



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



The one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit dwelling in you. (Rom 8:11)

SPECIAL COLLECTION
to benefit the Thrive for Life Prison Project

Fifth Sunday of Lent

April 2, 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, April 8th

5:00pm Mass(Vigil): *Rev. Sean Toole, SJ*

Sunday, April 9th

9:00am Mass: *Rev. Robert VerEecke, SJ*

11:30am Mass: *Rev. Robert VerEecke, SJ*

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

*Maria Antonia Araujo, June Best, Antonio Bird,
John Bucki SJ, Philip Brassel, Alex Campbell, Normita Crystal,
Carol Davis, Florence Demopoulis, Charmaine Diehl,
Ellie DiLiberto, Margaret English, Joaquin Gager,
Victor Gaston, Monsignor Neil Graham,
Fr. Thomas Kallumady, Robert Lapides, June LeBell,
Molly Mae LeBlanc, Marian Lizzio, Albert Longo, Greg
Lugliani, Lou Mauro SJ, 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, Dr. Michael Silane,
Bert Sisco, Rocco Scura, Alice Sharkey, Amando Solero,
Sal Talarico, 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,
Anne Legano, Angel Madrid, Decio Di Nola,
Leonard Perroots*

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,

I just returned from spending a few days in Boston where I was teaching two classes at Boston College as Visiting Jesuit Artist. I also had time to visit friends and my former parish. It was a very grace-filled time for me but something happened that was very unexpected. While I was there I was told that a friend and long-time parishioner was very close to death. Her name is Jean and I have known her and her son for more than 25 years, Jean is a person with a heart of gold and a grand spirit. Although life had its challenges, she always gave completely of herself and did whatever she could for anyone who needed her. My visit to her in the hospital was unexpected for both of us. She said to me, "Bob, I never thought I would see you again!" We prayed together and I anointed her and said "Au revoir! A la prochaine!" knowing that we would not see each other again in this life. (Jean had her master's degree in French and we would often communicate in that language)

I was thinking how timely this visit to a friend who does not have much longer to live was, given the scriptures of the 5th Sunday of Lent. They are, of course, about friendship, loss, death and the promise of Resurrection. As I thought about Jean's words to me, I couldn't help thinking of the song "You've Got a Friend" that James Taylor made famous years ago. "You just call out my name and you know wherever I am I'll come running, to see you again. Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall, all you have to do is call and I'll be there. Yes, I will. You've got a friend." The story of the "Raising of Lazarus" is "cosmic", manifesting Jesus' trust in God to raise Lazarus and bring him back to life. It is also confessional in Martha's recognition of Jesus as the Christ, the Messiah. On another level, however, it is simply about love and friendship. Jesus calls the name of his dear friend, Lazarus and God restores him to life, to his family to his friendship with Jesus. Yes, Lazarus will die as all do but for the moment he is living in the embrace of those who love him.

As we hear this powerful Gospel this weekend, I'd invite you to think about and pray in gratitude for the friends who embrace you with their love, their care, who "just call out your name". And remember that Jesus desires to share this friendship with you and "he'll come running" Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall, all you have to do is call and he'll be there, Yes, he will. You've got a friend!

Blessings!

Fr. Bob

COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

The parish is looking for people who work with social media, websites and other areas of communication to come together and look at our use of media and help us to improve communications with our parishioners and others. If you have the skill and the interest, please contact *Stephanie Fuentes* at sfuentes@sfxavier.org

THE CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL 2017

Thank you for all of your pledges. You can still pledge online at www.cardinalsappeal.org towards our parish goal of \$100,500. Please consider making a pledge. Thank you so much for your support of the Appeal and please pray for its success at our parish.

WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS! DANCED EVENING PRAYER FOR HOLY WEEK

Fr Bob is looking for parishioners who learned *God Beyond All Names* during his dance workshops to participate in the danced evening prayer on April 12th. There will be two rehearsals: April 8th from 1:30- 2:30 in the Xavier Keenan Commons. And April 12th in the church at 6PM before the service which begins at 7:30. For a refresher before the rehearsals go to blde.org and scroll down to Evening Prayer Service. *God Beyond All Names* is 17 mins. into the service. Please let Fr Bob know if you are interested in participating rverecke@sfxavier.org



Thrive for Life Prison Project Inc. was founded by **Zach Presutti, SJ** of the USA Northeast Province of the Society of Jesus. Thrive for Life offers spiritual and educational services and resources to incarcerated and formerly incarcerated men and women. Thrive for Life is comprised of two programs: CONTEMPLATION and ACTION.

CONTEMPLATION is a retreat program rooted in Ignatian spirituality that invites participants into an encounter with God's loving presence through the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits. What are the Spiritual Exercises? To paraphrase St. Ignatius, "By the term Spiritual Exercises is meant every method of examination of conscience, of meditation, of contemplation, of vocal and mental prayer, and of other spiritual activities... For just as taking a walk, journeying on foot, and running are bodily exercises, so we call Spiritual Exercises every way of getting ride of our skewed thoughts, feelings, and behaviors, and then once they are gone, to seek out and find what God is inviting us to in our life that will lead to the ultimate goal of being the loving and generous person we are created to be." The Spiritual Exercises are offered in six (6) correctional facilities in the metropolitan New York area.

