



# 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 Wheelchair Accessible)

E-Mail Address: [StFrancisXavier@sfxavier.org](mailto:StFrancisXavier@sfxavier.org) • Website: [www.sfxavier.org](http://www.sfxavier.org)



We are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands. (Isa 64:6-7)

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 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 Wheelchair 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

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);

Catherine O'Hagan Wolfe (Vice-Chair);

Stephen Alfieri (Secretary); Kathleen Cagnina;

Karen DeMasi; Patrick Egan; Michelle Jung;

John Karle; Charles Mileski; Deborah Olley Murphy;

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

## ***Next Weekend Presider Schedule***

### **Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**

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

### **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**

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

11:30am Mass: *Rev. Daniel Corrou, SJ*

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

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

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

*Jesus Andaluz, Alex Campbell, Caitlin Campbell,  
Martin Crawford, Elizabeth Cutolo, Juan Garcia,  
Marianne Githens, Monsignor Neil Graham,  
Amelia and Anne Grant, Winston Grant, James Leung,  
Marian Lizzio, John Marshall, John McLoughlin, Ron Miller,  
Nicole Minsen, Kathy Mulvaney, Terence J. Murphy, Nancy  
Napolitano,  
Eileen O'Keefe, Campbell Grant Phillips, Rey Santos,  
Rocco Scura, Carl Wassmann, Diane Weyers*

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

*James Brassel, Theresa Capobianco,  
Joanna Adamczyk Condon, Mars Custodio,  
Florita Gutierrez, Paul Lawrence, Patrick Logsdon,  
Albert Longo, Lorraine Nelson, Jason Vermonty,  
Jeanette Williams*

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,

A new “church” year begins this weekend. To be perfectly honest there is always so much going on at this time of year that it hardly feels like we have time to begin again, reorient ourselves, and take time out to simply Be. Advent is always an invitation to be attentive, to be watchful, to be ready for God's interrupting our lives once again with a deeper awareness of Christ's presence in our lives. In this new liturgical year we begin the B cycle of readings and so I think it's appropriate to ask ourselves how best we can BE good disciples during this brief Advent season. When I asked the parish staff this question and invited them to find a way of being for each letter of the alphabet, this is what one of them came up with.

Be- attentive, brave, compassionate, determined, empowered, focused, generous, happy, inquisitive, just, kindhearted, loving, merciful, neighborly, optimistic, present, quirky, relaxed, satisfied, trustworthy, utterly in awe, valorous, watchful, XAVIERIFIC, youthful, zesty!

Perhaps you would like to make your own list of ways of being in this Advent season as we begin a New Year with the B Cycle of readings!

Speaking of the readings for Advent, a few weeks ago I met with a group of parishioners to discuss those for the first three Sundays. It was a very productive sharing and we were able to glean some dominant themes for our liturgies. Each week there is a different symbol that you will see that captures some aspect of the first reading from the prophet Isaiah.

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – “We are the clay and You are the potter. We are the work of your hands” The symbol is a jar of clay

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – “Like a shepherd, God feeds the flock. In his arms God gathers the lambs, carrying them in her bosom and leading the ewes with care”  
The symbol is a shepherd's staff.

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – “As the earth brings forth its plants, and a garden makes its growth spring up, so will the Lord GOD make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.” The symbol is a bouquet of roses. Guess what color?

You will also notice images of water and light that play throughout the season and are incorporated in the Advent wreath.

This Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> is the feast of our patron, Saint Francis Xavier. It is as well the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of our parish church. I'm sure you join with me in gratitude to God for all the people who built the church, restored it to its original beauty and who have found within its walls a place of prayer, worship, healing and community. Let us pray that we may have the same “zeal” for sharing the Gospel as Xavier himself did.

I pray that this Advent season will be a time of great blessing for each and every one of you and our parish community.

Sincerely,

***Father Bob***



## TU-RKEY OR NOT TU-RKEY?

We are still waiting for the final tally for the Thanksgiving Meal Fund drive. It's going to be very close! Keep an eye out for next week's bulletin with the final numbers.

## GIVING TREES ARE UP!

The Giving Trees are up! Each tag on the trees lists an item that is often requested and much needed by our clothing room guests in the winter, most of whom live on the streets.



Please take a tag (or two or three) and bring back the warm items to be distributed. Our guests depend on us to stay warm throughout the cold months. We are grateful for your support!

## REJOICE IN PEACE

*The Ignatian Schola*

**Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**

The Ignatian Schola presents Rejoice in Peace, an evening of prayerful music for Advent and Christmas, Monday, Dec. 4, at 7:00 p.m. in the Xavier High School Student Chapel (30 W. 16th St., NYC 10011).

All are welcome. Admission is Free.

For more information, visit [www.IgnatianSchola.org](http://www.IgnatianSchola.org)

## ANNUAL HONDURAS CARD SALE

As in previous Advents, the Honduras Project will again sell holiday cards after all the masses during the weekends of Dec 2, 9 and 16. We have some new designs this year, again created by the children of Casa Corazon, a home for HIV+ orphans which is a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy in Honduras. We are indeed grateful for the support of Xavier parishioners for our efforts in Honduras over nearly 20 years now. Please stop by our table and take a look!

