



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



Artwork: Vincent Van Gogh

“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. Going out about nine o'clock, the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.’ So they went off. (Matt 20:2)

SECOND COLLECTION
to benefit Parish Maintenance

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 24, 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

Rev. Daniel Corrou, S.J. (Associate Pastor) - 206

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

Receptionist — 201

John Uehlein (Dir. of Music Ministries) — 202

Pastoral Council

Jack Schmitt (Chair); Deborah Olley Murphy (Secretary);

Stephen Alfieri; Kathleen Cagnina; Karen DeMasi;

Patrick Egan; Michelle Jung; John Karle; Charles Mileski;

Catherine O'Hagan Wolfe

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 minimum of six months before qualifying for a sponsor letter to be verified as a parishioner.

Next Weekend Presider Schedule

Saturday, September 30th

5:00pm Vigil Mass: *Rev. Samuel Sawyer, SJ*

Sunday, October 1st

9:00am Mass: *Rev. Daniel Corrou, SJ*

11:30am Mass: *Rev. Ronald Amiot, SJ*

5:00pm Mass: *Rev. Daniel Corrou, SJ*

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

June Best, Michael Falkenhagen, Jannie Gaffigan, Monsignor Neil Graham, Ann Grant, Winston Grant, Florita Gutierrez, Fr. Thomas Kallumady, Paul Lawrence, Ann Lisi, Marian Lizzio, Nicole Minsen, Steven Molina, Mario Moore, Amelia Mullings, Kathy Mulvaney, Terence J. Murphy, Campbell Grant Phillips, Rocco Scura, Anthony Sellitti, Carl Wassmann, Diane Weyers

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

John Bucki SJ, Noel Saint Joseph Burke, Maryann Haughton, Robert Kristan, David Molina, Albert and Robert Mullings, Edminda Sanchez-Oriol, Eileen Ryan, John A. Shepherd

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,

I try to write these letters to you on Monday mornings so that the events of the past weekend are still fresh in my mind. (Besides the bulletin deadline is Tuesday!) Yesterday Luz and I with the assistance of a wonderful RCIA team began the first session welcoming inquirers who are interested in learning more about our faith and our community. There are 9 unbaptized and 8 who have already been baptized. It's very edifying to hear the stories of these "seekers" and their openness to respond to a call to participate in the Church community. This morning at the 7:45 Mass I asked the community gathered if they would hold these newcomers in prayer, praying especially that their spiritual journey would bring them closer to Jesus Christ who is the center of our Christian faith. I would ask you to pray that they may come to encounter Jesus the Christ as friend, companion and Redeemer.

This past weekend I was also able to offer a movement/dance workshop for members of our parish as well as members of the NY Sacred Dance Guild. It was a great joy to share the gift of dance with all. I hope that we will be able to incorporate some of these dances in our liturgies in the near future. In fact, the first will be this coming Sunday as part of the Concert to end Gun Violence at 2PM in the Church. David Haas's Prayer for Peace is a "piece" that I'd like to share with the community. I hope you will be able to join us for this gathering that includes prayer, song, dance and witness.

In this Season of Creation, I hope you will have the opportunity to experience the beauty of the world in which we live and find time to reflect on ways in which you can offer your support for the efforts that our parish is making to increase awareness of the challenges facing our environment. This coming weekend I'm celebrating a wedding in the Berkshires so I certainly will have the opportunity to see and know the beauty of creation! So if you don't see me, that is where I'll be.

Blessings!

Fr. Bob

THE XAVIER IMMIGRATION INITIATIVE INVITES YOU TO JOIN OUR BISHOPS SPEAK UP FOR DREAMERS

USCCB leadership deplors the cancellation of DACA and calls on Catholics to act:

The USCCB statement declares: "The cancellation of the DACA program is reprehensible. It causes unnecessary fear for DACA youth and their families. These youth entered the U.S. as minors and often know America as their only home. The Catholic Church has long watched with pride and admiration as DACA youth live out their daily lives with hope and a determination to flourish and contribute to society: continuing to work and provide for their families, continuing to serve in the military, and continuing to receive an education. Now, after months of anxiety and fear about their futures, these brave young people face deportation. This decision is unacceptable and does not reflect who we are as Americans..."

