



THE CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Dear Friends,

We are happy to present you with our Parish Annual Report.

Please take some time to review the details of the report. In particular, the variety of ministries and the strength of our outreach in Family Faith and R.C.I.A. are testimonies to the vitality of our parish. In addition, we actively participated in the synod process in the winter and completed our Laudato Si Action Plan which was ratified in June. We continue to work to meet the goals set by the plan to reduce our carbon footprint. This year we are actively engaged in the Eucharistic Revival. I hope you will engage in one or other of the opportunities presented.

Financially, we continue to be strong thanks to your generosity and the substantial income from the rental of the former parochial school. Not reported in the operating statement is the capital expense of over \$620,000 to repair the pointing and roofing on the school. That project will close out in this fiscal year with some final expenses. Although our operating budget records a surplus, our reserve funds have diminished as we have spent over \$2.6 million in capital projects for the school, the Hurtado bathrooms, and the new elevator in recent years. With the guidance of our Finance Council, we will work on increasing the reserve funds in anticipation of necessary repairs to the church as we approach the twentieth anniversary of the renovations.

Thank you. Your continued support and generosity make it possible for us to remain a vibrant, prophetic parish speaking out for and working for issues of justice and equity in our divided world.

Thank you for all that you do for our Xavier parish. With prayers of gratitude,

Ken Boller, S.J. Pastor

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR IN REVIEW

PARISHIONERS

5,666 households are currently registered.

301 parishioners supported the church through collection envelopes.

749 parishioners contributed online through Faith Direct.

1217 parishioners contributed through Venmo.

The number of people who donated cash is unknown.

BAPTISMS

111 infants were welcomed into our faith community.

FAMILY FAITH

82 students and their families participated in the Family Faith Program.

RCIA

2 adult were baptized, 4 adults received into full communion and Confirmed.

MARRIAGES

28 couples chose Xavier as the community within which to be married.

CARDINAL'S APPEAL

\$109,300 goal and \$64,417 was donated.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Belinda Conway (Chair)

Alan Ahles (Vice-Chair)

Susan Faggiani (Secretary)

Christina Amendolia

Kristen Beckles

Joel Dabu

Andrea Foley-Murphy

John Lucas

Larry Ruth

Todd Schmidt













A LETTER FROM THE FINANCE COUNCIL

Through the gifts of time, talent and treasure, the parishioners and staff of St. Francis Xavier continue to build our parish as a community of hope and faith. As we report our financial results for Fiscal Year 2023, the Finance Council wishes to express its gratitude to the members of our community whose generosity allowed the St. Francis Xavier parish to maintain its vibrant life. Your ongoing financial support is essential to the strength of our parish, and we are grateful to those who continue to show their commitment to our parish in this way.

The Statement of Activities summarizes our major sources of revenues and expenditures for the last three years and our budget for this fiscal year. We finished the fiscal year ending August 31, 2023 (FY 2023) with an operating surplus of \$482,897, primarily due to larger than expected Donations & Bequests and a one-time Employee Retention Tax Credit. This operating surplus does not include our capital expenditure needs. Over the past several years, we have had large capital expenses due to necessary work on the 17th Street school. We have funded these capital expenses out of operating surpluses and cash reserves. The rental income from the school is vital to the long-term financial security of the parish as it provides half of the parish's annual income and is a key stream of revenue that helps fund many of our parish's activities and the maintenance of the church and school building. In FY 2023, we spent \$681,200 in capital expenditures, including the expense to finish the roof repair work on the 17th Street School. With this final element done, we are grateful to have completed this complex multi-year exterior project at the school with particular thanks to Fr. Ken for overseeing such a large construction project in addition to everything else he does as our pastor. In FY 2023, we also repaid an Archdiocesan loan of \$130,200 which had long been on the parish's books. The ongoing financial support of this community allowed us to make these critical capital investments while still maintaining the active life of the St. Francis Xavier community, a life that enriches us through the power of our coming together in worship and the work of our many and diverse ministries.

We are budgeting a \$273,721 operating surplus this year. Having completed the work at the school, we are assessing our operating expenses as well as other capital needs of the parish including capital expenditures to enrich the life of our parish and to align us with the principals of Laudato si. Our goal is to ensure that our parish is in sound financial position so that it may continue to flourish.

We remain dependent on your generous support. Your Sunday offertory, maintenance second collection and Christmas and Easter gifts help ensure we cover our operating and capital expenditures and remain a vibrant community of faith. As we face a world in turmoil, we are all grateful to have our community at St. Francis Xavier where we seek hope and respite in challenging times. We ask that you consider increasing your total giving, especially for the Sunday offertory so that the parish of St. Francis Xavier can continue to be a welcoming and engaged home, a community that seeks to reflect God's love for us in our words and our actions.

