



CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
A JESUIT APOSTOLATE

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

*May the Light and Love
of the Christ Child
Brighten your year.*

*With prayers and heartfelt gratitude
for your support of the
Church of St. Francis Xavier!*

Sen Hawley J *Kan Zuhay*
du Marina Diaz *John McKen*
Maryamosseliani
Roselin Vidal
Donnee Pastor *Moriana Hernandez*
Caruige *Cy Koss*

**Parish Office Closed
Thursday, December 26th &
Thursday, January 2nd
One Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 AM**

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 28

5:00pm Vigil: Kenneth Boller, SJ

Sunday, December 29

9:00am Mass: Ben Hawley, SJ

11:30am Mass: Kenneth Boller, SJ

5:00 PM Mass: Ricardo da Silva, 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](https://www.instagram.com/sfxaviernyc).**

A Letter from Xavier Mission

Cassandra Agredo, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Many of you may have noticed that the fridge and cupboard outside the 15th St. entrance are no longer there. We know this may feel sudden and possibly even unkind, especially during winter and the holidays, but this decision was not made lightly.

The Chelsea Fridge was never a program run by Xavier Mission or the church. In 2020, during COVID, local residents proposed opening a mutual-aid community fridge, and we agreed to provide space and the necessary modifications. From the start, the agreement was that community volunteers would operate and maintain the fridge.

For years, a strong network of volunteers managed the fridge, ensuring regular pickups, cleaning, and addressing neighborhood concerns. Over time, this network dwindled, leaving no one to take the lead. Maintenance responsibilities increasingly fell to Xavier Mission's small, part-time staff, whose focus must remain on our primary programs.

Without consistent upkeep, the fridge area became a source of fines for improper garbage disposal and a serious pest problem. This posed a risk to our soup kitchen, food pantry, and the high school cafeteria, which share the space. Despite efforts to re-engage volunteers, the situation worsened, forcing us to close the fridge to protect our existing programs and maintain a safe, hygienic facility.

We regret this deeply but had no other choice. We've shared resources for alternative food programs and assisted guests in finding help. Additionally, we've searched for a new location for several months without success but will continue to look. Community support is critical for finding a site and ensuring its sustainability.

Thank you for understanding. The Chelsea Fridge thrived for four years because of your contributions. If you have questions or wish to help, please contact me at cagredo@xaviermission.org.

With gratitude,
Cassandra
Cassandra Agredo, Executive Director
Xavier Mission

Prayer Requests

Let us especially, remember those who have asked for our prayers
Richard Helm, Michael Jalbert, Sr. Virginia O'Brien, Daniel Tynan, Arthur Samoy.

Pray for the peaceful rest of all our beloved departed parishoners and friends, especially:
Alfredo & Florencia de la Rosa, Ligia Enciso, Glenda & Rolando Landingin, Paul Malone, Carlito Rapado,
Arturo Salinas, Nawal Shalabi, 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.**

THIS WEEK AT XAVIER

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

Parish Office Closed | Thursday, December 26 | One Mass Celebrated at 9:00 AM

COMING SOON

New Year's Day Mass | Wednesday, January 1 | 11:30 AM

Parish Office Closed | Thursday, January 2 | One Mass Celebrated at 9:00 AM

Epiphany | Sunday, January 5

Pastoral Council Coffee Hour | Sunday, January 5 | After the 9:00 AM Mass

Caregiver's Collective Ministry | Sunday, January 12 | After 11:30 AM Mass | West Room

Healing Prayer Ministry | Sunday, January 12 | After the 11:30 AM & 5 PM Masses

Racial Justice Book Read | Monday, January 13 | 7:00 PM | Zoom

Healing Prayer Ministry | Sunday, January 26 | After the 11:30 AM & 5 PM Masses

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



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

Take a break from the holiday rush and join the Young Adults for a relaxed evening of connection and conversation at Another Country! Whether you're new to the Young Adults group or a familiar face, all are welcome to meet new friends and celebrate the season together. We can't wait to see you there!

Stay connected for updates and a sneak peek at all the exciting 2025 events by following us on Instagram at [@xavieryoungadults](https://www.instagram.com/xavieryoungadults).

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.

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.



Creator God's Incarnation

"The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us."
John 1:14

God is here with us. God becoming a human being on Christmas Day 2000 years ago was a wonderful blessing of for us, for humanity. As human beings, we are specially blessed by the Word made flesh.

That he came to us in a lowly stable accompanied by animals is a message about simplicity and humility. The God of all Creation is revealed to us as a baby boy born in a stable with a bright star of the universe announcing his Truth.

Let us rejoice and be glad!

Let us savor God's gift to us.



Let us celebrate and honor all of God's creation with our lives that are blessed by the Most Blessed of all.