ACTION is life skills programming for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals. ACTION provides education knowledge to adult learners preparing to reenter the community. ACTION provides books for three libraries in the New York City Department of Corrections.

Like us on Facebook at **Thrive for Life Prison Project** (@thriveforlifeny) and Follow us on Twitter @thriveforlifeny. For more information, access our website at www.thriveforlife.org or contact Zach Presutti, SJ at zpresutti@thriveforlife.org

There will be a second collection for the Thrive for Life Prison Project on Saturday, April 1st and Sunday, April 2nd at all Masses.

A FORUM ON DEVELOPMENTS IN IMMIGRATION POLICY UNDER THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION

This joint project by the Church of St. Francis Xavier and the Migrant Center at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi aims to inform the audience on the present developments on US immigration policy.

The presenters are immigration lawyers of the Center and other experts on immigration policy. The first presentation will be a brief summary of immigration laws and the need for reform. The second presenter will focus on the Executive Orders relating to immigration, specifically the ones signed on January 25 and March 6, 2017. The last speaker will speak on the legal assistance and advocacy work of the Migrant Center

Date & Time: Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at 6:00 pm

Venue: Keenan Commons at Xavier High School

For more information and to register:
sfuentes@sfxavier.org

Auction time! *The Honduras Companion Community Project* is trying out an online auction! First up for bids are premium Mets tickets! All proceeds go to helping a young girl attend medical school. The auction runs from 3/19-4/2. Here's the address of the auction. <https://www.32auctions.com/HCCP2017> Happy Bidding and thanks for your continued support.

A Closer Walk with Jesus & Catholic Lesbians present

MARTHA HENNESSY

Dorothy Day's Granddaughter

Friday, April 7th

6:00 pm–9:00 pm~West Room

Dorothy Day was an activist who worked for such social causes as pacifism and women's suffrage through the prism of the Catholic church. Hear about her from the perspective of one of her grandchildren, Martha Hennessy, whose sister's Kate book, *The World Will Be Saved by Beauty*, was just released. The first thirty minutes will be to socialize and settle in and then we'll get started. Bring a beverage and/or snack to share, and contact ACloserWalkJesus@aol.com, SFXWomen@aol.com or (917) 297-6804 for more information.



The Metro NY Catholic Climate Movement invites you to join us on our bus for the

**PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH
IN WASHINGTON, D. C.,
SATURDAY, APRIL 29TH**

If you share our concern for *the climate *the environment *global warming *the food we eat *the air we breathe *the water we drink and that sustains life on the planet *how vulnerable low-income communities are dealing with climate change already *the future of our children and grandchildren

If you share Pope Francis' concern for care of the earth and care of the poor.....
Come on board!! Get on the bus!!

We will leave from 9th Ave. between 59th and 60th St. in front of St. Paul the Apostle Church near Columbus Circle. Departure time 5:45 am, and we will leave D.C. at 4 pm to be back in the city at 8:30 pm. We will form a Catholic section within the People of Faith contingent of the march.

Cost of a ticket is \$45. Discounted tickets for low-income individuals are available on a limited basis contingent on donations. Please contact *Nancy Lorence* at n.lorence2013@gmail.com if you would like to reserve a seat on the bus.

**Please join your Peace and Justice Committee for
the 35th ANNUAL PAX CHRISTI
METRO NEW YORK**

"Way of the Cross" ... Way to Peace

**April 14th, 2017
47th Street at First Ave.
8:30 AM**

Join with hundreds of people in the largest public Christian peace witness in New York City. The Good Friday Way of the Cross is a modern-day enactment of the Stations of the Cross, praying for peace and justice on the streets of our city. This year reflect with us on the many ways "Jesus Calls Us to Active Nonviolence." The Walk will take place from 8:30 AM to 12:00 noon on Good Friday, April 14th. We begin at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza (47th Street at First Avenue) and proceed along 42nd Street to between Eighth and Ninth Avenues.

***You are invited to join
THE WOMEN'S CIRCLE...***

For all women interested in "feeding their spirit" and deepening their spiritual journey by sharing their lived wisdom.



Our next monthly gathering is on
Friday, April 21st 7pm-9pm
**In the Arrupe Library at Xavier High School
the 4th floor at 30 West 16th Street**

Any questions, please contact
Gloria at gperopat@gmail.com

A retreat conducted by Rev. Sean Toole, SJ

Saturday, April 8, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Church of Saint Mark the Evangelist
65 West 138 St.
(2 or 3 train to 135 St. and Lenox Ave.)

