



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*



*SECOND COLLECTION
to benefit Retirement Fund for Religious*

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

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. Kenneth Boller, S.J. (Pastor) - 204

Rev. John Mulreany, SJ (Associate Pastor) - 206

Cassandra Agredo (Executive Dir. Xavier Mission) —
208

Robert Choiniere (Dir. of Adult Faith Formation)-225

Luz Marina Díaz (Dir. of Religious Education) —207

Stephanie Fuentes (Assistant to

the Pastor/Dir. of Communications) — 222

Moraima Hernandez (Plant Manager) - 201

James Martinez (Assistant for Financial Planning)

Gregory Timmes (Assistant Dir. of Business) - 201

Damely Tineo (Dir. of Business) - 221

Receptionist — 201

John Uehlein (Dir. of Music Ministries) — 202

Pastoral Council

Catherine O'Hagan Wolfe (Chair);

Patrick Egan (Vice Chair); John Karle (Secretary)

Stephen Alfieri; Kathleen Cagnina; Belinda Conway;

Karen DeMasi; Andrea Foley-Murphy Michelle Jung;

Ron Oberdick;

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

Mon-Thur: 10:00am to 4:00pm Fri: 10:00am-4:00pm

Saturday: 11:30am to 6:00pm

Sunday: 8:30am to 6:00pm

NOTE: for Bulletin Notices and Space Requests send e-mails to sfxbulletin@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's Presider Schedule

NEXT SATURDAY

5:00 pm Vigil Mass: John Mulreany, SJ

NEXT SUNDAY

9:00 am Mass: Thomas Feely, SJ

11:30 am Mass: Kenneth Boller, SJ

5:00 pm Mass: James Miracky, SJ

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Rose Allocca, Lisa Armband,
Teresita Castillo, Sheila Creasey, Ellen Diurova,
Alesh DuCarma, Kathleen Friel, Caleb Gocher,
Mary Korba, Geri Lisanti-Levi, Richie Levi,
Manny Lopez, Paul Marshall, Sylvia Michaels,
Hector Moran, Tim O'Connor, Michael Orza,
Pilar Perez, Ray Ralph, Dolores Roddy,
Anne Sheridan and Grace Springer

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

Carmen Alonso, Ana Ramona Bravo,
Kenneth de Thomas, Serapio Muraira, Jose Suarez,
Kim Townsend

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 Desk of the Pastor

This Sunday is Guadate Sunday from the Latin for rejoice, the opening words of the entrance antiphon. Earlier in the week I wrote the weekly letter with a focus on all of the things we have to be grateful for even in the pandemic. Mostly, the vibrant ways so many have stepped up to support One another and keep our parish activities going, even virtually.

While that is still true and we have many reasons to be thankful, the reality of the pandemic has disrupted our lives again and I think everyone needs to know the background to the situation and what steps we are taking.

On Monday, 12/7, a member of the office staff took the quick COVID-19 test because all of the family had taken the test recently with negative results. A positive test result came back in mid-afternoon. Because we are a small staff and it was impossible to determine who may have had 10 minutes of contact within six feet within the last week, we determined that ALL staff should quarantine for seven days and get tested within three days. As I write, on Thursday, test results are coming in with negative results.

With everyone in quarantine, we had to lock the church and suspend all activity. Besides dropping the public masses, the Welcome Table had to cancel the Saturday food distribution and Sunday lunch.

Since the staff member with the positive result had no interaction with anyone in the church, **NO ONE ATTENDING MASS IN THE LAST WEEK HAD CONTACT.**

The encounter with COVID-19 is an occasion to review what protocols are in place and why.

Our staff is checked for temperature every day when they arrive. They are also instructed to report any illness of possible exposure.

In the church, everyone is required to wear a mask.

We ask everyone to sanitize their hands when they enter the church.

For Sunday mass, we ask everyone to register on Eventbrite and, for those who arrive without reservation, we ask them to give their name and contact information. This information is retained for two weeks to be available for contact tracing in the event that a worshiper reports a positive test.

The church is disinfected with a CDC approved electrostatic spray after each service.