## LESSONS AND CAROLS: SHARING THE JOY

Come join us for our annual festival of contemporary readings, music and traditional carols celebrating the season.

*Featuring the St. Francis Xavier Choir, the Bell Choir, and The Xavier Players and Schola*

*John Uehlein, Director of Music Ministries*

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>  
at 7PM in the Main Church**

*Admission Free!*

*Home made Christmas cookie reception to follow!*

## CAN YOU BAKE COOKIES?



Bakers sought for our annual Lessons and Carols program on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> 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 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](mailto: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.)*

## CELEBRATING 135 YEARS OF SERVICE: CHURCH TOUR TO CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY OF DEDICATION OF OUR CHURCH

On **Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>**, the Feast Day of St. Francis Xavier, we celebrate the 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of our current church building. To help celebrate the occasion on that day we will conduct a free tour of the church at **1:00PM**. The tour will include a visit to the choir loft.



**THE XAVIER IMMIGRATION INITIATIVE INVITES YOU TO SPEAK UP FOR IMMIGRANTS**

**PROPOSED LEGISLATION OFFERS THE POSSIBILITY OF PERMANENT RESIDENCY FOR SOME HOLDERS OF TPS**

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is granted when individuals cannot safely return home due to natural disasters, armed conflict, or other extraordinary temporary conditions. The Trump administration has ended TPS for Nicaragua and is about to make a decision on TPS for Haiti. In NY State alone, there are 5,200 Haitian TPS holders who have built lives and families in the US without fear of deportation. Now their security is in jeopardy.

Three members of congress are cosponsoring the ASPIRE Act, a bipartisan bill to provide permanent residency for certain TPS holders who have been in the United States since January 1, 2017. These individuals must prove to a judge that they would face extreme hardship if they were returned.

Congress needs to hear that Americans support the extension of TPS. Please join us in calling on Congress to support the extension of TPS for Haiti as well as El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Join the US Catholic bishops and other faith leaders in calling for the extension of TPS. Contact your elected representatives directly, or through the USCCB website: <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/category/action-alerts/>.

For more information on supporting immigrant rights, contact [sanxnyc@gmail.com](mailto:sanxnyc@gmail.com)

**SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ADVENT A SEASON TO WELCOME THE STRANGER**

The Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns has a wonderful resource for reflection and prayer during this Advent Season in its reflection guide. You can download the guide at [www.maryknollogc.org](http://www.maryknollogc.org).

This Advent the focus is on welcoming the stranger, especially given the struggles of immigrants and refugees.

**THE XAVIER IMMIGRATION INITIATIVE CHURCH IS HAPPENING IN HURTADO HALL EVERY THURSDAY FROM 5:30 TO 8:30 PM!**

Every Thursday evening, Xavier is hosting meetings of the New Sanctuary Coalition (NSC), an interfaith initiative based here in New York City that stands in solidarity with our immigrant sisters and brothers.

The meetings—which bring together immigrant friends and NSC volunteers—are an opportunity for both fellowship and organizing. It is difficult to convey how important this safe space is for our friends to be able to tell their stories and how our presence can be empowering.

In addition to our role as witnesses, there are opportunities for more hands on work--organizing activities include advocacy efforts on behalf of friends who are detained, recording and documenting their experiences, and supporting loved ones of those facing deportation.

Xavier parishioners are needed to help set up Hurtado Hall, welcome our NSC friends, help to participate in organizing, and to assist in clean up at the evening's end. The work is easy, even when bearing witness to what is unfolding in our own land is hard. Come join us! Please sign up by using this form: <http://bit.ly/2mCQ04a>

For more information, contact *Linda Chavez* at [linda@rchavez.net](mailto:linda@rchavez.net) or *Patrick Egan* at [patrick.egan@nyu.edu](mailto:patrick.egan@nyu.edu).

Thank you!

**FAIR TRADE HOLIDAY SALE**

**Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**

*After all Masses in the back of the church*

Find beautiful, hand woven textiles from the Sisters of Charity, and Coffees, Teas and Chocolates from Equal Exchange

Please support us as we work to build long-term trade partnerships that are economically just and environmentally sound while empowering workers with every purchase! Proceeds from the sale will benefit the *Sisters of Charity*, the *Peace and Justice programs* and *LifeWay Network*, one of only two organizations in the NY Metro area providing safe housing for women survivors of human trafficking.

**NOTE: ALL SALES WILL BE CASH OR CHECK ONLY**

Catholic Lesbians & Friends—All Are Welcome!

## 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS WRAPPING PARTY

Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.~Larkin/Hurtado Hall

You have the opportunity to bring Christmas cheer to 185 children from Picture the Homeless, Community Voices Heard, Life Experience & Faith Sharing, and STEPS to End Family Violence. Contact [SFXWomen@aol.com](mailto:SFXWomen@aol.com) or (917) 297-6804 for one, two or three kids' names, and bring your gifts to the wrapping party. "The impact of these presents was truly beautiful," wrote the director of STEPS to End Family Violence, "and I wish you all could have shared these moments with us. We have many clients who would not have been able to afford presents on their own, so I wanted you to know that your generosity helped give these families the Christmas they deserved."