We are committed to transparency and accountability so please reach out to any member of the Finance Council if you have any questions. As always, we are grateful for the generosity of the members of the parish with their time, talent and treasure.

The Parish Finance Council

Fr. Kenneth Boller, S.J., Pastor
Ann McGowan, Chair
Andrew Royston, CPA, Vice-Chair
Elisa Balestra
Robert Ching
Gaia Marinaccio
Hugh O'Neill
Jack Schmitt

The Parish Finance Team

Jared Savino, CPA, Xavier Parish Accountant James Martinez, Assistant for Financial Planning Roseann Vidal, Director of Business

PARISH STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31ST

SUPPORT	BUDGET 2023/24	ACTUAL 2022/23	ACTUAL 2021/22	ACTUAL 2020/21
Regular Collections	\$903,000	\$911,023	\$828,790	\$898,503
Holiday Collections	\$149,000	\$149,328	\$150,378	\$155,691
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$1,052,000	\$1,060,351	\$979,168	\$1,054,194
17th Street Rental Income	\$1,434,957	\$1,399,958	\$1,371,504	\$1,332,500
Spiritual Direction Program Income	\$10,000	\$9,770	\$5,000	\$0
Donations and Bequests	\$139,500	\$181,890	\$275,340	\$211,120
Investment Income	\$3,500	\$4,324	(\$28,231)	\$40,821
Other Income ^a	\$161,600	\$290,769	\$191,933	\$150,639
TOTAL SUPPORT	\$2,801,557	\$2,947,062	\$2,794,713	\$2,789,274

EXPENSES	BUDGET 2023/24	ACTUAL 2022/23	ACTUAL 2021/22	ACTUAL 2020/21	
Restoration Loan	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$324,959	
Salary & Benefits ^b	\$977,796	\$762,355	\$809,373	\$711,286	
Music Ministry	\$248,166	\$229,562	\$225,274	\$223,701	
Administrative Support	\$189,000	\$176,134	\$165,945	\$140,713	
Religious Education & Youth ministry	\$188,221	\$165,785	\$149,137	\$145,982	
Insurance	\$106,500	\$113,121	\$91,530	\$97,512	
Repairs and Maintenance	\$72,000	\$62,606	\$65,191	\$49,157	
Spiritual Direction Program	\$43,500	\$53,981	\$44,160	\$836	
Stewardship Program	\$30,000	\$33,442	\$29,633	\$28,400	
Utilities	\$44,000	\$29,234	\$44,104	\$43,393	
Other Programs	\$132,000	\$205,965	\$142,967	\$54,319	
Archdiocesan Assessment ^c	\$252,653	\$387,982	\$251,887	\$260,711	
Archdiocesan School Support	\$244,000	\$244,000	\$244,000	\$244,000	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,527,836	\$2,464,165	\$2,263,203	\$2,324,969	
Revenue Over (Under) Expenses	\$273,721	\$482,897	\$531,510	\$464,305	

Certain prior year amounts have been reclassified to conform with the current year presentation

^aIncludes income from votive shrines & candles, weddings, baptisms, funerals, and religious education.

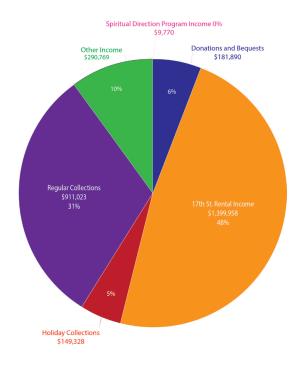
bIncludes clergy & lay admin salary and benefits not included in Music, Stewardship, Religious Education & Spiritual Direction lines.

cArchdiocesan Assessment in 19/20, 20/21, 21/22, and 22/23 includes \$42,423 for capital needs, contribution to Cardinal's Appeal of \$39,306 in 19/20

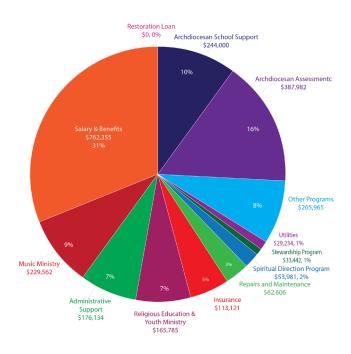
and \$10,000 in 20/21, and loan replayment of \$131,200 in 22/23.
dIncludes one time Employee Retention Tax Credit of \$136,066 in 22/23

