



CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER A JESUIT APOSTOLATE

46 West 16th Street, NY, NY 10011
Email: StFrancisXavier@sfxavier.org



SECOND COLLECTION
to benefit Retirement for Religious

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

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

Parish Phone Number - (212) 627-2100

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

Rev. Benjamin Hawley, S.J. (Senior Priest) - 225

Rev. Ricardo da Silva, S.J. (Associate Pastor)

Rev. CY Kao, S.J. (Associate Pastor)

Cassandra Agredo (Executive Dir. Xavier Mission) - 208

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

Stephanie Fuentes (Office Manager) - 222

MaryLennox Halfacre (Dir. of Communications) - 206

Moraima Hernandez (Plant Manager) - 201

James Martinez (Assistant for Financial Planning)

Desiree Resto (Office Assistant) - 203

John Uehlein (Dir. of Music Ministries) - 202

Roseann Vidal (Dir. of Business) - 221

Receptionist - 201

Pastoral Council

Belinda Conway (Chair); Alan Ahles (Vice-

Chair); Susan Faggiani (Secretary);

Christina Amendolia; Jacob Brumfield; Yago

Cuesta; Andrea Foley-Murphy; John Lucas;

Janet Paist; Larry Ruth.

PastoralCouncil@sfxavier.org

Next Weekend's Presider Schedule

Saturday, December 21

5:00pm Vigil: Steven Pugliese, SJ

Sunday, December 22

9:00am Mass: Sam Sawyer, SJ

11:30am Mass: CY Kao, SJ

5:00 PM Mass: Kenneth Boller, SJ

Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 10:00am to 4:00pm

Saturday: 11:30am to 6:00pm

Sunday: 8:30am to 6:00pm

NOTE: for Bulletin Notices 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.

Xavier Mission Volunteer Opportunities

Clothing Room: Every Sunday, sorting & distribution shifts

Soup Kitchen: Every Sunday, prep & distribution shifts

Food Pantry: Second Saturday of every month, distribution shifts

For Info And To Sign Up:
signup.xaviermission.org

**To stay up-to-date on parish news, follow us on
Instagram and Facebook at *sfxaviernyc*.**

From the Pastor's Desk Kenneth Boller, SJ

Back in my seminary days, there was a gruff old Jesuit (or so he seemed to us twenty-year-olds) who read the first line of today's letter to the Philippians as the entrance antiphon:

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I say it again, rejoice." He barked it at the congregation.

The dissonance between his tone and the meaning of the words was striking—and comical to us in the seminary.

We may feel a similar dissonance in our own lives, especially amid the darkness of the events surrounding us these days and the hope we hold for Christmas. Yet, we are called to rejoice. We are called to acknowledge the presence of our God in our midst, even in the depths of darkness and turmoil.

As we continue our Christmas preparations, let us remember that the light of God's love shines ever deeper in our lives, calling us to share that love with others, just as the Gospel reminds us today.

Prayer Requests

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

Saleema Bibi, Frank Cappucci, Donna Chesebro, Richard Collins, Chris Curatoo, Janet Cutrufelli, Betty Davey, George DeAngelis, Evan Xavier Dono, Eve Duke, Carmela Farace, Thomas Farace, Lyle Ferguson, Jingsing Fitzgerald, Rafael Antonio Gayoso, Edward Gordon, Julius Harrison, Richard Helm, Tonia Hubert, Julianne Hunter, James Hurley, Hortencia Ingles, Jane Jacobus, Nelida Kilayko, Steve Lee, Gus Lobo, Francesca Macaranes, Cynthia Magsanoc, Linda Yannolo Murphy, Sr. Virginia O'Brien, George Odvody, Sr. Cecilia Palange, Tom N. Pantages, Michael Patterson, Dutch Pinkston, Arthur Samoy, Michael Sennett, Donald W. Shanabrook, Michael Silver, Louis De Thomas, Christine Torres, Josephine Vales, Joan Williamson.

