many years of life and love!



Thrive for Life Prison Project Inc. was founded by **Zach Presutti, SJ** of the USA Northeast Province of the Society of Jesus. Thrive for Life offers spiritual and educational services and resources to incarcerated and formerly

incarcerated men and women. Thrive for Life is comprised of two programs: CONTEMPLATION and ACTION.

CONTEMPLATION is a retreat program rooted in Ignatian spirituality that invites participants into an encounter with God's loving presence through the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits. What are the Spiritual Exercises? To paraphrase St. Ignatius, "By the term Spiritual Exercises is meant every method of examination of conscience, of meditation, of contemplation, of vocal and mental prayer, and of other spiritual activities... For just as taking a walk, journeying on foot, and running are bodily exercises, so we call Spiritual Exercises every way of getting ride of our skewed thoughts, feelings, and behaviors, and then once they are gone, to seek out and find what God is inviting us to in our life that will lead to the ultimate goal of being the loving and generous person we are created to be." The Spiritual Exercises are offered in six (6) correctional facilities in the metropolitan New York area.

ACTION is life skills programming for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals. ACTION provides education knowledge to adult learners preparing to reenter the community. ACTION provides books for three libraries in the New York City Department of Corrections.

Like us on Facebook at **Thrive for Life Prison Project** (@thriveforlifeny) and Follow us on Twitter @thriveforlifeny. For more information, access our website at www.thriveforlife.org or contact Zach Presutti, SJ at zpresutti@thriveforlife.org

You are invited to join THE WOMEN'S CIRCLE...



For all women interested in "feeding their spirit" and deepening their spiritual journey by sharing their lived wisdom.

Our next monthly gathering is on
Friday, April 21st 7pm-9pm
In the Arrupe Library at Xavier High School
the 4th floor at 30 West 16th Street

Any questions, please contact
Gloria at gperopat@gmail.com

Join us as Dr. Paul Pearson, Thomas Merton scholar, explores Thomas Merton's journey from cloistered to activist monk who put himself in the stampedé's path to deepen his roots in social justice. **Saturday, April 22, 2:00-4:00pm.** \$20; free for students & members of Thomas Merton NYC. Corpus Christi Church, 529 W. 121st Street. #1 subway to 116th Street; M4 or M104 buses. <http://www.thomasmertonny.org/saturday-april-22>

~~~~~ **WANTED: A FEW GOOD WOMEN OR MEN**

We have an urgent need for persons who would be willing/able to bring Communion to some of our 300+ Catholic patients at Mount Sinai Hospital. The commitment would involve between 1 ½ and 2 hours one day a week on a day of your choice. We are also in need of persons who might be available to "sub" over the summer when our "regulas" are away. If you are not currently a Eucharistic Minister, we will provide training. If you are interested or for more information, please contact Sr. Nadine at nadine.koza@mountsinai.org.



The Metro NY Catholic Climate Movement
invites you to join us on our bus for the

**PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH
IN WASHINGTON, D. C.,
SATURDAY, APRIL 29TH**

If you share our concern for *the climate *the environment *global warming *the food we eat *the air we breathe *the water we drink and that sustains life on the planet *how vulnerable low-income communities are dealing with climate change already *the future of our children and grandchildren

If you share Pope Francis' concern for care of the earth and care of the poor.....
Come on board!! Get on the bus!!

We will leave from 9th Ave. between 59th and 60th St. in front of St. Paul the Apostle Church near Columbus Circle. Departure time 5:45 am, and we will leave D.C. at 4 pm to be back in the city at 8:30 pm. We will form a Catholic section within the People of Faith contingent of the march.

Cost of a ticket is \$45. Discounted tickets for low-income individuals are available on a limited basis contingent on donations. Please contact *Nancy Lorence* at n.lorence2013@gmail.com if you would like to reserve a seat on the bus.

**Please join your Peace and Justice Committee for
the 35th ANNUAL PAX CHRISTI
METRO NEW YORK**

"Way of the Cross" ... Way to Peace

**April 14th, 2017
47th Street at First Ave.
8:30 AM**

Join with hundreds of people in the largest public Christian peace witness in New York City. The Good Friday Way of the Cross is a modern-day enactment of the Stations of the Cross, praying for peace and justice on the streets of our city. This year reflect with us on the many ways "Jesus Calls Us to Active Nonviolence." The Walk will take place from 8:30 AM to 12:00 noon on Good Friday, April 14th. We begin at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza (47th Street at First Avenue) and proceed along 42nd Street to between Eighth and Ninth Avenues.

**What Wondrous Love is This!
The Seven Last Words
Danced Evening Prayer**



As a prelude to the Triduum you are invited to Evening Prayer, What Wondrous Love is This! The Seven Last Words will be the source of our sung and danced prayer animated by Xavier music and dance ministry as well as guest artists, Steven Cornwall and Maresa D'Amore Morrison

Fr Bob has been offering the special Holy Week Service for the past 27 years in Boston and is hoping to continue the tradition at Xavier.

April 12th ~7:30pm

*The Pastoral Council invites
you to join us for a*

PARISH-WIDE COFFEE HOUR

as we welcome
parishoners
New to SFX on
**Sunday,
April 23rd**
in the
Mary Chapel
(following the
11:30 Mass)



All are welcome.

Lent & Easter

2017

April 10th ~ *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

3:00pm-8:00pm

April 12th ~ *What Wondrous Love is This?*

“The Seven Last Words”

7:30pm

Evening Prayer for Holy Week with scripture, music and dance.

April 13th ~ *Holy Thursday:*

Mass of the Lord’s Supper

7:30pm

April 14th ~ *Good Friday*

Stations of the Cross 12:00pm

Solemn Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion 3:00pm

April 15th ~ *Great Vigil of Easter*

7:30pm

April 16th ~ *Easter Sunday Masses*

9:00am, 11:30am, 1:15pm

Scriptures & Announced Masses

PALM SUNDAY:

Isa 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Matt 27:11-54.

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK:

Isa 42:1-7; John 12:1-11.

7:45AM MARY SEGRETARIO (D)
12:05PM DONALS JOSEPH MILLER (D)

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK:

Isa 49:1-6; John 13:21-33, 36-38.

7:45AM LEO & ANTOINETTE BUONGIORNO (D)
12:05PM ANNE RAGONE (D)

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK:

Isa 50:4-9a; Matt 26:14-25.

7:45AM ELENA P. YU (D)
12:05PM JOHN BONSIGNORE (D)

HOLY THURSDAY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER5:

Isa 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9; Rev 1:5-8; Lk 4:16-21.

GOOD FRIDAY: THE PASSION OF THE LORD:

Isa 52:13-53:12; Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42.

HOLY SATURDAY:

Gen 1:1-2:2; Exod 14:15-15:1; Matt 28:1-10.

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD:

Acts 10:3a, 37-43; Col 3:1-4; John 20:1-9.

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

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>.

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 2nd Friday of each month, 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 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