	2023	2022	2021			
Capital Expenditures not included in the Statement of Activities Expenses	\$681,200	\$1,191,961	\$713,142			
AS OF AUGUST 31ST THE PARISH HAD CASH BALANCES AND INVESTMENTS AS FOLLOWS:						
Cash and Money Market Funds	\$117,540	\$485,379	\$969,017			
Capital Improvement Fund	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000			
AS OF AUGUST 31ST THE PARISH HAD THE FOLLOWING RECEIVABLES:						
	\$42,048	\$13,223	\$0			
AS OF AUGUST 31ST THE PARISH HAD THE FOLLOWING OBLIGATIONS:						
Restoration Loan	\$0	\$0	\$0			
Archdiocese Loan	\$0	\$131,200	\$131,200			
Archdiocese Invoice & Collections	\$10,222	\$45,091	\$0			
Vendors and Service Providers	\$818	\$246,053	\$245,422			
Parish Organizations	\$26,392	\$26,122	\$20,608			

Note: Capital Improvement Fund established in 2019 to fund future repairs at 17th St. location and church.







EXPENSES = \$2,464,165

THE MUSIC MINISTRY

A report from John Uehlein, Director of Music

I would like to thank all of our music ministers: Members of the SFX Choir, members of the Xavier Players (singers as well as instrumentalists), members of the Bell Choir and members of the Family Faith Choir for their extraordinary service in bringing the parish back after the 3 long years of Covid. And a special thanks to our Assistant Director of Music: Jacqueline C. Perez. But above all, I would like to thank all of you, the people of St. Francis Xavier for your steadfast commitment to the parish. Whether you join us in person or virtually, we are grateful. It is such an inspiration to hear the sanctuary filled with the one voice of many people – all of you, the Parish of St. Francis Xavier. Our newest addition to the music ministry in the last 12 months is a 100 year old Steinway model A III that we acquired last February. We are all grateful for this piano.

As we are ramping up for our first holiday season of the year we have many new members. The Xavier Choir, The Family Faith Choir and The Xavier Players are all back at their respective liturgies with old and new faces to celebrate. The Bell Choir or Xavier Campanologiists played at Christmas and Holy Week this past year and are looking forward to doing the same this year. The Campanologists (bell-ringers) presently number 10. We have room for 11. Any takers? For all of these music ministers our primary purpose and role within the Parish is to prayerfully elevate the liturgical ritual with inspiration, poetry and music. This is our Constant Aspiration.

Performing Arts at Xavier, or PAX is once again programing concerts. In the fall of 2022, we heard our Peragallo organ in concert with St. Patrick's Cathedral organist Mark Pacoe. In December of 2022 we experienced Roll On Justice, our annual Lessons and Carols which brought back our Homemade Christmas Cookie reception! In the spring of 2023 we heard Jazz pianist Deanna Witkowski in a lecture demonstration on Saturday evening March 4th, followed by a rendition of the Mary Lou William Mass for the Lenten Season on Sunday March 5th at our 11:30 service. It was so well received that we continued it through the month of March giving voice to one of the monumental African-American Catholic composers of the 20th Century. Our annual Cantori concert happened on May 20th and 21st featuring music of Greenwich Village award winning composer David del Tredici. But the premier concert of the season featured our own music ministry and lectors in a Lessons and Carols for the Environment called "Songs for the Earth." On June 5th of 2023 the church was filled with a multi-media extravaganza celebrating "Laudato si" and the roll-out of our Laudato si Action Platform. Upcoming events: We are so looking forward to this year's Lessons and Carols on December 17th: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN. Also this year we are featuring the "new" piano with a series: "The Art of the Piano. Two of the recitals have already taken place but the remaining 3 happen on 2/9, 3/17 and 4/27. Cantori will return on 3/9-10. To crown out the year our annual "Parish Cabaret" will be returning to the Mary Chapel Cabaret room on June 8th. 9th and 10th.

Our largest single expense covers our cantors and musicians. We are paying a cantor stipend every week and we pride ourselves on the quality and wealth of the cantors we are blessed with in the parish. Expenses also arise for music and materials, whether that is bell gloves or polish or choir binders or music stand lights. This year your very generous donations totaled \$7,309. As always, we are most grateful for your continuing support.







FAMILY FAITH PROGRAM

Director: Luz Marina Diaz, PhD











The Family Faith Program 2022-2023 was still recuperating from the pandemic. We had a rise in the number of students and have been able to reintroduce some of the pre-pandemic activities, such as the Mass Class and engaging in community services for the Welcome Table. Communion candidates received their First Reconciliation on Saturday, March 18, 2023. On Sunday, June 4, 2023, eighteen students received their First Holy Communion during the 9 a.m. Mass celebrated by Father Kenneth Boller, SJ. On June 20, 2023, at 9 a.m. Mass, Bishop Gerald Walsh administered the sacrament of confirmation to seventeen students.