There is no air circulation system in the church. The only movement of air comes from movement, drafts through the doors and the heaters on the side of the church. The data on Covid is that it is airborne by breath. Because it is heavier than air it eventually falls to the ground or other surfaces. We believe that the spraying of disinfectant after each service effectively sanitizes the church, however, **EVERYONE MUST MAKE THEIR OWN PRUDENT DETERMINATION ABOUT THE SAFETY OF ATTENDING MASS.**

There are no perfect solutions to COVID-19 containment. We believe that we have followed all of the appropriate directives of government agencies to insure the safety of our staff and our parish community. Like you, we are alert to updates and directives as the recent spike continues.

Let us continue to pray and support one another.

LESSONS AND CAROLS



Sunday, December 20th
7:00pm

Join us for the promised bon-bons of the fall concert season at St. Francis Xavier with your favorite Carols, anthems and readings for the Christmas season. Featuring the Bell Choir, Xavier Dancers, an octet of live singers, and the Xavier Players along with the Xavier Virtual Recording project for an evening of Sharing the Joy of the season.

Whether watching the live-stream virtually or attending this blended event in person, this is sure to be a joy filled evening.

PLEASE MAKE A RESERVATION ON EVENTBRITE(LINK ON OUR WEBSITE).

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 us throughout the year. As the end of the year approaches, we begin to reflect upon the many blessings bestowed upon us. It also provides a great opportunity to thank God for these blessings by gifting to Xavier. Over the years, it has been the gifts left to Xavier that have helped us to continue to operate as a welcoming community and place of worship where injustice is challenged, where the poor, the alienated and the marginalized find a home, and where people are refreshed, reconciled and renewed. Your year-end gift can help us continue to celebrate vibrant liturgies and support our many ministries. Belonging to Xavier offers many blessings. Those blessings multiply when we commit our time, treasure, and talent to its work.

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 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. For more information on how you can help make a difference contact the parish office.

THIS WEEKEND'S MUSIC



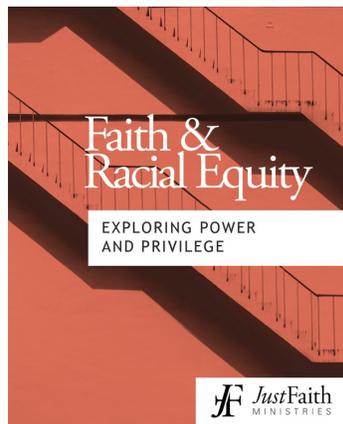
Scan me

CATHOLIC LESBIANS

Friday, January 8th 6:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

"...a time to be born and a time to die ... a time to kill and a time to heal ... a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing ... a time to be silent and a time to speak ... a time to love and a time to hate..." (Ecclesiastes 3, NIV). It's a new year, a time for everything. Let's get together and share the murmurings of our heart.

Contact SFXWomen@aol.com for the Zoom link.



Faith and Racial Equity is an eight-week formation program for parishioners addressing racial injustice in our political and economic structures and offers practical action steps to work towards greater racial equity in our church and world.

Sessions will be:

Wednesday evenings
February 3 – March 24, 2021
6:30-8:30 pm

All Sessions will be held on Zoom

Co-Facilitators:

Robert Choiniere and Boreta Singleton

The program also includes an opening retreat, guest speakers and an immersion experience.

Opening Retreat will be held on
Saturday, January 30 from 10am–2:30pm

For more info or to register:
rchoiniere@sfxavier.org

This past summer, in conjunction with the Pastoral Council, a committee was formed to explore the possibility of adding art to our Church that would reflect the diversity and mission of our Parish community. The outcome was the attached Solicitation of Interest, which we began sending out this week to artists and organizations. If anyone has suggestions for artists who might be interested, please pass them along to us at pastoralcouncil@sfxavier.org

BE PART OF THE SFX CHRISTMAS TREE!

Sacred Space invites all members of the St. Francis Xavier community to send us photos for our Christmas tree.

Given that this year, it has been hard for us to all gather in our church, Sacred Space Ministry would like to invite you to be present in this year's holiday decor. Please send us a photo or photos of you, your family, friends, loved ones, pets, people you would like to remember, anyone you would like to honor. We will create a home-made ornament that will live on a Christmas tree in Xavier this holiday season.

We will resize and print the photos so no need to worry about doing that. Please email your photos to XavierSacredSpace@sfxavier.org by Dec. 11.

