



CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

A JESUIT APOSTOLATE

West 16th Street, NYC • Phone: 212-627-2100 • Fax: 212-675-6997

Mailing Address: 55 West 15th Street, New York, NY 10011-6801

(Wheelchair Accessible 55 West 15th Street - All Masses are Handicapped Accessible)

E-Mail Address: StFrancisXavier@sfxavier.org • Website: www.sfxavier.org



Learn from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work or spin. But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was clothed like one of them. If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith?(Matt 6:30-32)

SECOND COLLECTION
to benefit the Music Ministry

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 26, 2017

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 Handicapped 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

Rev. Robert VerEecke, S.J. (Pastor) — 204

Email: RVerееcke@sfxavier.org

Cassandra Agredo (Executive Dir. Xavier Mission) — 208

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

Stephanie Fuentes (Assistant to the Pastor) — 222

Moraima Hernandez (Plant Manager) - 201

James Martinez (Dir. of Stewardship and
Assistant for Financial Planning) - 205

Gregory Timmes (Assistant Dir. of Business) - 201

Damely Tineo (Dir. of Business) - 221

Rev. Sean Toole, S.J. (Associate Pastor) - 206
Receptionist — 201

John Uehlein (Dir. of Music Ministries) — 202

Pastoral Council

Jack Schmitt (Chair); Adel O'Regan (Vice-Chair);
Deborah Olley Murphy (Secretary); Stephen Alfieri;
Kathleen Cagnina; John Karle;

Bob Lepisko; Charles Mileski;

Catherine O'Hagan Wolfe; David Pais

PastoralCouncil@sfxavier.org

Mission Statement

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.



OFFICE HOURS

Weekdays: 10:00 am to 7:30 pm

Saturday: 11:30 am to 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am to 6:00 pm

NOTE: for Bulletin Notices and Space Requests send
e-mails to sfuentes@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 mini-
mum of six months before qualifying for a
sponsor letter to be verified as a parishioner.**

Next Weekend Presider Schedule

Saturday, March 1st

5:00pm Mass(Vigil): *Rev. Robert VerEecke, SJ*

Sunday, March 2nd

9:00am Mass: *Rev. Sean Toole, SJ*

11:30am Mass: *Rev. James Miracky, SJ*

5:00pm Mass: *Rev. Robert VerEecke, SJ*

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

*June Best, Antonio Bird, John Bucki SJ, Philip Brassel,
Alex Campbell, Carol Davis, Charmaine Diehl,
Ellie DiLiberto, Margaret English, Joaquin Gager,
Victor Gaston, Monsignor Neil Graham, Marian Lizzio,
Albert Longo, Greg Lugliani, Lou Mauro SJ, Steven Mays,
Kay Mazzo, John McCarthy, Ron Miller, Nicole Minson,
Marisol Miro, Kathy Mulvaney, Leticia Mutuc,
Lillian May Reilly Palmer, Campbell Phillips, Jim Reidy,
William Reilly, Vivian Roth, Bert Sisco, Rocco Scura,
Alice Sharkey, Amando Solero, Loretta Tommasulo,
Gregory Turner, Rita Velez, Carl Wassmann*

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

*Joan Argiro, Eleanor Bibbo, Christopher Connolly,
Eileen DeBernardis, Anne Legano, Lino T. Macaraeg,
Leonard Perroots, Veronica Reeder*

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.**

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

Well, Lent is “just around the corner”. Yes, Ash Wednesday is this coming Wednesday. It’s been good to have almost two full months of ordinary time to take a few deep breaths after the Christmas Season. It has also given us the opportunity to hear the Sermon on the Mount and reflect on our own life priorities. But now that Lent is “just around the corner” we are invited into a time of reflection, self-searching and listening to the voice of God who speaks to us through Jesus and through the “other”. As I said last week, the theme for Lent that came out strongly through our parish reflection session “Looking towards Lent” was “listening to the voice of the “other”. As one person said, “The other and us are one”. Or as someone else said “ Can Lent be a time of fasting from “us vs. them”? I hope we can listen closely to the “voice of Jesus” during this Lenten season to discern the best ways to be his disciples and friends and communicate a message of hope, especially to those who experience themselves as the “other”. Lent is always an invitation for a “change of heart”, a conversion. Perhaps that transformation is “just around the corner”!

I am grateful that some of you have responded to my invitation to read together, Amy Jill Levine’s *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus*. I’ve begun reading it again and it’s really a wonderful read. Our Jewish brothers and sisters have been regarded as “other” for centuries. The Gospels and their interpretations have contributed to this alienation from a people with whom we share an inheritance. I do hope that more of you will be able to join the conversation. For the first session on March 4th we will be reading the Introduction and first two chapters.

