



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



When I bring clouds over the earth, and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the covenant I have made between me and you and all living beings. (Gen 9:14-15)

OFFICE CLOSED

Presidents' Day

Monday, February 19th

One Mass will be celebrated at 9:00am.

Please use 15th Street entrance.

SECOND COLLECTION
to benefit Parish Maintenance

First Sunday of Lent

February 18, 2018

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, February 24th

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

Sunday, February 25th

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

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

5:00pm Mass: *Rev. Patrick Gilger, SJ*

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

*Patrice Adcroft, Sr Mary Ann Ambrose, Jesus Andaluz,
Joseph Cali, Larry Capici, Sr. Ann Citarella,
Patrica Cunningham, Elizabeth Cutolo, Kathryn Fisher,
Maria Formoso, Daniel Fox, Marian Githens,
Thomas Glasson, Juan Garcia, Renata Johnson,
Mary Korba, James Leung, Janet Lista, Marian Lizzio,
John Marshall, John McLoughlin, Kathy Mulvaney,
Catherine O'Hagan Wolfe, Joel Rivera,
Rey Santos, Vanessa Santos, Rocco Scura,
Anthony Sellitti, Denise Stewart, Bobby Tinio,
Dr. Daniel Tynan, Carl Wassmann, Diane Weyers,
David Woolwine*

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

*Martin Crawford, Mimi Elenbaas, Mary M. Piderit,
Miriam Socorro Solares de Castañeda, Denise Stewart*

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 Friends,

Our Lenten journey has begun! For the next 40 days we are invited to enter more deeply into our covenantal relationship with our God in Jesus Christ. The themes of journey and covenant are very prominent in the cycle B readings. The very first reading we hear speaks of the Covenant God makes with Noah after the flood. The sign of the covenant is the RAINBOW. Who hasn't had the experience of sheer "delight" when you see a rainbow following a storm? I'll never forget a trip to Ireland where it seemed to rain throughout the day but that meant there were rainbows wherever you looked! There is something about seeing a rainbow that gives you the sense of renewal, a fresh start, beginning again. In our parish conversations about this Lenten season, one of the reflections shared was how this season always gives us a "fresh start" with God. It's a time to focus on how God desires to transform us and "recreate" us, more and more authentically in the image of Jesus Christ with the help of the Spirit.

You may remember that during the Advent season we chose three symbols that captured the essence of the scriptures. The Jar of Clay, The Shepherd's Staff and the Bouquet of Roses. Connecting this Lent with our Advent waiting, I was thinking that we could use similar symbols with somewhat different interpretations. We can see the Jar of Clay as a symbol of the human fragility we share with Jesus. The Shepherd staff could be transformed into a "walking stick", a support for the arduous journey, something or someone to "lean on". The bouquet of roses? Simply a reminder that in this Lenten season we are waiting for the blossoming of "new life" in Easter but of course we have a way to go before we get there!

To help our prayer in the Lenten Season I share with you a daily Examen related to the readings of each week.

First Sunday of Lent (B)

In the tradition of Ignatius we open our hearts and minds to God's loving guidance through the spirit of Jesus Christ. Let us examine our lives with God as our guide and Jesus walking beside us.

Lord, I realize that everything, even myself, is a gift from you, a sign of the covenant of love you have made with me.

Reflect on the RAINBOWS, the multi-colored manifestations of God's love for you?

Lord, open our eyes and ears to be more attentive to your Spirit leading me.

How and where is God's Spirit leading you?

Lord, show us what has been happening to me and in me this day.

How has our loving God called you personally today? What are the obstacles and temptations that draw you away from God's love.

Lord, we are still learning to grow in your love.

What offenses do you wish God would wipe away today?

Lord, let us look with longing toward the future.

How can you set aside your own plans and desires to walk with Jesus more closely during your Lenten Journey?

Blessings for your Lenten Journey!

Fr. Bob



Mardi Gras Auction Now ONLINE!!

Can't join us for the Mardi Gras Masquerade?
Want to get a jump on the silent auction?

This year we've put our silent auction ONLINE!