A new addition to the program was the use of Sadlier's "Christ in US" for Grades K-7, which, like all religious education books, is based on the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: faith, how we express our faith, how we live our faith and how we pray our faith. Christ In Us is based on three dimensions of evangelization and catechesis: encounter with Christ, accompaniment, and missionary discipleship. As stated in the Directory for Catechesis, to put it simply: Come and See — Encounter, Follow Me — Accompany, Remain in Me — Community and Ministry — Send.

In January 2023, we released a video by Kevin Jackson, a freelance filmmaker and editor from New York City who previously worked for America Media. In the video, excerpts are shown from both the "All Souls and All Saints" and the Advent Wreath events, which are expressions of two of the five catechesis models employed in the program. The first model involves families praying together during a Catholic devotion or other service. The second model is an activity-centered family catechesis where families engage in an arts and crafts activity together that emphasizes a Catholic value or theological teaching and/or practice.

Director of Religious Education Luz Marina Diaz created an Advent Meditation with Laudato Si brochure for the Advent Wreath event. The brochure is an adaptation of Arthur Jones' Advent Meditation with Laudato Si' article that appeared in the National Catholic Reporter in December 2019. Later, the brochure was made available to the whole parish.

The Family Faith program embraces three other catechism models. The first and main model is Parish-Based Catechesis, where children are grouped according to their grade and taught by parishioners and parents/guardians who volunteer as catechists in classrooms.

Another option is home-based catechesis, which is used when a child cannot attend church on a particular Sunday. In this model, parents/guardians can use textbooks, digital portals, and catechist lessons to teach their children at home. Last but not least, there is the Family Christian Service Project, known as community services. Following up on community service with reflection at home and in the classroom is vital.

We engage in community service-learning experience by using the "What, So What, and Now What Model." As the name suggests, there are three stages to this reflection model: What? An objective review of what took place So what? A more subjective exploration of the implications Now what? A look at how the lessons learned can be carried forward.

As part of its approach to liturgical catechesis, the Family Faith Program incorporates Children's Liturgy of the Word, Family Mass, and Mass class. The Mass class is occasionally held at the Xavier High School Chapel on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. to students of the program, their catechists, and parents. It is tailored to suit the children's age and includes instructional elements to help them understand the liturgy. Participants are encouraged to ask questions about the liturgy during the Mass.

The first Sunday of every month at 9:00 a.m. features a Family Mass that includes a homily suitable for children and encourages them to participate actively as altar servers, lectors, hospitality ministers, and members of the intergenerational Family Faith choir.

On some Sundays, 9 a.m. Mass, Children's Liturgy of the Word, is offered to children in grades 1-3 and 4-6. The presider invites them to join a liturgical catechist in the Mary Chapel and West Room, where they receive an age-appropriate examination of the Gospel from that Sunday's Liturgy of the Word.

During this academic year, we introduced a new element of liturgical catechesis with the Family Faith Liturgical Dance group, which allows children and teenagers to express their worship through movement and dance during specific times of the Family Mass.

On Friday, March 24, at 6:30 p.m., the Family Faith Program and the Xavier Youth Ministry facilitated Stations of the Cross for the entire parish. A total of 236 people attended the event with the theme "Accompanying Jesus on the Path of the Cross."

The parents/guardians had the opportunity to discuss the following topics while their children were with their catechists.:

- *Laudato Si'
- •Preventing Substance misuse among teens
- On The Eucharist
- •What happens after death? How to explain death to a 5-year-old
- *Catholic Worker movement
- *Kids and gender/sexual identity
- Developing a personal spiritual walk and practice at home
- *Immigrant justice/refugees. Current events and how we are called as Catholics to respond (asylum seekers to NYC) *Synod follow-up
- •Holy Week experience with family, how to explain death and resurrection to children, stations of the cross
- Discerning Deacons' work on the Synod
- •Social justice history and current efforts of the church in these areas
- +Mass is boring. Why do I need to pray? Why am I going to Mass AND Sunday school? Can I skip one of them? •Raising children in a materialistic society/Being Catholic/religious in a city/world that feels judgmental about religion or does not value it
- +How do you raise Catholic children while exposing them to other faiths? Pluralism
- •How to talk about Faith to older kids who are questioning/ have doubts. How to make Faith relevant to teens.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION DIRECTOR: LUZ MARINA DIAZ, PHD

On April 1, 2023, during the Easter Vigil service, Ryan Moore and Yulia Potapova received the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.) Josephine Zinn and Kaja Elise Burke Williams joined the Catholic Church in full communion, while Garth Greenan and Yago Cuesta Civis completed their sacrament of initiation.

Ryan Moore's sponsor was Todd Schmidt, Yulia Potapova's sponsor was Father Zach Presutti, SJ, Josephine Zinn's sponsor was Roseann Bonadia, Kaja Elise Burke Williams' sponsor was Michael Allocca, Garth Greenan's sponsor was Martin Keohan and Yago Cuesta Civis' sponsor was Luz Marina Diaz.