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

Sr. Angela Bayo, Marvin Blitz, Danny Cooper, Alfredo & Florencia de la Rosa, Matthew Todd Edwards, Ligia Enciso, Gustavo Frías, Sarah Anne and Joseph Gallagher, Joan Hess, Eugene Hess, Flo Infantino, John A. Kiss, Glenda & Rolando Landingin, Paul Malone, Joseph Murray, Virginia Victoria Navarro, Amor Panlasigu, Bob Philipps, Carlito Rapado, Thomas Rocha, Dolores Root, Arturo Salinas, Brendan Sexton, Nawal Shalabi, Robert Sloan, Rick Sotomayor, Sarah Anne and John Vega, Jason Vermonty, Douglas Vianale.

***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.**

Book Sale – To Consider As Gifts

The SFX Environment Ministry will be selling two books to consider as Christmas gifts at all Masses this weekend.

Green Saints for a Green Generation, edited by Libby Osgood, CND, with a forward by Elizabeth A. Johnson. In this collection, young Catholic women of the "green generation" reflect on saints—canonized and not—who connected their faith to concern for the earth.

Come Have Breakfast – Meditations on God and the Earth, by Elizabeth A. Johnson. Johnson views planet Earth, its beauty and threatened state, through the lens of scripture. The meditations offer a panoramic view of the living God who loves the earth, accompanies all its creatures in their living and their dying, and moves us to care for our uncommon common home.

THIS WEEK AT XAVIER

Pastoral Council Wine & Cheese | Saturday, December 14 | After the 5 PM Mass

Healing Prayer Ministry | Sunday, December 15 | After the 11:30 AM & 5 PM Masses

Lessons & Carols: Breath of Heaven | Sunday, December 15 | 7:00 PM | Main Church & Online

Reconciliation Monday | Monday, December 16 | Confessions: 2 PM-4PM, 6 PM-8 PM

Racial Justice Group Read | Monday, December 16 | 7:00 PM | Zoom

Young Adults Faith Sharing | Tuesday, December 17 | 6:30 PM | Mary Chapel

An Advent Carol | Friday, December 20 | 7:30 PM | Mary Chapel

Young Adults Advent Retreat | Saturday, December 21 | 9:00 AM- 4:00 PM | XHS Chapel

COMING SOON

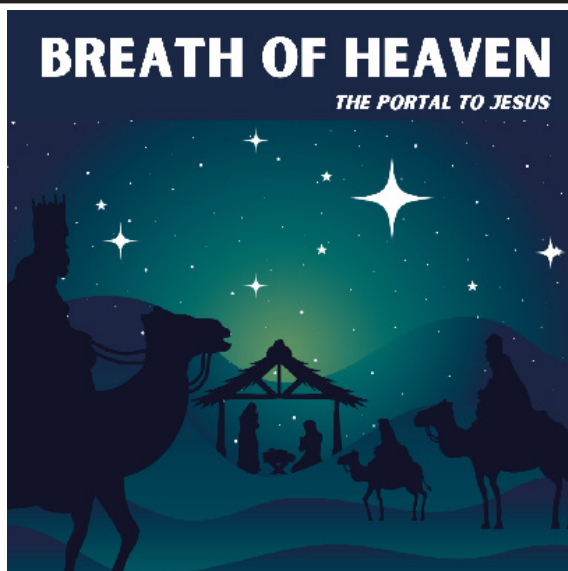
Young Adults Happy Hour | Sunday, December 22 | 6:00 PM at Another Country (10 E 16th Street)

Christmas Eve Masses | Tuesday, December 24 | Family Mass 4:00 PM (Carols at 3:15 PM),
Night Mass 11 PM (Carols at 10 PM) | In Person & Online

Christmas Day Masses | Wednesday, December 25 | 9:00 AM, 11:30 AM

New Years Day Mass | Wednesday, January 1 | 11:30 AM

Visit sfxavier.org/events to learn more about all upcoming events and activities!