Starting **Saturday, February 17th**, you can start bidding on some AMAZING items, including:

- Tickets to U2, Billy Joel, and Bon Jovi!
- Beautiful vacation homes in upstate New York!
- Tickets to the Broadway show "Come From Away" with backstage passes!
- Tickets to The Daily Show with Trevor Noah!
- One-of-a-kind hand crafted jewelry!
- A private shopping event!
- And more!

For those who will be attending the Mardi Gras Masquerade, registering now will allow you to take part in the bidding via your mobile phone on the night of the event!

For those not attending, you will be able to bid online until the end of the auction on March 3.

SO WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
REGISTER NOW AND START BIDDING!
[www.biddingforgood.com/
XavierMission2018MardiGras](http://www.biddingforgood.com/XavierMission2018MardiGras)

And don't forget to get your tickets at:
www.xaviermission.org/dinnerdance

This Lenten Season volunteer at the Coughlin Men's Shelter. Volunteer as a Primetime or Overnight host or make a meal for the guests. For more information please email *Christina Bowman* at cbowman@xaviermission.org

TWO OFFERINGS FROM XAVIER BIBLE STUDY

THE MINISTRY OF JESUS AS THE EXPANSION OF CONSCIOUSNESS:

A Lent and Eastertime Bible Study

This class will meet Wednesday Evenings from **February 21-May 16**. We will make our way through the Gospel of Mark as we explore Jesus of Nazareth's Good News ministry. The question that will guide our curiosity: In what ways was Jesus seeking to expand the consciousness of all those he encountered? The only prerequisite for this 12-week course is an open mind.

The suggested fee is \$60. Let's get woke with Jesus!

WOMEN'S POWER IN THE BIBLE:

A Lenten Lunchtime Series

Thinking of giving up patriarchy for Lent? For those who missed last year's Bible Study of the same name, we're offering five lunchtime sessions. After the 12:05 mass on Wednesdays, we'll explore scriptural passages that introduce us to spiritual power beyond patriarchy and help deepen our Catholic faith. No fee for this series.

To register for either study, please email
XavierBibleStudy@gmail.com

Xavier Adult Group

TOUR OF THE OCULUS

Wednesday, February 21st



Join the Xavier Adult Group for a guided tour of the "Oculus," the state-of-the-art World Trade Center Transportation Hub in lower Manhattan. See and learn about this multi level retail, dining, transportation

center. Designed by internationally acclaimed architect Santiago Calatrava and inspired by the image of a dove being released from a child's hands. This free tour is given by the Westfield World Trade Center Group. Please let us know if you would like to join us by email xaversharingandlearninggroup@gmail.com or call *Tom and Nancy* 212-929-3157.

We will meet at the 15th Street entrance to Xavier at 1:00pm. and travel together to the Oculus.

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 \$8,117 in our two collections. Our first collection this year is during the weekend of February 25th. The second collection will be the weekend of November 11th. 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 four separate but inter-related ministries which are also, in a very real sense, small church communities. The Choir community consists of 50 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 continues 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 Pentecost. We currently ring with four octaves on hand bells and four octaves of hand chimes. The Xavier Players, our instrumental group, has exploded in scope and enthusiasm over the last year presently boasting two flutes, two violins, French horn, mandolin, guitar and a bass. We have also started a small choir to sing with the instruments called the Xavier Schola. The group meets on Sundays and prepares to accompany the 5PM liturgy. The Family Faith Choir is an inter-generational choir that performs at the Sunday 9AM liturgy and is led by the Assistant Director of Music. It is a function of the Family Faith Ministry and funded by the Music Ministry.

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. Last year we refurbished our Bell Collection as a matter of good stewardship.



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

Organ Concert



DAVID BRIGGS
Free Will Offering

Tuesday, February 27th
7:30pm
Main Church

Join the Pastoral Council as

WE CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

with St. Joseph's Parish in Harlem

Xavier parishioners have been extended a warm welcome by St. Joseph of the Holy Family Parish (405 W. 125th St, Harlem) to attend their annual Gospel Mass in honor of Black History Month on **Sunday, February 25th at 10:00am.**

Join a group of us meeting at Xavier at 9 a.m. that Sunday to head to St. Joseph's together. Of course, you can also just meet us at St. Joseph's!