If you are here for the 11:30 liturgy this weekend, you will hear a song whose lyrics I wrote on my 8 Day retreat while reading Pope Francis’s Encyclical “Laudato Si”. The music was composed by Paul Melley a dear friend with whom I have collaborated before. I want to thank John Uehlein and the choir for performing the work on this Sunday when Jesus speaks about the beauty of creation and God’s care for this world.

Another friend from Boston has been joking with me since I arrived in NY because I’m always saying things like “Such and such restaurant is “just around the corner”. It seems like everything here is “just around the corner” ☺I hope and pray that this Lenten season will give us all the opportunity to “turn the corner” and deepen our relationship with God and with each “other”.

Sincerely,

Fr. Bob

THE LITURGICAL MINISTRY

The Church of St. Francis Xavier offers different opportunities for adults, young adults, adolescents, and children to participate actively in our parish life. One of these opportunities is as liturgical minister at each Mass. At the moment we need women willing to serve as Eucharist ministers. We also need men and women ministers of hospitality at every Mass.

For more information on these ministries, please visit our website <https://sfxavier.org/liturgical-ministries>. If you are interested, please fill out the form found on the webpage and you will be contacted immediately for an informational meeting.



RISE UP

A LENTEN CALL TO SOLIDARITY

This Lent, ISN will offer an online reflection series entitled “Rise Up! A Lenten Call to Solidarity.” From Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday, we will offer a daily reflection exploring response to injustice through the lens of daily readings and Ignatian spirituality.

Uniting voices engaged in work for racial equality, criminal justice reform, alleviation of poverty, and environmental justice, we seek to understand one another’s stories, to individually and collectively rise up to engage in the work of building a more just and peaceful world.

LENTEN SERIES WRITERS INCLUDE:

Fr. Greg Boyle, S.J., founder and director, Homeboy Industries

Sr. Norma Pimentel, M.J., executive director, Catholic Charities, Rio Grande Valley

Fr. Gregory Chisholm, S.J., pastor, St. Charles Borromeo in Harlem

Sr. Simone Campbell, S.S.S., executive director, NETWORK

Kristen Trudo, community engagement coordinator, La Salle Middle School

Fr. Fred Kammer, S.J., executive director, Jesuit Social Research Institute at Loyola University New Orleans
Giulia McPherson, director of advocacy and operations, Jesuit Refugee Service USA

For more information and to subscribe to daily reflections visit www.ignatiansolidarity.net

XAVIER BIBLE STUDY



Miriam ©Laura James

**WOMEN’S POWER
 IN THE BIBLE**
*Where is it?
 What is it?
 How is it co-opted?*

And how can we grow in our connection to it? Wednesday evenings throughout the Lent and Easter Seasons, **beginning March 8th**, join us for lecture, discussion and faith-sharing as we encounter women’s power in the Bible and see where it takes us. All women and men of the parish are welcome to attend.

To register contact XavierBibleStudy@gmail.com, call Parish Offices at 212-627-2100, or see the parish website under “Faith Formation” and “Bible Study”.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

We are grateful to all those who use their offertory envelopes to support our parish. We currently mail envelopes to 1,384 families. A recent review of our envelope giving found that only 421 families used an envelope at least once over the last two years. Therefore we have decided to stop mailing envelopes to the 963 families who did not use their envelopes. This change will start with the mailing of the March envelopes. Not only will this save us approximately \$5,000 annually in printing and postage costs but it will ease our impact on the environment by using less paper. If you have any questions please contact *Stephanie Fuentes* in the parish office.

“Old age has its own merits, its own magic, its own wisdom, its own sorrow.”

Hermann Hesse, *The Seasons of the Soul*

CONSCIOUS AGING/AGING WITH MEANING, a once-per-week group discussion for older adults, will meet for seven weeks.

It is an opportunity to develop an awareness of one’s later years as a time of special consciousness and spiritual opportunity.

If interested, call *Dolores D’Agostino* at **212-732-3091**.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY PROJECT (ISP)

ISP offers Ignatian Retreats for people who have experienced homelessness and addiction.