The RCIA team for 2022-2023 was formed by Michael Allocca, Roseann Bonadia, Luz Marina Díaz, and José Ramón Pérez López. They worked alongside Father Kenneth Boller, SJ, and Father James Miracky, SJ, to facilitate sessions on various topics such as God and Revelation, The Trinity, Introduction to Scripture, Old and New Testament, Christian Prayer, Faith and Discipleship, Women in the Bible, Communion of Saints, The Church: The Christian Community, The Liturgy (structure of the Mass), Liturgical Year, Catholic Social Teaching, Mary: The Mother of Jesus, The Nativity story – Incarnation and Deep Incarnation, Introduction of Sacraments, Baptism and Confirmation, Eucharist, Sacrament of Service: Holy Orders and Marriage, Reconciliation, Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, Anointing of the Sick, The Human Community: Law, Grace, and the Common Good, Love the Lord Your God: Commandments 1-3, Love Your Neighbor: Commandments 4-10, The Beatitudes, The Creed, and the Lord's Prayer.

Throughout the RCIA process, numerous significant events took place, each of which had a lasting impact. These events included different rites held on various Sundays at the 11:30 a.m. mass, such as the Rite of Welcoming and Acceptance, the Rite of Sending and Call to Continuing Conversion, spiritual conversations about Sunday Gospel scriptures, and reflections on the stories of the Samaritan Woman, the Man Born Blind, and the Resurrection of Lazarus, which took place during the scrutinies on the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent, respectively. Additionally, there was a theatrical performance by Father George Drance, SJ, based on the Gospel according to Mark, the Rite of Election that took place at St. Patrick's Cathedral, a mini-retreat on Palm Sunday, and talks given by ministry leaders on the Environment Ministry, Sacred Space Ministry, and LGBTQ+ ministries. The RCIA organized and led the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, March 31st, along with the music ministries for the entire church. Although there were some technical issues with live streaming the event, we had 153 people attend in person.

Of course, the most significant moment during RCIA was the Easter Vigil when our participants received the sacraments.



INFANT BAPTISMS

We offer communal baptism services every month except during the Lent season. The services are held on the second Saturday in December and on the third Saturday in other months. The service times are at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. and can accommodate up to six children per service, allowing parents, godparents, family members, and friends to join us in celebrating this special occasion. Private baptisms are only scheduled in case of emergency or serious reason and are typically celebrated by SFX Jesuit priests.

Luz Marina Diaz is responsible for managing the baptism schedule and preparing parents and godparents for their children's baptism. We offer a baptism class every month on the first Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. via Zoom. During the class, we reflect prayerfully on Jesus' baptism, explore the history of baptism in Christianity from the Bible to today, learn about the Rite of Baptism, delve into the meaning of symbols and gestures of baptism, and discuss the responsibility of parents and godparents to raise their children in the Catholic Church. Parents and godparents baptizing children in other parishes can attend this class. Pablo Jimenez (Youth Ministry Coordinator) substitutes for Luz Marina Diaz when she is unable to teach a baptism class.

The number of baptisms has shown an increase from 79 in the period of 2021-2022 to 111 in the period of 2022-2023. The priests are now reverting to pre-pandemic baptism practices. This includes pouring the oil of chrism directly on the forehead of the newly baptized without using a cotton ball and welcoming family and friends to witness the baptism with water close to the baptismal font.

It fills my heart with joy to see individuals who have successfully completed the RCIA process embarking on the next steps of their faith journey, such as getting married, baptizing their children, and enrolling them in the Family Faith program at Xavier. Witnessing the young ones being baptized and receiving the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist when they are in 2nd grade and the sacrament of Confirmation when they reach 7th grade in the Family Faith program is nothing short of awe-inspiring. It's a testament to the strength of their faith journey and the power of the community to nurture and support it without knowing it." Matthew 25:40: "The Ruler will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." The warmth and kindness displayed by hospitality ministers have a profound impact on those attending church for the first time, inspiring them to return for more meaningful worship experiences.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY

Despite the pandemic challenges, the liturgical ministry has made a steady recovery. Our parish has 188 liturgical ministers, some of whom are trained for different liturgical roles. There are 25 Mass Coordinators, 73 Eucharistic Ministers, 79 lectors, and 22 hospitality ministers.

We have observed that many dedicated liturgical ministers are returning to serve. New members are trained to take on roles as Eucharistic ministers and lectors. Although we are encountering difficulties finding hospitality ministers, we are confident that with continued support and commitment to sharing how vital the ministry of hospitality is, we will overcome this obstacle. This challenge is particularly acute during the 5 p.m. Mass on Saturday.