No need to RSVP. For more information, email us at PastoralCouncil@sfxavier.org.



Muchas Gracias! Thank You!

From the Xavier
Peace & Justice Committee

To everyone who made the Dance Night for Venezuela such a success,

To the marvelous dancers, choreographers, and tech crew,

To everyone who attended,

To those who helped with programs, donations and refreshments, To everyone who made a donation to help us send food and basic supplies to a children's hospital, an orphanage, and to families struggling to meet their basic needs in Venezuela.

It's not too late to help!! Contributions can be made through Faith Direct or sent to the Church. Checks should be payable to The Church of St. Francis Xavier, with Peace & Justice - Venezuela in the memo line.

The situation is dire. Donations large and small are welcome and greatly appreciated!

CATHOLIC LESBIANS

Friday, March 9th~6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.~West Room

Anne Duquette and GH will give us the history of the Catholic Worker and share their firsthand experience of living and breathing Dorothy Day's Mary House. Please bring a snack or beverage to share for the evening's presentation, and contact SFXWomen@aol.com or (917) 297-6804 for more information



Fast. Pray. Give up your Envelopes! We invite you to help us save money by giving up your offertory envelopes this Lent! Enrolling with Faith Direct will provide Xavier with consistent support and simplify your giving without the wasteful envelopes. Enroll today by visiting our parish homepage and clicking the Donate Now button or mailing in an enrollment form available in the back of the church or from the parish office. If you want to stop receiving envelopes please contact *Stephanie Fuentes* at sfuentes@sfxavier.org or (212) 627-2100 ext. 222. Join us in giving up envelopes this Lenten season! Thank you for your continued support of Xavier with your time and talents as well as treasure.

Xavier Immigration Initiative invites you to:

CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING: COLONIALISM AND WHITE PRIVILEGE

*Learning and understanding the culture
of our detained Friends*

Join First Friends in a presentation by Dr. Ulla Berg. Dr. Ulla D. Berg is Associate Professor in the Departments of Anthropology and Latino and Caribbean Studies at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, where she also directs the Center for Latin American Studies. Her research and teaching focuses on transnational migration, (im)mobility, and inequality in Latin America and among U.S. Latino populations.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND AT 6:30PM
Morrow Memorial Methodist Church
600 Ridgewood Rd, Maplewood, NJ 07040
&

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH AT 1:30PM
Riverside Church
490 Riverside Dr, New York, NY 10027
Room 311 MLK

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

Scriptures & Announced Masses

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT:

Gen 9:8-15; 1 Pet 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15.

FIRST MONDAY OF LENT:

Lev 19:1-2, 11-18; Mark 25:31-46.

FIRST TUESDAY OF LENT:

Isa 55:10-11; Matt 6:7-15.

7:45AM HAILEY CORDOVA (D)

12:05PM RODNEY CAPUNITAN (D)

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF LENT: Jon 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32.

7:45AM MARIO MISUROC (D)

12:05PM ANTHONY C. MENDICINO (D)

THURSDAY~FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER THE APOSTLE:

1 Pet 5:1-4; Matt 16:13-19.

7:45AM MARIO AND LUCILLE MISUROC (D)

12:05PM JOHN AND MARGARET HAYES (D)

FIRST FRIDAY OF LENT:

Ezek 18:21-28; Matt 5:20-26.

7:45AM SUZANNE GAUTHIER (D)

12:05PM EDMINDA SANCHEZ ORIOL (D)

FIRST SATURDAY OF LENT:

Deut 26:16-19; Matt 5:43-48.

12:05PM ERIKA ESCUETA` (D)

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT:

Gen 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Rom 8:31b-34;
Mark 9:2-10.

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

XAVIER YOGA FOR ALL

Tuesdays from 6:00pm-7:00pm
in the Main Church.

Classes are donation based. All are welcome.

For more information: ko@nyyogalife.com

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 xaviersharingandlearninggroup@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 sanxnycc@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, [suniko120@nyc.rr.com](mailto:sunikol20@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