### SELFIE WITH A SAINT!

In honor of the Feast Day of St. Francis Xavier, we have invited the man himself to join us in the church for a few weeks (a departure from his usual home skulking behind the door scaring people on the ground floor). Take this golden opportunity to get a #SelfieWithASaint, show the #XavierLove, and have some #FunWithFrankie! Make sure to post your pics on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter and use the hashtags already listed, along with #StFrancisXavierChurchNYC. We look forward to seeing your photos!

### WOMEN'S CIRCLE

*Praying to Our Lady of Guadalupe*

Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm-8:30pm  
Xavier High School-Arrupe Library

Join us in a cozy and private space as we come together as women, invoking Our Lady of Guadalupe, known by the Nahuatl people of Mexico as Tonantzin.



*"The Guadalupe encounter speaks of unconditional love and a people's place in salvific history. Perhaps most significantly, it affirms a need to experience the maternal face of God."*

-- Jeanette Rodriguez, theologian

## FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>

All events are in the main church

12:05PM MASS

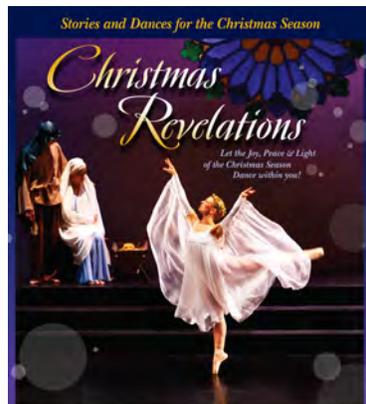
3:00- 4:30PM CONFESSION OFFERED

4:30PM CANDLELIGHT ADVENT YOGA

5:45PM ADVENT TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE

6:30 PM MASS

## CHRISTMAS REVELATIONS



In the 35 year Boston Holiday Tradition of A Dancer's Christmas, and Christmas Reflections Robert VerEecke S.J. has created Christmas Revelations for NY audiences. Christmas Revelations is a theater/dance production that weaves together Christmas stories,

favorites from A Dancer's Christmas and Christmas Reflections with new choreographic works including Gesu Bambino, composed by Xavier Organist Pietro Yon 100 years ago. The cast includes professional actors and dancers from NY, Boston, and Kingston Jamaica.

Dec.15<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm

Dec.16<sup>th</sup> 3:00pm and 7:30pm

Dec.17<sup>th</sup> 3:00pm

Tickets: \$25 (Groups of 10 \$20)

Sheen Center for Thought and Culture

18 Bleeker St. NY, NY 10012

Box office: 212-925-2812

Online tickets: [sheencenter.org](http://sheencenter.org)

## Scriptures & Announced Masses

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT:** Isa 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37.

**FIRST MONDAY OF ADVENT:** Isa 2:1-5; Matt 8:5-11.

7:45AM LEO & ANTOINETTE BUONGIORNO (D)  
12:05PM CARMEN MANH (D)

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

7:45AM ANTHONY PIRONE (D)  
12:05PM SUZANNA LYSON (D)

**FIRST WEDNESDAY OF ADVENT:** Isa 25:6-10a; Matt 15:29-37.

7:45AM HOWARD REES (D)  
12:05PM AUGUST DORIS (D)

**THURSDAY~FEAST OF ST. AMBROSE**  
Isa 26:1-6; Matt 7:21, 24-27.

7:45AM ANGELINA OTERO (D)  
12:05PM JAMES BRASSEL (D)

**FRIDAY~FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:** Gen 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38.

**FIRST SATURDAY OF ADVENT:** Isa 30:19-21, 23-26; Matt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8.

12:05PM ARTURO ESPINA (D)

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT:** Isa 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8.

**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)

**XAVIER ADULT GROUP:** Once a month we have informative meetings or attend interesting events around the city. Contact [xavieradultgroup@gmail.com](mailto:xavieradultgroup@gmail.com)

**CATHOLIC LESBIANS:** Ministry since 1993, meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month, 6 p.m., West Room, [SFXWomen@aol.com](mailto:SFXWomen@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 [sfxgcgroup@gmail.com](mailto:sfxgcgroup@gmail.com)

**THE XAVIER IMMIGRATION INITIATIVE:** Advocacy, support, and education to empower immigrants. For more information contact [sanxnyc@gmail.com](mailto:sanxnyc@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)

**THE WOMEN WHO STAYED:** nurtures, empowers, calls forth and celebrates the emotional, intellectual and spiritual growth of women and men at SFX. For more information: [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:sunik120@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](mailto:xavierpeaceandjustice@gmail.com).

**SPIRITUAL MINISTRIES:** Offers spiritual programs, including spiritual direction. Contact Rose Alloca, [alloccarose@gmail.com](mailto:alloccarose@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 [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)