

# Church of St. Francis Xavier

*~ A Jesuit Apostolate in New York City since 1847 ~*

## World AIDS Day Mass of Remembrance December 2, 2024 at 6:30 PM



*St. Aloysius carrying a plague victim, Gonzaga University*

### **37th World AIDS Day theme:**

**“Collective Action: Sustain and Accelerate HIV Progress.”**

*On this World AIDS Day, let us renew our commitment to united action. Let us honor the lives lost, celebrate the progress made, and work tirelessly to ensure a future free from HIV. Together, we are stronger and, together, we will succeed. We know that only by working collaboratively with communities most affected, researchers, healthcare providers, and other partners can our government be successful in ending the pandemic and ensuring a sustained response to HIV.*

**Welcome:**

**John Weber**  
Team Captain AIDS Walk NY

## Song of Gathering: Servant Song, Gillard

### The Servant Song



- 1., 6. Will you let me be your ser - vant, Let me be as
2. We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, We are trav - 'lers
3. I will hold the Christ - light for you In the night - time
4. I will weep when you are weep - ing; When you laugh I'll
5. When we sing to God in heav - en We shall find such



Christ to you; Pray that I may have the grace to  
on the road; We are here to help each oth - er  
of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,  
laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row  
har - mo - ny, Born of all we've known to - geth - er



Let you be my ser - vant, too.  
Walk the mile and bear the load.  
Speak the peace you long to hear.  
'Til we've seen this jour - ney through.  
Of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

Text: Richard Gillard  
Tune: Richard Gillard; harm. by Betty Pulkingham, b.1929  
© 1977, Scripture in Song

### Opening Prayer

#### AN ACT OF REMEMBRANCE: Lighting of the AIDS Candles

God, we thank you that you have made each one of us in your own image and given us gifts and talents with which to serve you. We thank you for those whose lives we have shared and whom we remember this night. We thank you for the good we have experienced in them and for the blessing they have been to us. Give us faith to leave them in your care, confident in your promises.

Response after each candle lighting:

**All: Your presence is in us. Your presence is around us. Your presence is hope.**

**First Reading: First Reading: Isaiah 58:5-8**

**Psalm 63: I long for you, Balhoff**

**Psalm 63 I Long for You, O Lord**

♩ = 100 Mike Balhoff, Gary Daigle and Darry Ducote

I long for you, O Lord, with all my soul, I thirst for you.

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**Second Reading: James 2:14-24, 26**

**Third Reading: After the Plague Years by Alex Carter**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Hallelujah!**

Leonard Cohen

Ha - le - lu - jah, ha - le - lu - jah, ha - le - lu - jah, ha - le - lu - jah!

*Bring us healing and wholeness, O God  
So we may proclaim your Gospel*

**Gospel: Matthew 22:33 -40**

**Prayers of the Faithful:**

**Response: Compassionate God, hear our prayer**

# Song at the Preparation of the Gifts: In the Arms of God, Alonso

*(The collection will be for the Xavier Team AIDS WALK 2024 kick-off funding)*

## IN THE ARMS OF GOD

Inspired by Matthew 11:28-30

Words and Music by  
Tony Alonso

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 4/4 time, with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody consists of five lines of music. The lyrics are: 'Come and rest in the arms of God, leave your wor-ry and fear; make your home in the heart of God, God will dry ev - 'ry tear. For the bur-den you car-ry will fade with-in God's care, come and rest in the arms of God.' The score includes various note values such as quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests. There are some time signature changes in the fourth line, moving from 4/4 to 2/4 and then back to 4/4.

Come and rest in the arms of God,  
leave your wor-ry and fear; make your home in the  
heart of God, God will dry ev - 'ry tear. For the  
bur-den you car-ry will fade with-in God's care,  
come and rest in the arms of God.

# The Communion Procession

## Take And Eat This Bread by Francis Patrick O'Brien

### TAKE AND EAT THIS BREAD

Francis Patrick O'Brien



Take and eat this bread. Take and drink this cup.



This is my bod - y and my blood.



When you eat this bread, when you drink this cup,



you live in me and I in you.

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1. **This is the bread come down from heaven; This is the cup of our salvation.**
2. **Gathered as one around one table, sent forth to witness to salvation.**
3. **Within our hands we hold the myst'ry, dying and rising to salvation.**
4. **Come all who thirst for life eternal, come to the table of salvation.**

## **Prayer after Communion**

**ALL:**

**God, open our eyes to the systems around us that oppress, hold down, and disadvantage the most vulnerable in our society, so that we may increase and abound in our love for one another and for all people.**

**God, open our ears to the myths, stereotypes, and lies that keep these systems going, so that we may increase and abound in our love for one another and for all people.**

**God, open our mouths to challenging conversations about race, sex, and differences, so that we may increase and abound in our love for one another and for all people.**

**God, open our hearts to the understanding that we are all affected by HIV/AIDS, so that we may increase and abound in our love for one another and for all people.**

*This prayer first appeared in a prayer service for World AIDS Day created by the United Church of Canada.*

# Benediction and Final Blessing

## Song of Sending Forth: "God Has Chosen Me"

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### God Has Chosen Me

Bernadette Farrell

VERSES



1. God has cho-sen me, God has cho-sen me to bring good news  
2. God has cho-sen me, God has cho-sen me to set a - light  
3. God is call-ing me, God is call-ing me in all whose cry

1. to the poor. God has cho-sen me, God has cho-sen me to  
2. a new fire. God has cho-sen me, God has cho-sen me to  
3. is un - heard. God is call-ing me, God is call-ing me to

1. bring new sight to those search - ing for light: God has  
2. bring to birth a new king - dom on earth: God has  
3. raise up the voice with no pow - er or choice: God is

REFRAIN

1. cho - sen me, cho - sen me: And to tell the world  
2. cho - sen me, cho - sen me:  
3. call - ing me, call - ing me:

— that God's king-dom is near, to re - move op - pres - sion and  
break down fear, yes God's time is near, God's time is near,  
— God's time is near, God's time is near.

Presider: Rev. Ben Hawley, SJ  
Cantor: Chris Swope  
Director of Music: John Uehlein