May Christ be especially present to you this Season.

The Environment Ministry

Honduras Project Holiday Cards December 21/22

One more chance to purchase! After Masses this weekend, the Honduras Project will be selling holiday cards to fund scholarships for secondary school students in Honduras. For nearly 25 years, Xavier parishioners have sustained this vital mission. The cards feature beautiful artwork by children at Casa Corazón, a home for HIV+ youth. Stop by our table at the back of the church after Mass or donate online via Faith Direct.

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 January 12 and January 26**. Come to the Mary altar space to the left of the main altar after Mass. Our trained Pray-ers look forward to praying with you for physical, emotional, or spiritual healing!

Looking For More Pray-ers for the Healing Prayer Ministry Team

Consider if you are called to become a Pray-er. We currently serve after the 11:30 or 5 PM Masses on selected Sundays. Trained Pray-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.**

Immigrants And Refugees Welcome

St Francis Xavier is looking for volunteers to form a Migrant Ministry. We are a gifted and compassionate parish, and now more than ever our migrant neighbors need our support.

We will not be 'reinventing the wheel' but will tap into organizations already serving migrants and others in need. Our work will reflect our skills: advocacy, prayers, conversation, accompaniment, navigating through bureaucratic forms, trips to the border, and more.

If you are interested in learning more, members of the Parish Council will offer a Zoom briefing on January 22 at 7pm.

Email migrantministry@sfxavier.org

Compelling Opportunity

Are you guided to learn about the situation on the ground? We are looking for just ONE person from St. Francis Xavier to represent our parish at the Jesuit Migration Network summit being held in Texas on February 11-13 at the Del Camino Jesuit Border Ministries outside McAllen. Some of the most important Jesuit minds will be gathering together to learn, network and share information about the realities of migration. Expenses paid. Email migrantministry@sfxavier.org

The Women Who Stayed

Sunday, January 5 | 1:00 PM | West Room

It is the eve of the Epiphany. What does the manifestation of God mean to you? Join a spiritual conversation for women who choose to stay in the Roman Catholic Church.

1st round: Share and speak about the fruits of your personal reflection, without interruption. Listen and take notes, if you wish.

2nd round: Share what you heard in the 1st round that touched your heart and moved you personally. Ask a question, or look for clarification.

3rd round: Freely express what you feel. Notice and share a common idea that is emerging, a consensus, and name it. Gather the graces.

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. BYOCups (cup, utensils, plate, serviette), snacks, and/or beverages. For more information, contact CatholicLesbians@sfxavier.org.

Caregiver’s Collective Ministry

Sunday, January 12 | After 11:30 AM Mass

| West Room

The next meeting of the Caregiver’s Collective Ministry is on Jan 12 after the 11:30 Mass to 1:45 pm. in the West Room. Please join us for sharing and support, coffee and donuts. We look forward to seeing you. For more information, please contact us at msr1@nyu.edu.

Racial Justice Group Read - The False White Gospel by Jim Wallis

Monday, January 13 | 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Chs. 7 & 8 & What’s Next?

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

Spend a Morning with Fr. Kevin O’Brien, SJ

Saturday, February 1 | 10:00 AM

Join us for an inspiring talk by Fr. Kevin O’Brien, SJ, as he discusses his new book, *Seeing with the Heart: A Guide to Navigating Life’s Adventures*. Drawing from personal experiences, the wisdom of St. Ignatius of Loyola, and timeless insights from sages, poets, and storytellers, Fr. O’Brien will guide us in exploring how to navigate life with faith and heart.



For more information or to register, contact ISEL@sfxavier.org or scan the QR code.

Scriptures & Announced Masses

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

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

MONDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT:

MAL 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66.

7:45AM JOSEPHINE DICOSTANZO (D)

12:05 PM RICHARD SCOTT YAEGER (D)

TUESDAY OF THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT:

2 SM 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16; Lk 1:67-79.

4:00PM CHRISTMAS EVE

11:00 PM NO INTENTIONS

WEDNESDAY - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS):

IS 52:7-10; Jn 1:1-18.

9:00AM CHRISTMAS DAY

11:30 PM NO INTENTIONS

THURSDAY - FEAST OF SAINT STEPHEN:

ACTS 6:8-10; 7:54-59; MT 10:17-22.

OFFICE CLOSED

9:00 AM AVAILABLE

FRIDAY - FEAST OF SAINT JOHN:

1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a and 2-8.

7:45AM AVAILABLE

12:05PM VICTORINO PAYAWAL (D)

SATURDAY - FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS:

1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18.

12:05PM ERIK JOHN DIMALANTA (D)

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY
AND JOSEPH:** SIR 3:2-6, 12-14; COL 3:12-21
OR 3:12-17; Lk 2:41-52.

**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. 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.