THANKS!

Paul & Doug

VIRTUAL MASS COMMUNITY

You are invited to join fellow parishioners in virtual community each Sunday for the live stream mass!

Each Sunday, a Zoom conference will be available for those who wish to join with others for the live stream mass at 11:30 am. The Zoom will open at 11:15 am for some socializing time before the mass. During the mass, the screen will be focused on the live stream. Participants will be able to see one another and share a sign of peace during the mass.

The Zoom link is:

<https://sfxavierparish.zoom.us/j/92250692524>

The Environment and Peace & Justice Ministries

GREENING THE SEASON

Let's resolve to protect the earth and uphold justice during this holy season.

GIFTS TO ENRICH THE MIND benefit all of us and leave little or no carbon footprint.

Signature Theatre stages the work of new and established playwrights. Its subscriptions are reasonably priced, and it is wheelchair accessible, has audio described performances for blind and low vision patrons, and ASL interpreted performances for the deaf and hearing impaired. signaturetheatre.org

Road Scholar offers wonderful live online learning and recorded lectures on art, travel, history and more. Many are free, others available at a modest cost. Visit the Virtual Campus section at roadscholar.org

Learning a foreign language is a great workout for the brain. Online classes are available in a variety of foreign languages at various levels of expertise. Check out Babbel.com

The Art Students League has online classes in drawing and painting for kids (8-12), teens and adults including absolute beginners of any age. theartstudentsleague.org

Sur La Table's roster of online cooking classes encompasses many different cuisines and styles of cooking. The thorough pre-class instructions enable you to make the most of your class. surlatable.com

Top magazines like The New Yorker, the Atlantic and National Geographic offer digital only subscriptions which are great for the planet. Google the magazines you are interested in and check your options.

A museum membership is gift that is sure to please the lucky recipient and a way to help our struggling cultural institutions. They have been hit especially hard by the effects of the pandemic. You can't go wrong with the Metropolitan Museum of Art (metmuseum.org) or the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH.org). Plan to visit during the Christmas season to see their spectacular trees.

Look for more suggestions each week 'til Christmas.

Scriptures & Announced Masses

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

Isa 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.

MONDAY~MEMORIAL OF SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH: NM 24: 2-7, 15-17A; Matt 21:23-27.

THIRD TUESDAY OF ADVENT: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Matt 21:28-32.

THIRD WEDNESDAY OF ADVENT:

Isa 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Luke 7: 18b-23.

THIRD THURSDAY OF ADVENT: Gn 49:2,8-10; Matt 1:1-17.

THIRD FRIDAY OF ADVENT: Jer 23:5-8;

Matt 1:18-25.

THIRD SATURDAY OF ADVENT: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38.

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

CATHOLIC LESBIANS: Ministry since 1993, meets 2nd Friday of each month, 6 p.m., West Room (offsite July & August), SFXWomen@aol.com (929) 333-5011.

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT GROUP: Contact Katherine Cleary, krcoff5th@netzero.com

THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY: promotes care for all of God's creation, and follows the message of Laudato Si. For more information refer to the link on the parish website under Outreach Programs or contact: SFXEnvironmentMinistry@gmail.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

HOLY COMMUNION MINISTRY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND: Eucharistic Ministers bring Communion to parishioners who are sick, homebound, hospitalized, or in care facilities in local proximity to Xavier. To arrange visits or to become a Eucharistic Minister to the Sick and Homebound, please contact Nick Grimaldi at nlgny@gmail.com. To arrange for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and/or Anointing of the Sick, please call the parish office.

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

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 Marie Bannister, mariebannister1@gmail.com or Gerry Moss, gerrymoss@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

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

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

XAVIER YOGA: Tuesdays at 6:15pm. Open to all levels. Contact Ko@nyyogalife.com

XAVIER YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: Spiritual, service, and social activities for parishioners 20s-30s, and the young in spirit. We meet every 3rd Sunday of the month in the West Room after the 5pm mass. Contact sfxavier.youngadults@gmail.com

XAVIER YOUTH MINISTRY: Social, service, and spiritual community for post-confirmation youth through 12th grade. Activities about twice a month September - June. Contact Philip Waldrop at youthministry@sfxavier.org.

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