ISP cares for the spiritual lives of the poor through overnight retreats for men and women who are homeless and in recovery from addiction. ISP's programs encourage:

- Reflection – finding my story as a place of God's grace
- Reconciliation – healing of past wounds and connection to community
- Transformation – moving from self-hate to love; isolation to engagement

Hear from:

- Tom Drexler, Executive Director
- Christine Curran, Director of Programs
- Wayne Richard, former ISP retreatant and current Board Member

You are invited to join us to learn more about this Jesuit ministry

**Sunday March 12th
1:00-2:30pm**

**Kennan-Commons Auditorium
Xavier High School
31 West 15th Street
New York, NY 10011**

CO-SPONSORS:

IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY PROJECT

USA NORTHEAST JESUIT PROVINCE

Nick Napolitano: nnapolitano@jesuits.org

Address: 1641 South Allport St., Chicago, IL 60608

XAVIER PARISH PEACE AND JUSTICE

Christine Curran, Director of Programs

Tracey Tynan: Xavierpeaceandjustice@gmail.com

Christine@ispretreats.org

ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA PARISH

Website: <http://www.ignatianspiritualityproject.org>

Pattie Hughes: Pattiehughes110@gmail.com

AN AFTERNOON AT THE XAVIER SALON

Sunday February 26th at 2:30pm in the Church

*Refreshments and conversation to follow
in the Mary Chapel*

MUSIC MINISTRY 2ND COLLECTION

Let it not be forgotten how grateful we are for the growth and grace of the Family Faith Choir under the direction of Jacqueline C. Perez. This choir has grown in grace and beauty over the last ten years with various directors. The choir can be heard on the first Sunday of the Month Family Masses as well as at Lessons and Carols. We look forward to its continued growth made possible through your generous support.

John Uehlein, Director of Music Ministries

SFX Parish "NICE ON THE ICE"

The parish is organizing a "Nice on the Ice!" for Tuesday evening **March 7th** at the **Wintergarden at Brookfield Place**. Thanks to the generosity of one of our parishioners we are using this evening as a community building- fundraising event for all parishioners, friends and families. The Rink will be reserved from **6:00pm to 8:30pm** and skates will be provided. There are also possibilities for lessons.

We ask for a contribution of \$25 for adults and \$10 for children. (\$25 for lessons) All contributions will go to support parish activities. Please contact *Stephanie Fuentes* at sfuentes@sfxavier.org if you are interested in joining the fun.

The Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal 2017

The archdiocesan goal for the *2017 Appeal* is \$20 million. Our individual parish goal is **\$100,500.00**. You can pledge online at www.cardinalsappeal.org. If you need time to think about your gift, you will be given an opportunity to make your pledge during Mass on Commitment Weekend on March 18/19. Thank you so much for your support of the Appeal and please pray for its success at our parish.



“Out of darkness the light shall shine.”

A Lenten Retreat at Xavier

Opening: Sunday, March 5, 1:30pm
Closing: Saturday April 8, 10:00am

This Lent, find peace in your life in a personal retreat.

Spend time each day with suggested Lenten scripture and seasonal readings.

Meet one-on-one with a Spiritual Director for 5 weeks to explore and deepen your Lenten experience.

Spiritual Direction will be offered on Wednesday evenings or other times scheduled with your director.

Suggested donation is \$50.

Please apply by Ash Wednesday, March 1.
Space is limited.

Applications are available by email and at reception or church entrance.

Please return to reception at 55 West 15th St. or by email. mariebannister1@gmail.com. Questions? Call 917.301. 2426

A PARISH “READ” FOR THE LENTEN SEASON

The Misunderstood Jew: The Scandal of the Church and the Jewish Jesus

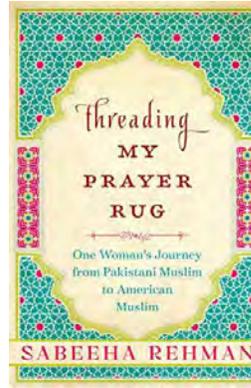
A conversation on the scholarly work of Amy Jill Levine. March 5, 12, 19 from 10:15-11:15am in the Mary Chapel facilitated by Fr. Bob.

The book is available on Kindle for \$9.99. Please let Fr Bob know if you are interested in attending.
rverecke@sfxavier.org

If you are unable to gather on Sunday mornings, we can arrange other times for conversation.

BOOK READING, DISCUSSION AND Q&A

Followed by book signing



Tuesday, February 28th

6:00 pm

**Fernandez-Duminuco Hall
Keenan Commons
31 West 15th Street~3rd Floor**

One of Booklist's Top Ten Religion and Spirituality Books of 2016. Books will be available for purchase.

A Closer Walk with Jesus presents . . .
SAYYDAH GARRETT, Pastoralist Child Foundation
Friday, March 3rd~7:00 p.m., Mary Chapel

SayyDAH Garrett founded Pastoralist Child Foundation in 2012 while on Safari in Kenya. The charity works at the grassroots level to eradicate female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage in Samburu and Maasai Mara counties and provides scholarships for girls to attend secondary boarding schools, giving them a chance to fulfill their dreams of a better life for their families and, ultimately, for their communities. SayyDAH is a true global citizen, having traveled to twenty-five countries, and enjoys learning languages and meeting people from all over the world. Her personal mission statement is “Tell me what you want, and I’ll help you get it.”