Hospitality ministry is based on Christ's kindness to strangers. With our hospitality ministry, we hope to help visitors, members, guests, and friends feel welcome, comfortable, supported, cared for, and united, enhancing their worship experience, encouraging fellowship, and strengthening our community of faith. Numerous Biblical passages instruct us to greet and welcome one another, to be hospitable to one another, and to fellowship with one another. Among those scriptures, we have Romans 16:16: "Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ send greetings." Hebrews 13:2: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it." Matthew 25:40: "The Ruler will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." The warmth and kindness displayed by hospitality ministers have a profound impact on those attending church for the first time, inspiring them to return for more meaningful worship experiences.

If you're interested in serving as a hospitality minister, lector, or Eucharist minister, you can choose how frequently you want to do so. This availability, however, depends on the number of people qualified to serve in that specific role. While it would be ideal to accommodate a lector's desire to read every Sunday within a three-month period, it should be noted that due to the considerable number of 79 lectors, unfortunately, such a scheduling arrangement is not feasible.

Let us keep the faith and work together towards a brighter future for Xavier's liturgical ministry. If you are interested in being part of the liturgical ministry, please fill out Enrollment - Church of St. Francis Xavier (rotundasoftware. com). Training is provided.

Faith program is nothing short of awe-inspiring. It's a testament to the strength of their faith journey and the power of the community to nurture and support it.without knowing it." Matthew 25:40: "The Ruler will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." The warmth and kindness displayed by hospitality ministers have a profound impact on those attending church for the first time, inspiring them to return for more meaningful worship experiences.

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MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Our parish is blessed by the ongoing work of more than 20 different ministry groups. Here are some highlights from just a few of these ministries.

CATHOLIC LESBIANS lost two friends: Sheila Creasy and Gerda Kennedy, RIP. Larissa Santiago presented lesbian comics/cartoons; Tess Thompson on Irish folk songs; Melinda Spataro on St. Brigid and art as spiritual practice; Roe Sauerzopf and 20th Annual Christmas Wrapping Party; spiritual conversation, Laudato si, and plotting and planning 2023 meetings; Ann Fenalon on body/mind healing; Mary Edwards on "Singing the Art of History"; Alex Volgyesi on Catholic lesbians in Lesbian Herstory Archives; Mary Hurson and Danielle Nista on Mary and the Divine Feminine; Paula Acuti on LGBTQ+ in the Catholic church; Alyssa See-Theo on her play Jesus 2.0; McKenna Coyle on queer animal kingdom. We also marched in 31st Annual NYC Dyke March and 2023 NYC Pride March, fully engaged in the parish's LGBT ministries retreat, and partnered with the Women Who Stayed and Environment Ministry for "In the Spirit of Laudato Si" Stations of the Cross.

GAY CATHOLICS is primarily a gay men's group but all are welcome to attend our meetings and events. We generally meet in-person every first Friday of the month and virtually every third Friday to pray, listen, talk, celebrate and support each other. In 2023, the LGBTQ+ ministries have celebrated 30 years of service to our community. For more than 20 years we have spearheaded the parish's AIDS Walk campaign. We are the only Catholic Parish that participates and we have regularly been one of the top 20 fundraising teams. On June 25, we marched once again on the NYC Pride March along with the other LGBTQ+ ministries, Family Faith and allies from across all the parish under the banner of SFX. As part of our 30th anniversary, we were proud to host the screening of the movie "Wonderfully Made LGBTQ+R(eligion)" and co-sponsor the book event "Queer Grace: The Unexpected Turns of our Spiritual Journeys" with Xavier Outings. Our men are represented in every aspect of life and ministry at Xavier, from the Welcome Table to the Healing Prayer Ministry, through the hospitality ministry and many other services. As we prepare for our annual in-person retreat with Catholic Lesbians for later this year, we look with hope to 2024, aware that our commitment to welcoming everyone and building a fully inclusive Church is today as relevant and urgent as it was 30 years ago. For more information contact us at sfxgcgroup@gmail.com.

HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY Now in its third year, the Healing Prayer Ministry continues to offer prayer with supplicants for spiritual, emotional or physical healing. This happens on selected Sundays September - June, usually near the Mary Altar in the main sanctuary, following the 11:30 Mass. Two trained Pray-ers pray with individuals or couples. On occasions when no supplicants come forward, the Pray-er team prays for the people listed in the parish bulletin -- sick or recently departed. The all-volunteer team is trained using a guidebook, The Practice of Healing Prayer: A How-To Guide for Catholics, followed by in-person observation and in-person practice with team members. The team varies in size over time according to the availability of the volunteers, so we are always interested in new volunteers. Currently our team size enables serving the congregation only after the 11:30 Mass. We have hope to offer this ministry after other Masses, but need more volunteer Pray-ers. At this writing four persons are in various stages of training. For more info or to volunteer, contact Philip Waldrop, Coordinator, at hpm@sfxavier.org or via text or voice to 973-214-6589.