We strongly urge Congress to act and immediately resume work toward a legislative solution. We pledge our support to work on finding an expeditious means of protection for DACA youth. As people of faith, we say to DACA youth – regardless of your immigration status, you are children of God and welcome in the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church supports you and will advocate for you."

The Executive Committee of the USCCB urges Catholics and all people of good will to contact their representatives in Congress to urge the passage of the DREAM Act or similar legislation as a prompt, humane, and durable solution to this problem of greatest urgency.

From: <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/news/statements/>

For more information or to help support immigrant rights, contact sanxnyc@gmail.com

HEALING MASS FOR THE FEAST OF THE ARCHANGELS

**Friday, September 29th
7:30pm-Main Church**

President: Fr. Daniel Corrou, SJ

A healing mass offers an invitation to join with the community in a Eucharistic liturgy and pray for our own needs and the needs of our loved ones. Whatever your burdens might be, please come and place them in the hands of our loving God. Each person will have the opportunity for an individual healing prayer that includes anointing with blessed oil and laying-on of hands. It is a time of peaceful prayer, a time of resting in God's presence and a time of spiritual renewal. Please come and join in our prayer for healing. All are welcome!

From the Desk of James Martinez

“I am Stewardship Prayer”

I recently found this prayer (no author was cited) on many different church and diocesan websites. I appreciated its encompassing vision of Stewardship. Stewardship is more than just about the money. As Christian Stewards we are the caretakers of all God's gifts. Gratitude for these many gifts is expressed in our prayer, worship, offerings and action. Stewardship is a way of thanking God for all our blessings by returning to God a portion of the many gifts (everything we have — our time, talent, and treasure) that we have been given. This prayer is really a pledge about being good stewards of our parish. Join me in taking the pledge of being a good steward here at Xavier.

My parish is composed of people like me.

I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

It will be holy, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will be prayerful, if I pray.

It will make generous gifts to many causes,

if I am a generous giver.

It will bring others into worship, if I invite and bring them.

It will be a parish of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, of compassion, charity and mercy,

if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.

Therefore, with the help of God, I now dedicate myself to the task of being all things that I want my parish to be.

Amen.

XAVIER NAMED ONE OF THE TEN 10 MOST BEAUTIFUL CHURCHES IN NEW YORK

TimeOut Magazine in a recent article named Xavier as one of the 10 most beautiful churches in New York. But we didn't need them to tell us that did we? The lead picture in the article is of the interior of Xavier. The article can be found on line at www.timeout.com/newyork/things-to-do/beautiful-churches-in-nyc. The article states that “It's no secret: The old New York is disappearing, especially when it comes to beautiful churches in NYC.” Xavier is here and open today, where all are welcome, because of the generous support of generations of parishioners. Thank you for supporting Xavier.

OPEN HOUSE NEW YORK

We will be participating in the annual **Open House New York on October 14-15**. Open House New York is a citywide celebration of architecture, urban design, and New York City. Each October, more than 250 buildings and projects across New York's five boroughs - from infrastructure facilities to cultural spaces and from workspaces to private residences - open their doors to the public. The church will be open to visitors on Saturday from 9am to noon and on Sunday from 1pm to 5pm with free tours at 9:30am and 11:00am on Saturday and 1:00pm, 2:30pm and 3:30pm on Sunday.

This Sunday

COLUMBARIUM MEETING-after
11:30am Mass in the West Room

**CONCERT ACROSS AMERICA TO
END GUN VIOLENCE**-2:00pm in the Main
Church

THE TRADITION CONTINUES: ANIMAL BLESSING

Saturday, October 7th at 10:30 a.m.

Celebrate the joy and blessing that your animal companion has been for you. It's “a howl” and “the cat's meow”. All creatures, great and small and their human companions are invited. Feel free to pass the word about this event to people in your neighborhood: put a notice in your building's newsletter or post a flyer on your building's bulletin board.



CHANGE A LIFE!

Want to help change the world but don't have a lot of spare time? Your financial contribution helps every bit as much as your time. We have a great way for you to make a significant impact on the lives of your fellow New Yorkers.

For a gift of \$700, you can sponsor a participant of the Life-Skills Training & Empowerment Program (L-STEP). This covers stipends, MetroCards, food, supplies, and administrative costs.

