



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 Wheelchair Accessible)

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



Go up on a high mountain herald of good tidings

SECOND COLLECTION
to benefit Religious Retirement

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 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 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

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

Email: RVerееcke@sfxavier.org

Cassandra Agredo (Executive Dir. Xavier Mission) — 208

Rev. Daniel Corrou, S.J. (Associate Pastor) - 206

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

Receptionist — 201

John Uehlein (Dir. of Music Ministries) — 202

Pastoral Council

Jack Schmitt (Chair);

Catherine O'Hagan Wolfe (Vice-Chair);

Stephen Alfieri (Secretary); Kathleen Cagnina;

Karen DeMasi; Patrick Egan; Michelle Jung;

John Karle; Charles Mileski; Deborah Olley Murphy;

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 minimum of six months before qualifying for a sponsor letter to be verified as a parishioner.

Next Weekend Presider Schedule

Saturday, December 16th

5:00pm Vigil Mass: *Rev. James Miracky, SJ*

Sunday, December 17th

9:00am Mass: *Rev. Ronald Amiot, SJ*

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

5:00pm Mass: *Rev. Daniel Corrou, SJ*

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Jesus Andaluz, Larry Capisi, Alex Campbell, Caitlin Campbell, Martin Crawford, Elizabeth Cutolo, Juan Garcia, Marianne Githens, Monsignor Neil Graham, Amelia and Anne Grant, Winston Grant, James Leung, Marian Lizzio, John Marshall, John McLoughlin, Ron Miller, Nicole Minsen, Kathy Mulvaney, Terence J. Murphy, Nancy Napolitano, Eileen O'Keefe, Catherine O'Hagan Wolfe, Campbell Grant Phillips, Rey Santos, Rocco Scura, Anthony Sellitti, Carl Wassmann, Diane Weyers

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

James Brassel, Theresa Capobianco, Mary Comarato, Joanna Adamczyk Condon, Mars Custodio, Florita Gutierrez, Paul Lawrence, Patrick Logsdon, Albert Longo, Beatriz Quinto Mendoza, Lorraine Nelson, Jeanette Williams

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,

Many years ago for the 2nd Sunday of Advent Year B I wrote a children's story called Harold the Herald. It was inspired by the Isaiah text we hear today.

Go up on to a high mountain,
Zion, herald of glad tidings;
cry out at the top of your voice,
Jerusalem, herald of good news!

I wanted to make sure that the children knew that a "herald" was a messenger. That's the connection between a herald and an angel. From the Greek "aggelos". So I created a character called, Hark, the Herald. In the story he convinces Harold, a young boy who thinks he has nothing worth hearing, that he really does have "something to say" and that he is Harold, the Herald.

One of the gifts of the Xavier community is that people are able to find their voice and speak out of their experience of a God who empowers them, who tells them they have "something to say". Last Sunday there was a powerful reflection from Peggy Jacobson who responded to the call to reflect on the scriptures and "preach" the good news even if that was not in the liturgical assembly. We are challenged these days to find contexts in which diverse voices are heard. We all have "good news" and as Harold discovers, "He is Good News". (You can see and hear the "rest of the story" at a performance of Christmas Revelations)

If you are tired of hearing me promote this work that comes right out of my heart and that reveals so much about the way in which I image and experience God I beg your pardon. It's simply about wanting to share the gift and the vision that I have of a God who comes to life in stories and music and dances.

I also want to mention that the symbol of the second Sunday of Advent is the Shepherd's staff. At the end of the Isaiah reading this is what we hear.

Like a shepherd God feeds the flock;
in his arms God gathers the lambs,
carrying them in her bosom,
and leading the ewes with care.

Our God who is mother and father to us all cares for us with tenderness. Hopefully we will let ourselves be shepherded with such care and tend to those who are in need in the same way.

Let us continue to pray for each other as we experience the love and light of God in this Advent Season.

With Advent Expectation,

Fr. Bob



L-STEP GRADUATION THIS FRIDAY!

Friday, December 15th, 6:15pm
Church of St. Francis Xavier, East Transept
Reception to follow in Hurtado Hall



On Friday our seven graduates will share with you their personal experiences of homelessness, trauma, addiction and hardship, and their hopes and dreams for the future. This is truly one of the most moving and memorable events that we have here at Xavier; join us to celebrate the strength and perseverance of these amazing men and women!

FINAL TURKEY TALLY—GOAL REACHED!

A final gift from an anonymous donor put us over the top of our goal!

WE REACHED \$25,000!!

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in this year's Thanksgiving Meal Fund Drive. We provided 4,000 Thanksgiving meals to our community, and will be able to stock our food pantry through the winter. Thank you for your generosity! ☺

GIVING TREES ARE UP!

The Giving Trees are up! Each tag on the trees lists an item that is often requested and much needed by our clothing room guests in the winter, most of whom live on the streets.

Please take a tag (or two or three) and bring back the warm items to be distributed. Our guests depend on us to stay warm throughout the cold months. We are grateful for your support!



ANNUAL HONDURAS CARD SALE

As in previous Advents, the Honduras Project will again sell holiday cards after all the masses during the weekends of Dec 9 and 16. We have some new designs this year, again created by the children of Casa Corazon, a home for HIV+ orphans which is a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy in Honduras. We are indeed grateful for the support of Xavier parishioners for our efforts in Honduras over nearly 20 years now. Please stop by our table and take a look !