Lessons and Carols:

Breath of Heaven

Sunday December 15 | 7:00 PM

Main Church & Online

Followed by our legendary Cookie Reception

Featuring the Xavier Choir, the Xavier Campanologists (Bells), the Xavier Players including string quartet, the Xavier Dancers and Lectors from the congregation. Presenting music by Haydn, Josquin, Holst, with a special rendition of the Holiday Favorite "Breath of Heaven" and the much looked forward to Christmas Carols: Angels We Have Heard on High, What Child is This, Good King Wenceslaus, It Came Upon a Midnight Clear, I Saw Three Ships and more! Ring in the season with the unique SFX Lessons and Carols. For more information or to donate cookies for the reception call John Uehlein at 646-573-0099. Admission is free! Or tune in to the livestream.

Honduras Project Holiday Cards Weekends of December 7 & 14

The Honduras Project will sell holiday cards after Mass during weekends of December 7 and 14 to fund scholarships for secondary school students in Honduras. These scholarships help students develop leadership skills and avoid the dangers of gangs and drugs. For nearly 25 years, Xavier parishioners have supported this vital effort. Cards feature artwork by children at Casa Corazón, a home for HIV+ youth. Visit us at the back of the church after Mass or donate via Faith Direct. Thank you for your continued support!

Remember Xavier When Considering a Year-end Gift

First, we want to thank all of you for your support 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. 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. For more information on how you can help make a difference contact the parish office.



Guardianship, not Greed – an Advent Hope

Observing the global environmental and climate crises, Pope Francis, in both *Laudato Si'* (2015) and *Laudate Deum* (2023) called for an “ecological conversion” and an “integral ecology.” These calls are multifaceted -- to care for the earth and to care for the poor, and to recognize and honor, via our actions, the interconnectedness among us humans and with all Creation.

This recognition involves both mental and spiritual assent and is core to “ecological conversion.” Such a conversion involves a change of attitude away from “dominion” or “domination” of nature, which is often driven by greed or power-seeking and ignores adverse side effects on people and Creation. While “stewardship” is a better formulation than “domination,” and implies thoughtful care and management, “guardianship” seems even better.

An example of this concept is the indigenous Filipino community that Fr. Pedro Walpole SJ, our speaker last week, works with in the Philippines. The community considers that they have always been guardians of the land and forests. Corporate interests have imposed themselves with dominion and domination based on greed, and are seizing and deforesting the land.

With long-term sustainability in mind, guardians act for the current and future generations of people and creatures. Guardians inform and train the younger generations to keep it going. Guardians recognize current needs without ruining the future and know and act when enough is enough. Guardianship counteracts greed and exploitation.

This Advent, let us pray for and seek the guardianship of our earth that is so needed. Let's start with ourselves, and, by example in word and deed, carry it forward.

Racial Justice Group Read - The False White Gospel by Jim Wallis December 16 | 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM Chs. 5 & 6

Xavier's Racial Justice Ministry welcomes all to participate in a read for this election season & beyond. **REGISTRATION REQUIRED: Email sfxracialjusticegroup@sfxavier.org.**

Healing Prayer Ministry Upcoming Dates after two Masses

The Healing Prayer Ministry returns to serve after the **11:30 AM AND 5 PM Sunday Masses on December 15**. Come to the Mary altar space to the left of the main altar after Mass. Our trained Prayers look forward to praying with you for physical, emotional, or spiritual healing!

Looking For More Prayers for the Healing Prayer Ministry Team

Consider if you are called to become a Prayer-er. We currently serve after the 11:30 or 5 PM Masses on selected Sundays. Trained Prayer-ers serve no more than twice a month, for about 30 minutes after Mass. Training involves some reading and Zoom discussions, then in-person observation and practice. **Please reach out to HPM@sfxavier.org or to Philip Waldrop (Coordinator) by text to 973-214-6589.**

An Advent Carol Friday, December 20 | 7:30 PM Mary Chapel

The Xavier Company presents a musical drama for the Christmas Season: An Advent Carol written by J.S. Pecorella and directed by parishioner Carol Ferrone. This play takes audiences on a journey from the Annunciation to the Flight into Egypt. An Advent Carol offers a message of hope and freedom to the alienated and oppressed and stretches far beyond the traditional Christmas pageant. The play will be performed in the Mary Chapel on Friday, December 20th at 7:30 pm. Admission is a free will donation. Reservations are not required.