Our next class of L-STEP has just begun their semester and we are looking forward to an exciting 14 weeks ahead! With a sponsorship you can ensure that someone will have a life-changing experience! We have 11 participants and have received 2.5 sponsorships so far.

Visit www.xaviermission.org/donate to make your gift today.

SAVE THE DATE!

This year, instead of just one Mission Mass, we will celebrate Mission Weekend—a whole weekend dedicated to introducing Xavier Mission to the parish community, October 14-15. Mission Weekend will include:

- Celebration of the work of the Mission at every Mass!
- A special Mass celebrated in Hurtado Hall, the 'downstairs church'!
- Receptions after the Masses to meet the Mission staff and L-STEP graduates!
- Open Houses/Tours of the Coughlin Men's Shelter and the Welcome Table!

We look forward to celebrating with you the weekend of October 14-15!

SAVE ANOTHER DATE!

Our annual Dinner Dance Fundraiser will be held on **SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2018**. Tickets will go on sale at the end of December-beginning of January. Stay tuned for more information, including this year's theme! (WHAT WILL IT BE?!?!)

SAVE THOSE TAKE-OUT CONTAINERS!

The Welcome Table is in need of plastic containers. You can drop off your containers anytime during business hours. Thank you!



SEASON OF CREATION

Both the Season of Creation and Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'* (Praise Be to God) were inspired in part by St. Francis of Assisi, and

his gentle way of seeing the grace of God in all living things. His oft-cited prayer, "The Canticle of Creation" was written in three sections: praise of God for the physical elements of our world (sun, moon, stars, wind, water, fire, and earth which sustain us); praise for those who forgive; and praise for sister death. The Canticle was written shortly before his death when he was filled with gratitude for all of God's creative acts that bring forth and sustain life itself. Also well-known is the St. Francis prayer "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" which we sing in our liturgies. We rarely hear about the part of St. Francis' life where during the period of warfare between the Christian and Muslim world, he risked his life to meet with the leader of the Muslim world, Sultan Malik Al Kamil, to try to forge peace. As we celebrate this Season of Creation, let us remember that St. Francis cared not only for the birds and flowers, but for people and peace.

When we see the images of a polar bear stranded on a chunk of ice, or see a sea turtle with a piece of plastic rings from a 6-pack of canned sodas caught around its neck, let us mourn our sins against nature and ask forgiveness for those sins. And let us acknowledge that ultimately our sins against nature and creation affect our brother and sister human beings. As Fr. Bob dramatically pointed out last Sunday with the story of his mother fainting when he and his brothers would fight, our sins affect those around us.

Our collective sins of not caring more for our common home and the world our grandchildren will inherit are already affecting island nations and shore communities by forcing them to relocate. Right now our actions that create greenhouse gases are affecting the amount of moisture in the atmosphere which is bringing about unprecedented rain deluges and flooding, and at the same time is also resulting in increased surface heat that is creating drought in large areas where farming is essential to people's survival.

We are creating climate refugees among communities of people least able to deal with the impact of our collective indifference.

Let us remember, "Whatever you do to the least of these, you do to me." Let us be inspired by both of St. Francis' prayers and by *Laudato Si'* to do what each of us can to change some of our practices to better care for our common home, for all of God's creatures, and for our brothers and sisters.

MUSIC MINISTRY SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

Now is the time when the music ministry especially seeks new members for the coming year. For more information contact John Uehlein (juehlein@sfxavier.org or 646-573-0099)

THE FAMILY FAITH CHOIR: This exciting choral experience is an inter-generational choir with both adults and children involved with the choir. All voice types are welcome: children, teens, sopranos, altos, tenors and basses. Under the direction of Jackie Perez, this choir continues to grow in talent and scope. For more information or to schedule an audition please contact: Jackie Perez: jperez@jesuits.org.

THE SUNDAY 5PM SCHOLA CHOIR: This Schola/Choir organized by Jackie Perez, sings at the Sunday 5pm mass along with our instrumental Xavier Players under the direction of John Uehlein. This is the newest singing group at St. Francis Xavier and we invite you to get involved at the ground level.