ISEL (IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY IN EVERYDAY LIFE)

ISEL offered in-person and virtual Advent and Lenten retreats to over one hundred parishioners seeking a closer walk with God, using spiritual conversations grounded in Scripture. ISEL connected those seeking to deepen their relationship with God with trained spiritual directors this past year and started others on the 19th annotation of the spiritual exercises. Participants' comments include...

"Very well done. Group interaction was terrific. Discussion was open, honest, inspired. Group facilitation was very helpful and encouraging." "I was blessed to also attend the recent Advent retreat. I truly miss the spiritual conversations. Although I am blessed to have a good spiritual director, they are few and far between on Cape Cod. Hence, spiritual conversation is a rare commodity. Thanks to Zoom, I have been able to rejoin the small church community that I once belonged to many years ago."

"This was my first experience with the group retreat. I appreciated the comfortable setting and comments of my small group. The sharing of comments and thoughts helped broaden my scope."

"Thank you all for organizing this so beautifully and carefully. I look forward to participating in the next retreat."

E-mail ISEL@sfxavier.org for further information.





















RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP is a ministry based at Xavier that welcomes participation from within and beyond the parish, whether remotely or in-person. Our mission is (1) to inform ourselves and others about the sin of racism, its origins and the way it continues to exist and (2) to commit ourselves to eliminating prejudice from our thoughts and actions in order to promote the racial justice needed in our parish, our Church, our nation and our world. We carry out our mission through a variety of activities and events, and leverage these efforts through collaborations with the Pastoral Council, other parish ministries and other parishes, whenever we can. Over the past year RJM's activities and events have included:

- Discussion of Maureen O'Connell's Undoing the Knots: Five Generations of American Anti-Blackness
- A book talk by Professor O'Connell during which she showed how her immigrant family's Catholicism contributed to their anti-Black attitudes over a 200-year-old period
- Our first collaboration with Ability Xavier on one of the Lenten Stations of the Cross, RJM's fourth year of involvement in the Stations
- RJM's second year of participation in Xavier's Juneteenth celebration
- Support for the canonization of the six Black holy men and women on the road to sainthood (Saintly Six) in conjunction with two Baltimore parishes spearheading the effort
- Promotion of John Blake's More Than I Imagined: What a Black Man Discovered About the White Mother He Never Knew as Xavier's First Great Summer Read in order to widen the parish conversation on race
- Selection of Clint Smith's bestselling and award-winning How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America as RIM's fall read

XAVIER ADULT GROUP meets once a month to visit museums, attend concerts, invite guest speakers to discuss timely and informative subjects. Most of our members are retired or work part-time. Our private guided tours this past year included: the Morgan Library and Museum, the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, and Carnegie Hall. Our guest speakers were the New York history expert Joyce Gold who gave an illustrated talk about "The American Civil War in Manhattan". Roy Schlemme, our movie expert, showed examples of movies from 1965 to 1980 as part of our ongoing series "Religion in the Movies". The group's holiday lunch was held at leZie Restaurant. In March we held our annual St. Patrick, St Joseph Party and auction, an afternoon of fun and good food. All are welcome, contact us at: xaviersharingandlearninggroup@gmail.com.

THE EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT GROUP has been an outreach ministry at The Church of St. Francis Xavier for over 20 years. During this time ESG has evolved and we look forward to further enhancing our ministry's goals by responding to the many inquiries and by inviting the Xavier Community to join us. Employment Support in our ministry—sometimes it's a mini-clinic on cover letters or cold contacts, sometimes it's a general discussion of a particular knotty problem someone needs advice on how to address. Our mission continues to be that everyone will come away with some insight, share some fellowship and enjoy a friendly sharing session with folks looking for support. ESG is modeled on the principles of Ignatian Spirituality in our sharing, caring and mentoring each other. We welcome all ideas that will help in our planning for future events—on presentations that everyone would benefit from. Please feel free to contact us by email to krcoff5th@netzero.com with any comments, questions or ideas. We are here to meet with you.