Cosponsored by
It Was the Women Who Stayed & Catholic Lesbians

For more information, contact
ACloserWalkJesus@aol.com or (917) 297-6804.

WALKING RETREAT PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA AND SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

May 1st to 12th
Spiritual guide: Fr. Joseph Weiss, SJ

For more information please contact
angiecruzphd@gmail.com or call 917-607-0937.

Scriptures & Announced Masses

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME:
Isa 49:14-15; 1 Cor 4:1-5; Matt 6:24-34.

EIGHTH MONDAY IN ORDINARY TIME:
Sir 17:20-24; Mark 10:17-27.

7:45AM NORBERT CORCORAN TREACY (D)
12:05PM WILLIAM KOSS, SR. (D)

EIGHTH TUESDAY IN ORDINARY TIME:
Sir 35:1-12; Mark 10:28-31.

7:45AM LINO MACARAEG (D)
12:05PM MICHAEL OETTING (D)

ASH WEDNESDAY: Joel 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2;
Matt 6:1-6, 16-18.

7:45AM CAROL DAVIS (D)
12:05PM DOMENIC CALVE (D)

THURSDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY:
Deut 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25.

7:45AM EDNA McBRIDE (D)
12:05PM ARTHUR ZINGARO (D)

FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY:
Isa 58:1-9a; Matt 9:14-15.

7:45AM STEPHEN GRISTINA (D)
12:05PM JOSEPH ELWOOD (D)

SATURDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY:
Isa 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32.

12:05PM FREDERICK SAHLSTROM (D)

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Rom 5:12-19; Matt 4:1-46.

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

IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY: ONLINE RESOURCES

To prepare for Lent, check out these links. You'll find prayers and meditation, guides to online retreats, and more. In some cases, you can even sign up for emails delivered right to your inbox!

<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>

<http://www.loyolapress.com/>

<http://www.ignatianspirituality.com/ignatian-prayer/prayer-online/>

Ongoing Parish Happenings

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

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

BAGA: A parish youth group (for teens) that meets monthly to promote peace and justice by performing corporal works of mercy. Contact b.a.good.apostle@gmail.com

CATHOLIC LESBIANS: Ministry since 1993, meets Friday, 6 p.m., West Room, SEXWomen@aol.com.

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT GROUP:
Contact Katherine Cleary, krcoff5th@netzero.com

FAMILY FAITH: Catechetical ministry for parents/guardians and children pre-K through 12th grade. Meets Sundays 10:00am, Mary Chapel. Contact Luz, LMDiaz@sfxavier.org

GAY CATHOLICS: Men meet in a caring and affirming environment on the first and third Fridays, 7pm Mary Chapel. Contact sfxggroup@gmail.com

INTERFAITH COMMITTEE: works toward ending religious discrimination and persecution, through prayer, education and other activities. Contact Jose Ramon, joseramonperezlopez@gmail.com

SFX WOMEN: We continue to stay to address the specific concerns of women in the church. Xavier women are invited to join our ministry. Contact thewomenwhostayed@gmail.com

LITURGICAL COMMITTEES: See website or Contact Luz, LMDiaz@sfxavier.org

MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND: To become a volunteer or arrange visits, Contact James Fox, sumiko120@nyc.rr.com, (212) 427-5070

PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE:
Examines root causes of injustice and works towards a more just and sustainable world. Contact Tracey Tynan at xavierpeaceandjustice@gmail.com.

SPIRITUAL MINISTRIES: Offers spiritual programs, including spiritual direction. Contact Rose Alloca, allocarose@gmail.com or Marie Bannister, mariebannister1@gmail.com.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: Spiritual, Service, and Social Activities for Xavier's 20's-30's. Meets every 2nd Sunday of the month after the 5pm Young Adult's Mass, in the West Room. Contact sfxavier.youngadults@gmail.com

ZEN MEDITATION GROUP: Mondays at 7pm. Newcomers welcome. Contact Peggy & Paul 212-260-2486, schubertnyc@gmail.com

XAVIER MISSION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

CLOTHING ROOM: 2nd & 4th Sundays, contact Ann Mary: xmClothingRoom@gmail.com

FOOD PROGRAMS: Every Sunday soup kitchen and 2nd Saturday food pantry, contact Christine: xmFoodPrograms@gmail.com

L-STEP: Spring and Fall semesters, contact J: xmLSTEP@gmail.com

SHELTER: Every night, contact Jim: xmShelter@gmail.com