THE SFX ADULT CHOIR: The St. Francis Xavier Choir is looking for new members now. Rehearsals are Thurs. nights from 7-9 and we sing at the 11:30 service on Sundays.

INSTRUMENTAL MINISTRY: Do you play an instrument? We are looking for competent (intermediate to advanced) instrumentalists now. The Sunday 5pm liturgy is our instrumental mass and we rehearse at 4PM before the liturgy. Space is limited.

Zen Meditation Group

Saturday, September 30th
9:30 am - 4:00pm West Room

*EXPLORING SILENCE AND DEEPENING AWARENESS
A DAY OF TEACHING, REFLECTION, AND MEDITATION*

Many Christians have discovered in Zen a profound connection to life. Through the practice of stillness and awareness, we wake to a world of wonder and gratitude for life in all its aspects. This day of meditation and discussion provides an excellent opportunity for both the curious and committed.

Space is limited, please make a reservation by emailing Peggy and Paul Schubert at schubertnyc@gmail.com or calling 212-260-2486.

The Peace & Justice Committee and Xavier Bible Study offer

A Social Justice Study: How are We Called?

**Wednesday evenings
from October 4th – November 15th**

These seven 2-hour sessions will include:

Catholic Social Teachings

Scripture

Ignatian Discernment

Feminist and Eco-Theology

Personal stories from the front lines of justice work

In the course of this seven-week program, participants will gain a deeper understanding of seven core principles of Catholic Social Teaching, learn first-hand from people facing injustice in the US and around the world, and have the opportunity to prayerfully discern -- individually and in beloved community -- our unique call to act with justice.

To register please email

XavierPeaceAndJustice@gmail.com or

XavierBibleStudy@gmail.com

or call Daniel Corrou, SJ at 212-627-2100 x206

CONGRATULATIONS!



The American Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine has selected Kathleen M. Friel, Ph.D., lab director of the Clinical Laboratory for Early Brain Injury Recovery at Burke Medical Research Institute, was honored with the 2017 Corbett Ryan Pathways Pioneer Award on Friday, September 15. Dr. Friel was nominated in high esteem for her years of successful research, motivation and accomplishment of personal and professional goals, positive approach to life, and mission of helping others with cerebral palsy to reach their full potential.

Scriptures & Announced Masses

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY

TIME: Isa 55:6-9; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Matt 20:1-16a.

TWENTY-FIFTH MONDAY IN ORDINARY

TIME: Ezra 1:1-6; Luke 8:16-18.

7:45AM LEO & ANTOINETTE BUONGIORNO (D)
12:05PM JOSEPH A. CHINNICI (D)

TWENTY-FIFTH TUESDAY IN ORDINARY

TIME: Ezra 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Luke 8:19-21.

7:45AM AVAILABLE
12:05PM SAYRE SWARZTRAUBER (L)

WEDNESDAY~FEAST OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:

Ezra 9:5-9; Luke 9:1-6.

7:45AM AVAILABLE
12:05PM STEPHEN CORANDEN (L)

TWENTY-FIFTH THURSDAY IN

ORDINARY TIME: Hag 1:1-8; Luke 9:7-9

7:45AM DIANE MAGUIRE (D)
12:05PM SISTER BARBARA WINCILE (L)

FRIDAY~FEAST OF STS. MICHAEL, GABRIEL, AND RAPHAEL:

Dan 7:9-10, 13-14; John 1:47-51.

7:45AM HELEN VELEZ (D)
12:05PM MICHAEL SPADAFINO (D)

SATURDAY~FEAST OF ST. JEROME:

Zech 2:5-9, 14-15a; Luke 9:43b-45.

12:05PM RICHARD BLAUNER (D)

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY

TIME: Ezek 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11; Matt 21:28-32.

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

XAVIER ADULT GROUP: Once a month we have informative meetings or attend interesting events around the city. Contact xavieradultgroup@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

THE XAVIER IMMIGRATION INITIATIVE: Advocacy, support, and education to empower immigrants. For more information contact sanxnyc@gmail.com

INTERFAITH COMMITTEE: works toward ending religious discrimination and persecution, through prayer, education and other activities. Contact Jose Ramon, joseramonperezlopez@gmail.com

IT WAS THE WOMEN WHO STAYED: 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 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