



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 Wheelchair Accessible)
E-Mail Address: StFrancisXavier@sfxavier.org • Website: www.sfxavier.org



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 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 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

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

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, December 30th

5:00pm Vigil Mass: *Rev. Ronald Amiot, SJ*

Sunday, December 31st

9:00am Mass: *Rev. Ronald Amiot, 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, Larry Capici, Martin Crawford,
Elizabeth Cutolo, Juan Garcia, James Leung, Marian Lizzio,
John Marshall, John McLoughlin, Kathy Mulvaney,
Catherine O'Hagan Wolfe, Rey Santos, Rocco Scura, Anthony
Sellitti, Dr. Daniel Tynan, Carl Wassmann, Diane Weyers*

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

*Mary Comarato, Mars Custodio, Paul Lawrence,
Patrick Logsdon, Albert Longo, Beatriz Quinto Mendoza,*

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,

There's so much to celebrate! It's the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve all in the same day! This is the shortest possible Advent Season. (So short that we didn't choose a special symbol. And yet, the three symbols of the past weeks all together do capture the themes and personae of the 4th Sunday. The shepherd staff is perfect for King David who is the focus of the first reading. The Vessel of Clay and the bouquet of Roses may speak to us of Mary who was the vessel from whom would spring the justice and peace of God who is Jesus himself.

The reading from Romans for the 4th Sunday will serve as a perfect bridge between the 4th Sunday and the celebration of Christmas.

Brothers and sisters:

To him who can strengthen you,
according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ,
according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages
but now manifested through the prophetic writings and,
according to the command of the eternal God,
made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith,
to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ
be glory forever and ever. Amen.

I pray that the joy and peace that Christmas promises will become a reality for each of you and for our world.

A blessed Christmas!

Father Bob

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS
January 1st~11:30am

Office Closed

OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, December 26th
Tuesday, January 2nd

One Mass will be celebrated at 9:00am.



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CALLS US INTO ONENESS

December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, commemorates the Virgin Mary's appearance to Juan Diego, an indigenous peasant in Mexico. At our Guadalupe liturgy on the 12th, Linda Chavez preached on "La Morenita" (the Little Dark One, as she is known) in light of Linda's experience working with undocumented friends who have come to the US seeking safety and a better life. Here is an excerpt of Linda's reflection:

In Our Lady of Guadalupe, divinity not only revealed herself to a peasant, one who didn't seem to hold much value in the current society. She revealed herself as a mestiza, one often reviled through no fault of her own, as a by-product of colonization and subjugation. And so, "La Morenita" becomes a powerful point of entry into the Kingdom of God, a builder of bridges between opposites, and a unifier of the contrary. She holds for all God's people a promise of duality merging into Oneness....

I hear her words to Juan Diego: "Am I not right here, I who am your mother? Are you not always in the folds of my garment?" For the millions of us who have ever felt like the unwanted outsider, the Other, La Morenita, reminds us of our true value in God's eyes.

In the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe, I hear an invitation to set aside the mind that sees dichotomies everywhere we look -- us and them, you and me, black and white, borders and walls. We are all woven out of the fabric of her robes, as she embroiders us, like millions of fibers of light and glittering threads, into the stars of her cloak. We are always intertwined with the Divine and one another.

La Morenita assures us that there is a place where creative, revolutionary love reigns. Please join me there—join me under the folds of La Morenita's cloak—and ask her to usher all God's people safely to the place where we truly merge into Oneness.

For more information on supporting immigrant rights, contact sanxnyc@gmail.com

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 \$45,515 deficit for this fiscal year and projecting deficits totaling \$56,000 over the next two 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

Friday, January 12th

6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. West Room

"Make peace with me and come out to me... Choose life and not death!" (2 Kings 18:31-32, NIV)

It's the perfect time to take the plunge, enter the door, and be greeted by friends, old and new. We will eat, drink, be merry, and plot out the new year for this ministry's silver anniversary! Bring a beverage and/or snack to share, and contact SFXWomen@aol.com or (917) 297-6804 for more information.



Scriptures & Announced Masses

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:
2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27;
Luke 1:26-38.

MONDAY~FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD: Isa 9:1-6; Tit 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14.

TUESDAY~FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN:
Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Matt 10:17-22.
9:00AM STEPHEN KILLORIN (D)

WEDNESDAY~FEAST OF ST. JOHN:
1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8.
7:45AM LEO & ANTOINETTE BUONGIORNO (D)
12:05PM JOE PALMISANO, SJ (D)

THURSDAY~FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS: 1 John 1:5-2:2; Matt 2:13-18.
7:45AM AVAILABLE
12:05PM PANAYIOTIS CHARALAMBOUS (D)

FRIDAY WITHIN THE CHRISTMAS OCTAVE: 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35.
7:45AM AVAILABLE
12:05PM CHARLES SMYLEY (D)

SATURDAY WITHIN THE CHRISTMAS OCTAVE: 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40
12:05PM ANN & BILL BOURGIOS (L)

SUNDAY~FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH:
Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19;
Luke 2:22, 39-40.

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

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

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