Bring a meal to share
RSVP Greg, gguiteras@msn.com

Join us as Dr. Paul Pearson, Thomas Merton scholar, explores Thomas Merton's journey from cloistered to activist monk who put himself in the stampede's path to deepen his roots in social justice. **Saturday, April 22, 2:00-4:00pm.** \$20; free for students & members of Thomas Merton NYC. Corpus Christi Church, 529 W. 121st Street. #1 subway to 116th Street; M4 or M104 buses. <http://www.thomasmertonnyc.org/saturday-april-22>

WANTED: A FEW GOOD WOMEN OR MEN

We have an urgent need for persons who would be willing/able to bring Communion to some of our 300+ Catholic patients at Mount Sinai Hospital. The commitment would involve between 1 ½ and 2 hours one day a week on a day of your choice. We are also in need of persons who might be available to "sub" over the summer when our "regulas" are away. If you are not currently a Eucharistic Minister, we will provide training. If you are interested or for more information, please contact Sr. Nadine at nadine.koza@mountsinai.org.

From the Desk of James Martinez

2nd Quarter Stewardship News

Thank you to all of you who have given so much of your time, talent, and treasure to support Xavier throughout the year. It is only through your gifts can we make a difference in the lives of those we serve. During the 2nd quarter we received donations and bequests totaling \$340,000. This included a generous restricted donation of \$150,000. The donor was especially moved by Xavier's history in welcoming and loving our LGBT sisters and brothers. The donor has requested that \$100,000 be dedicated to the support of our various parish ministries, with specific allocations made at the discretion of the pastor. The remaining \$50,000 is to the victims of the Orlando tragedy. Xavier will direct this portion of the gift to affected families, through reliable charities, in the name of our parish. Additionally, we received a bequest of \$133,000 from the estate of a long time parishioner who passed away last year. We are grateful that he included Xavier in his estate planning. Please consider naming Xavier as a beneficiary in your estate planning. Please contact me for more information.

I'm pleased to report that we are currently operating at a \$353,461 surplus compared to a budgeted deficit of \$30,712 for the first six months of this fiscal year ending February 28, 2017. The favorable results are due primarily to the donations & bequests discussed above. We also had increased Sunday Collections and wedding & rental income, together with decreased insurance, maintenance and repair and other office expenses. Please note that without the donations and bequest our surplus would be only \$15,000. It's important that we continue the pace of our giving as a recent facilities condition assessment report on our 17th Street rental property recommended capital repairs over the next ten years totaling \$910,000, the majority of these costs cannot be passed along to the tenant. We need your increased support for the remainder of the year through your Sunday offertory, maintenance 2nd collection, and Easter gifts to help fund these repairs and on-going operations.

First Six Months Revenues and Expenses Ending February, 28, 2017

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Support	\$1,480,984	\$1,100,723	\$380,261
Expenses	\$1,127,523	\$1,131,435	(\$3,912)
Net Support Over (Under) Expenses	353,461	(\$30,712)	

Our *Faith Direct* e-giving option provides a convenient, no cost and secure way to support the parish via automatic payment from your checking account or credit card. You can support Xavier even if you are absent from Mass on vacation or other reasons. It also helps us bring consistency to our cash flow and reduces the time it takes our staff to count and report cash. We hope you will set aside a few minutes today to enroll in *Faith Direct*. You can enroll online by clicking the [Donate Now](#) button on the upper-right hand corner of our parish homepage or scanning the QR code below or mail in an enrollment form available in the back of the church or from the parish office. With online enrollment, you will be able to access your account any time to view and make changes to your account information and gifts. In the last 12 months 56 families have enrolled in *Faith Direct* to make their Sunday offertory. Please consider joining the 332 families who use *Faith Direct* to support Xavier.

There are many ways to support and participate in our many ministries. Our Bulletin and Welcome Brochure on the parish website contain information on these ministries. Perhaps during this Lenten season you might resolve to find more ways to share your unique skills and talents so that your special strengths will make a difference in this world.



Scriptures & Announced Masses

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT:

Ezek 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11;
John 11:3-7,17,20-27, 33b-45.

FIFTH MONDAY OF LENT:

Dan 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; John 8:1-11.

7:45AM ANTHONY NUTILE (D)
12:05PM PAUL WOOD (D)

FIFTH TUESDAY OF LENT:

Num 21:4-9; John 8:21-30.

7:45AM LEO & ANTOINETTE BUONGIORNO (D)
12:05PM LUIS PACHECKO (D)

FIFTH WEDNESDAY OF LENT:

Dan 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; John 8:31-42.

7:45AM FR. SEAN TOOLE (L)
12:05PM JOAN GERTH (D)

FIFTH THURSDAY OF LENT:

Gen 17:3-9; John 8:51-59.

7:45AM DOLORES BURKE (D)
12:05PM ILSE KATZ (D)

FIFTH FRIDAY OF LENT:

Jer 20:10-13; John 10:31-42.

7:45AM LUCILA MARTINEZ-ISIDRO (L)
12:05PM ROMULO ARNULFO PINEL (D)

FIFTH SATURDAY OF LENT:

Ezek 37:21-28; John 11:45-56.

12:05PM ELLEN MILLER(D)

PALM SUNDAY:

Isa 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Matt 27:11-54.

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

PALM SUNDAY

Saturday, April 8th
5:00pm Mass

Sunday, April 9th
9:00am, 11:30am,
5:00pm



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 2nd Friday of each month, 6 p.m., West Room, SFXWomen@aol.com, (917) 297-6804.

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 sfxgcggroup@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