Are you seeking a closer connection with God, exploring new spiritual practices, or discerning God's will in your life?

Join the Lay Spirits Program at The Church of St. Francis Xavier. For nearly 40 years, we've guided individuals on their spiritual journeys. Our next nine-month program begins in early 2025, offering a chance to grow alongside others on this path.

For more information, email us at LayspiritsX@gmail.com.

Young Adults December Events

Tuesday, December 17

Young Adult Faith Sharing | 6:30 PM | Mary Chapel

Sunday, December 22

Happy Hour | 6:00 PM | Another Country (10 E 16th Street)



Young Adults Advent Retreat

Saturday, December 21 | 9:00 AM- 4:00 PM

XHS Chapel

Join us on Saturday, December 21st for our Advent Retreat in the Xavier High School Chapel. Please email Sfxavier.youngadults@gmail.com to RSVP by December 15th.

A Bible Study for Extraordinary Times

Wednesday Evenings in January and February

The space between the Christmas season and Lent is known as “ordinary time.” But moving into 2025, many of us refuse to accept these times we live in as ordinary. Please join The Women Who Stayed for an eight-week Bible study for extraordinary times. Lizzie Berne DeGear, PhD, Bible study teacher at Xavier from 2002 to 2019, will introduce us to her work with the ancestral women who wrote the Bible. We will peel back the invisibility cloak that has hidden them from our sight, and we will listen to their wise and powerful voices as we find our own.

We will meet in person at the Church of St. Francis Xavier for eight Wednesdays, January 8 through February 26, 2025, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This course is based on Lizzie’s online course through People’s Catholic Seminary. Participants will register for the online course—where all the materials for this study are available—and then gather in the main church once a week to process the material together and to develop our own way forward for ourselves and our beloved communities.

Register at <https://pcseminary.teachable.com/p/pcs-311x>. Contact TheWomenWhoStayed@sfxavier.org with any questions.

Catholic Lesbians

Friday, January 10 | 6:00 PM

West Room

Pope Francis declared 2025 to be a “Year of Jubilee,” which is a time of hope for the world. We are “pilgrims of hope,” and it is the perfect time to reestablish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. Together, let us sketch that out for this new year. BYO cups (cup, utensils, plate, serviette), snacks, and/or beverages. For more information, contact CatholicLesbians@sfxavier.org.



XAVIER MISSION

WELCOME. SERVE. EMPOWER.

Real People. Real Stories. Real Impact.

With the holiday season in full swing, we’re reminded that true community is about more than just providing services—it’s about seeing and valuing the people behind the need.

Here’s a powerful testimonial from one of our Welcome Table guests that truly captures the heart of our work:

“I love the food at Xavier Welcome Table. It’s always made with love, and each time is delicious. The cooks and the volunteers make a beautiful presentation with attention to detail. My daughter and I are from Venezuela, and the friends that join us are from Honduras. We come to Xavier every Sunday, where the food is different than home but always magnificent and healthy. They also have small gifts for my daughter, like stuffed animals, little toys, and more. On Sundays here, we feel the love. I’m grateful every time we come.”

This is a reminder that at Xavier Mission, we serve real people—families like this one—who come seeking more than just a meal. They come for dignity, respect, and connection. Your support makes it possible for them to experience love and care, every Sunday, and especially during the holidays. As you reflect on this season of giving, we invite you to remember that your contributions help provide more than just food—it helps create a space where every guest is valued and feels seen.



Scriptures & Announced Masses

Ongoing Parish Happenings

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

ZEP 3:14-18A; PHIL 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18.

MONDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT:

NM 24:2-7, 15-17A; Mt 21:23-27.

7:45AM AVAILABLE

12:05 PM ROBERT CARREON (D)

TUESDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT:

GN 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17.

7:45AM AVAILABLE

12:05 PM PETER C. CASTELLOTTI SR. (D)

WEDNESDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT:

Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25.

7:45AM LEO + ANTOINETTE BUORNGIORNO (D)

12:05 PM MANUEL JESUS JEMENEZ (D)

THURSDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT:

JGS 13:2-7, 24-25A; Lk 1:5-25.

7:45AM AVAILABLE

12:05PM JERRY ATLAS (D)

FRIDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT:

Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38.

7:45AM AVAILABLE

12:05PM MICHELLE CONNELLY (D)

SATURDAY OF THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT:

Sg 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45.

12:05PM JOSEPH FRANCIS BEAUDETTE (L)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

Mi 5:1-4A; HEB 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45.

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

ABILITY XAVIER: Celebrating persons with disabilities. abilityxaviernewyork@gmail.com.

BREAKING OPEN OF THE WORD: Join us in praying and reflecting on the Sunday Readings using a Lectio Divina model. Saturdays from 10:00am to 11:00am Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/3UsoMJC>

CATHOLIC LESBIANS: Ministry since 1993, meets monthly CatholicLesbians@sfxavier.org or (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.

LAUDATO SI ACTION PLAN (LSAP): Implements the message of Laudato Si. LSAP@sfxavier.org.

FAMILY FAITH: Religious Education Program for children pre-kindergarten -12th grade. Sessions for parents/guardians are provided. Contact DRE Luz Marina Diaz, imdiaz@sfxavier.org.

GAY CATHOLICS: Men meet in a caring and affirming environment monthly. GayCatholics@sfxavier.org.

HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY: We pray for spiritual, emotional, and/or physical healing. HPM@sfxavier.org.

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

IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY IN EVERYDAY LIFE: We offer spiritual direction, conversations, and retreats. ISEL@sfxavier.org.

RACIAL JUSTICE GROUP: Engages in prayer, study and action in pursuit of racial justice. Welcomes collaboration to promote living the Parish Pledge for Racial Justice. sfxracialjusticegroup@sfxavier.org.

THE WOMEN WHO STAYED: We nurture, empower, call forth, and celebrate our emotional, intellectual, and spiritual growth. We strive to bring the riches of the Word of God in ways that speak to everyone in the congregation. TheWomenWhoStayed@sfxavier.org.

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

THE XAVIER INTERFAITH MINISTRY: The Xavier Interfaith Ministry aims to foster respect for religious differences to promote love, harmony and understanding among peoples of different faiths.

xavierinterfaith@gmail.com.

XAVIER YOGA: Meets Tuesdays 6:30-7:30pm on the altar, Sept. 3, 2024 through June 24, 2025. (No classes held 12/24/24, 12/31/24, 1/28/25, 2/18/25, 4/15/25 and 4/29/25.) Open to all levels and abilities. For more info please contact: teresaherronzamora108@gmail.com

XAVIER OUTINGS: Periodic gatherings with parishioners. Xoutings@sfxavier.org

XAVIER ROSARY PRAYER MINISTRY- Rosary Prayer Ministry encourages the praying of the rosary to deepen one's devotion to and relationship with Jesus through his beloved Mother. sfxrosary@sfxavier.org.

XAVIER YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: Spiritual, service, and social activities for parishioners 20s-30s, and the young in spirit. sfxavier.youngadults@gmail.com.

XAVIER YOUTH MINISTRY: Social, service, and spiritual community for post-confirmation youth through 12th grade. Activities September-June. Contact Alex Zambito at youthministry@sfxavier.org.

ZEN MEDITATION GROUP: Mondays at 7pm. Newcomers welcome. Currently meeting on Zoom. Contact Peggy & Paul at schubertnyc@gmail.com.