



CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

A JESUIT APOSTOLATE

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



SECOND COLLECTION
to benefit Parish Maintenance

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 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

Bulletin Cover Artwork: *Christ the Good Shepherd - from the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia* Source: <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=51106>
Artist: Unknown, 5th century

Next Weekend's Presider Schedule

Saturday, December 14

5:00pm Vigil: Kenneth Boller, SJ

Sunday, December 15

9:00am Mass: Ricardo da Silva, SJ

11:30am Mass: Ben Hawley, 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*.**

Reflection from Fr. Ben Hawley, SJ

Our community celebration of World AIDS Day last Monday evening reminded many of those present of a great existential question: Why me? Why was I spared when so many I knew and loved died? Why me? when so many fall prey to HIV/AIDS today around the world?

This great question - Why me? – can confront us in any of a number of circumstances: a serious diagnosis, a job terminated, a significant relationship ended, a home destroyed by fire or storm. The question comes to us either as one spared or as one affected.

There is no answer to the question. What has happened is a brute fact that withstands rational explanation. We are left with the choice of falling into cynicism (“Why me? I am always the victim!”) or rage (“Why this? It must be their fault!” whoever “they” may be). Or we might embrace a deeper humility before God and cry “Help!!”

When crisis strikes, our Catholic faith encourages us to cry “Help!!”, to find a way, difficult as it is, to accept the situation for what it is: “I am powerless in this situation.” From that admission we can then reaffirm our belief that a power greater than ourselves can restore us to sanity; and then we can decide to turn our lives over to the care and concern of God. Our hope is that God will help make a way out of no-way. Our trust is that the Crucified Jesus will help us through this suffering to find him Risen in our lives as we find a way forward toward our own rising.

With so much turmoil in our world, we might in this Advent season desire yet more deeply Jesus’ coming into the turmoil. We might quote with renewed fervor the final lines of the Book of Revelation: “Come, Lord Jesus!”

Jesus is here. The Kingdom is here, but not yet. In this Advent season we might pledge to help make the Kingdom visibly present in our words, our deeds, and our prayers.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Since December 8 is a Sunday this year, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday, December 9. Since it is the titular patron of the United States, the Bishops Conference has declared it a holyday of obligation. We will have masses at 7:45 a.m. in the Mary Chapel, 12:05 p.m. in the Main Church and 6:30 p.m. in the Student Chapel of Xavier High School. Please enter at 30 W. 16 St.

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 del la Rosa, 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 Landingin, Rolando Landingin, Paul Malone, Joseph Murray, Virginia Victoria Navarro, Amor Panlasigu, Bob Philipps, Carlito Rapado, Thomas Rocha, Dolores Root, Brendan Sexton, Nawal Shalabi, Robert Sloan, Rick Sotomayer, Sarah Anne and John Vega, Jason Vermonty.

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

Caregiver's Collective Ministry | Sunday, December 8 | After the 11:30 AM Mass | West Room

Healing Prayer Ministry | Sunday, December 8 | After the 11:30 AM & 5 PM Masses

Young Adults Wine & Cheese Social | Sunday, December 8 | 6:00 PM | Back of the Church

Feast of Immaculate Conception Masses | Monday, December 9 | 7:45 AM, 12:05 PM, 6:30 PM

Catholic Lesbians Christmas Wrapping Party | Friday, December 13 | 6:00 PM | Hurtado Hall

COMING SOON

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

Young Adult 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

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

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

Annual Census Drive

This weekend we will be conducting Xavier's census of the parish at every Mass using cards and pencils that will be distributed in our pews. Sponsored annually by the Pastoral Council, the census helps us gain an understanding of the makeup of our parish community.

We ask that everyone attending Xavier whether you are a parishioner or not to complete the census. You need only participate in the census once each year. Results from the census will be shared with the parish in early 2025.

If you attend Xavier virtually via our livestream - or if you prefer to complete the census at home for any reason - you can participate electronically by visiting this link (<https://forms.gle/t6pnMVXiBaRaffev8>) or by using your phone to scan the QR code below.

This is also the time of year when we encourage everyone who attends Xavier to make sure that they are registered members of the parish, and to consider registering as a parishioner if you are not a member. After each Mass, members of the Pastoral Council will be available to check your registration status and offer information about how you can become a registered member. You may also email the Pastoral Council to check your registration status (pastoralcouncil@sfxavier.org).



LESSONS AND CAROLS BREATH OF HEAVEN THE PORTAL TO JESUS

Breath of Heaven: A Feast of Contemporary Lessons and Carols
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!

Call for Christmas Cookie Bakers!

Calling all bakers! We need 30 volunteers to bake 2 dozen cookies or treats for our Lessons and Carols: Breath of Heaven program on Dec. 15. Enjoy your goodies alongside beautiful carols like "Angels We Have Heard on High." To help, email John Uehlein at juehlein@sfxavier.org or call 646-573-0099. Start softening up the butter!!!!