THE WOMEN WHO STAYED first met on Friday, January 21, 2011. There was a need for Catholic women to speak about what was on their hearts, in a safe space in church, and twelve years later that need is still there. We had a hiatus during the pandemic and are now meeting every seven weeks, in person, using the Ignatian practice of spiritual conversation. We partnered with Catholic Lesbians and Environment Ministry for "In the Spirit of Laudato Si" Stations of the Cross; with Lay Spirits on a prayer service honoring Mary, Mother of God; with Lay Spirits and Dr. Lisa Fullam on "Recover, Redefine, Reclaim Mary Magdalene"; and with Discerning Deacons to celebrate St. Phoebe. Fourteen members worked on Inclusive Language Initiative. We formed a WhatsApp chat group and offer "13 Ways of Calling Out Mary Magdalene" and "99 Names of God in English." The Women Who Stayed: we NURTURE | we EMPOWER | we CALL FORTH | we CELEBRATE

ZEN MEDITATION completed its 16th year of service. The group continues to meditate remotely. There has been a scheduled time for meditation on most Monday evenings. The ministry continues to fill a need for people of different intentions: Beginners and people with curiosity are always welcomed and introduction and instruction is always available. The group also provides a home for those interested in a continuing meditation practice as well as support for those whose primary interests are with other ministries. Well over 500 parishioners have experienced the program since its inception.













Staff

Rev. Kenneth Boller, S.J. (Pastor)
Rev. James Miracky, S.J. (Associate Pastor)
Rev. Ricardo da Silva, S.J. (Associate Pastor)
Cassandra Agredo (Executive Director Xavier Mission)
Ackime Colquhoun (Assistant Director of Business)
Luz Marina Díaz (Director of Religious Education)
Stephanie Fuentes (Assistant to the Pastor)
MaryLennox Halfacre (Director of Communications)
Moraima Hernandez (Plant Manager)
Pablo Jiminez (Youth Ministry Coordinator)
James Martinez (Assistant for Financial Planning)
Desiree Resto (Office Assistant)
John Uehlein (Director of Music Ministries)
Roseann Vidal (Director of Business)

WAYS TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THE PARISH

There are many ways to support the dynamic ministries of the Church of St. Francis Xavier. Each method of giving ensures the future of our parish and may provide you with tax benefits. The information below will help you decide how best to support the parish.

REGISTER You're already a member, you just need to register! If you haven't already registered, you may do so online www.sfxavier.org or by picking up a registration form at the 15th Street reception desk.

FAITH DIRECT Go Green and support the parish online, even while you are away on business or pleasure. Visit our website, www.sfxavier.org and click on the DONATE NOW icon or go directly to www.faithdirect.net and enter parish code: NY406. You can decide upon your weekly offering, special collections, flower offering, one-time gifts, etc. The automatic payments will be taken monthly from your choice of credit card or checking. Plus you have online access to donor statements for tax purposes. You can also link your mobile phone number to your credit/debit card for easier giving. Text any dollar amount to (646)-681-7010 and complete the one-time registration page to enroll.

VENMO Find us at Username: StFrancisXavier-Church or Phone number: 646-596-5696. For new users download the Venmo mobile app to create an account.

ENVELOPE SYSTEM Donors who itemize their tax returns receive an income tax charitable deduction. If you make your donation by check, please make the check payable to the Church of St. Francis Xavier.

SECURITIES By giving appreciated securities that you have owned for more than a year, your charitable deduction is the fair market value of the securities. Such gifts provide income tax savings and eliminate the capital gains tax liability.

GIFTS BY WILL The parish can be remembered in your Will. Suggested wording for such bequests is: I give, devise, and bequeath to the Church of St. Francis Xavier located at 55 West 15th Street, New York, NY, the sum of \$_______ (or _____% of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate whether real or personal) for its general charitable purposes and without restriction. Please note that under the policy of the archdiocese and the by-laws of the parish corporation, bequests to a parish cannot be restricted unless approved in advance by the archbishop in writing.

GIFTS OF RETIREMENT PLANS Consider naming the Church of St. Francis Xavier, 55 West 15th Street New York, NY 10011 as a beneficiary or contingent beneficiary in your retirement plan, IRA or 401(k). It's easy, requires no attorneys or fee, and is tax advantageous. Call the parish office for further information and the necessary Federal ID.

TIME & TALENT All of our ministries, services and Xavier Mission programs are primarily staffed by parishioners, so we encourage your participation. If you would like to offer your time and talent to Xavier Mission, please contact Cassandra Agredo, Director, Outreach Mission at 212-627-2100 x 208 or cagredo@xaviermission. org; for any of the many ministries in the parish contact the parish office at 212-627-2100.

THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

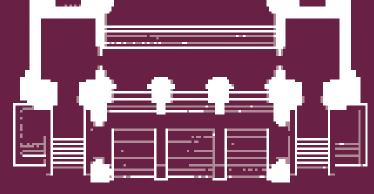
The Church of St. Francis Xavier,
a Roman Catholic parish in the Jesuit tradition,
strives to be a prophetic, welcoming community,
and an inclusive witness to the presence of Christ Jesus in our midst.
Mindful of our utter reliance on God, and need for God's grace,
we rejoice together in our celebration 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.

Adopted by the Community at Prayer Rededication Weekend June 19 - 20, 2010



Thanks also to all those who contributed photographs.