Advent: We Wait for God & God Is Waiting for Us

The holiday season is here – the Christmas tree is up at Rockefeller Center and the holiday booths are installed at Bryant Park, Grand Central and Union Square. And we celebrated gratitude and survived Black Friday bargain shopping.

Now it's time to prepare our hearts.

And to keep it simple as we draw closer to our Creator God and Redeemer Son...and the joy of his incarnation into our messy world.

It's a time to discern if we are on the right path...the Jesus path.

We simplify by buying less, regifting, making things, giving away no-longer used items. And asking: Do I really need more? Can someone else benefit from it?

We check environmental concerns when purchasing – is it plastic? Was it produced with Fair Trade? Can it be used more than once? Am I participating in the throw-away culture?

We wrap our gifts in love using creative ways avoiding paper and ribbon that is not recyclable.

We compost or give away our leftovers, even when tired, and even when we have guests.

And we think of experiences that we can share
With those we love, With those who have less,
And with the Child Redeemer in the manger.

Caregiver's Collective Ministry Sunday, December 8 | After 11:30 AM Mass | West Room

Join us for our next meeting. 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.

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.

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 8 and 15**. 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.**

Young Adult December Events

Sunday, December 8

Wine & Cheese Social | 6:00 PM | Back of the Church

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.

Hark!: The Story Behind Our Most Beloved Christmas Carols

Tuesday, December 10 | 1:00 PM
St. Ignatius Loyola

Christmas Carols have a centuries-old tradition. Beginning around the first century, music began to be written celebrating Christmas and the Nativity. But, did you know that not all Christmas Carols began as sacred music. Some Christmas Carols have their origins in pagan songs celebrating the Winter Solstice and medieval drinking songs sung in taverns.

Come and join Circle of Friends at St. Ignatius Loyola on Tuesday, December 10 at 1:00 p.m in Wallace Hall for “Cookies & Carols” and explore the origins and backstories of some of our favorite Christmas Carols with Father Ricardo da Silva, S.J. and SIL Music Director Scott Warren
Registration is required. RSVP at silcircleoffriends@gmail.com.

Catholic Lesbians & Friends— All Are Welcome! 22nd Annual Christmas Wrapping Party

Friday, December 13 | 6:00 PM
Hurtado Hall

Make a child smile on Christmas Day! E-mail SFXWrap@gmail.com for the name and age of one (or more) from STEPS to End Family Violence, Project Hospitality, Life Experience & Faith Sharing, or Community Voices Heard. Bring your brand-new gift (up to \$25), wrap it with friends, and partake of pizza, homebaked cookies, and beverages. Ho! Ho! Ho!



The Gift of Presence: The Heart of the Holidays

As the holiday season unfolds, it's easy to feel consumed by the pressure of the season — buy the perfect gifts, hang the ideal decorations, plan the best parties. But Emma*, one of our guests, reminds us of what truly matters:

“I’ve had some friends for over 45 years. One thing I want people to know about me is I care and I try my best to be a good friend. I just want people in my life to know that I appreciate them and would like to help them when I can.”

Her words speak to a truth we often overlook: while material gifts have their place, what most people deeply desire is to feel seen, valued, and surrounded by those who care for them. A heartfelt conversation, a shared meal, or a simple moment of kindness can mean more than any present from 5th Avenue wrapped in ribbon.

At Xavier Mission, we see this truth every day. Your support ensures that no one feels forgotten and that the holidays remain a time of warmth, togetherness, and hope. This December, let us challenge the narrative that abundance is measured by what we buy, hang, and plan. Instead, let’s embrace a spirit of giving that focuses on our shared humanity—a generosity that fills hearts, instead of shopping bags.

*Name changed to protect identity.



Scriptures & Announced Masses

Ongoing Parish Happenings

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

BAR 5:1-9; PHIL 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6.

MONDAY - SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:
GN 3:9-15, 20; Lk 1:26-38.

7:45AM IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
12:05 PM NO INTENTIONS

TUESDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT:
Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14.

7:45AM JOHN A. MANGINELLI (D)
12:05 PM LEO + ANTOINETTE BUORNGIORNO (D)

WEDNESDAY OF THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30.

7:45AM AVAILABLE
12:05 PM DANIEL FEGO (D)

THURSDAY - FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE: ZEC 2:14-17; LK 1:26-38.

7:45AM AVAILABLE
12:05PM CAROL FARLEY (D)

FRIDAY - MEMORIAL OF SAINT LUCY: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19.

7:45AM AVAILABLE
12:05PM SAM RAMOS (L)

SATURDAY - MEMORIAL OF SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13.

12:05PM EUSEBIA MARZAN ALICEA (D)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

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

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.