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ADVENT A SEASON TO WELCOME THE STRANGER

The Maryknoll Office of Global Concerns has a wonderful resource for reflection and prayer during this Advent Season in its reflection guide. You can download the guide at www.maryknollogc.org.

This Advent the focus is on welcoming the stranger, especially given the struggles of immigrants and refugees.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE *Prayer Service*

Tuesday, December 12th
6:30pm
Main Church



FAIR TRADE HOLIDAY SALE *This weekend after all Masses*

Please support us as we work to build long-term trade partnerships that are economically just and environmentally sound while empowering workers with every purchase! Proceeds from the sale will benefit the *Sisters of Charity*, the *Peace and Justice programs* and *LifeWay Network*, one of only two organizations in the NY Metro area providing safe housing for women survivors of human trafficking.

**THE XAVIER IMMIGRATION INITIATIVE INVITES YOU
TO SPEAK UP FOR IMMIGRANTS**

**JOIN THE JERICHO WALK IN SOLIDARITY WITH
THOSE VICTIMIZED BY OUR IMMIGRATION SYSTEM**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Every Thursday, people of faith, immigration activists, religious leaders, and caring members of our community march and pray outside of two ICE locations in Manhattan. We stand in solidarity and support for individuals and families affected by deportations or the threat of deportation.

We gather at 11:00 at 26 Federal Plaza, and at 5:00 at 201 Varick Street. No sign-up is necessary. Just come on any Thursday that you are able to offer your presence and support to our sisters and brothers struggling against the injustice of our immigration system.

For more information on supporting immigrant rights, contact sanxnyc@gmail.com

**CHURCH IS HAPPENING IN HURTADO HALL
EVERY THURSDAY FROM 5:30 TO 8:30 PM!**

Every Thursday evening, Xavier is hosting meetings of the New Sanctuary Coalition (NSC), an interfaith initiative based here in New York City that stands in solidarity with our immigrant sisters and brothers.

The meetings—which bring together immigrant friends and NSC volunteers—are an opportunity for both fellowship and organizing. It is difficult to convey how important this safe space is for our friends to be able to tell their stories and how our presence can be empowering.

In addition to our role as witnesses, there are opportunities for more hands on work--organizing activities include advocacy efforts on behalf of friends who are detained, recording and documenting their experiences, and supporting loved ones of those facing deportation.

Xavier parishioners are needed to help set up Hurtado Hall, welcome our NSC friends, help to participate in organizing, and to assist in clean up at the evening's end. The work is easy, even when bearing witness to what is unfolding in our own land is hard. Come join us! Please sign up by using this form: <http://bit.ly/2mCQ04a>

For more information, contact *Linda Chavez* at linda@rchavez.net or *Patrick Egan* at patrick.egan@nyu.edu.

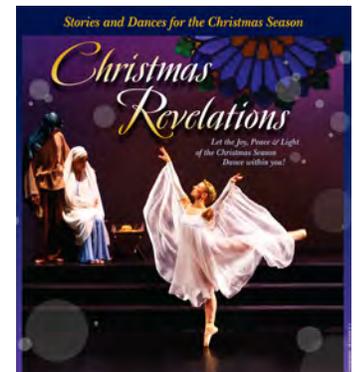


Hello ALL fellow Twenty & Thirty-Somethings! The joyous season of Advent is upon us now. You are personally invited to join us this Sunday as we celebrate and reflect on the season. Sunday, 12/10 at 6pm (immediately following the 5pm Mass), in the West Room. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet other gorgeous, socially-conscious, and savvy fellow New Yorkers for good food, friends and cheer! This is an open invitation to ALL in our Xavier community: single, married, LGBTQ, and straight!

sfxavier.youngadults@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS REVELATIONS

In the 35 year Boston Holiday Tradition of A Dancer's Christmas, and Christmas Reflections Robert VerEecke S.J. has created Christmas Revelations for NY audiences. Christmas Revelations is a theater/dance production that weaves together Christmas



stories, favorites from A Dancer's Christmas and Christmas Reflections with new choreographic works including Gesu Bambino, composed by Xavier Organist Pietro Yon 100 years ago. The cast includes professional actors and dancers from NY, Boston, and Kingston Jamaica.

Dec.15th 7:30pm

Dec.16th 3:00pm and 7:30pm

Dec.17th 3:00pm

Tickets: \$25 (Groups of 10 \$20)

Sheen Center for Thought and Culture

18 Bleeker St. NY, NY 10012

Box office: 212-925-2812

Online tickets: sheencenter.org

LESSONS AND CAROLS: SHARING THE JOY



*Featuring the St. Francis Xavier Choir, the Bell Choir,
Family Faith Choir, The Xavier Players and Schola*

John Uehlein, Director of Music Ministries

Come join us for our annual festival of contemporary readings,
music and traditional carols celebrating the season.

**Sunday, December 17th
at 7:00pm in the Main Church**

Admission Free!

Home made Christmas cookie reception to follow!



CAN YOU BAKE COOKIES?

Bakers sought for our annual Lessons and Carols program on Dec. 17th at 7PM. Wonderful contemporary readings with many of your favorite Christmas carols will be represented. Wouldn't you like your cookies to be eaten along side these great readings and carols? We are looking for 30 individuals to commit to baking 2 dozen cookies (or other baked goods). If you think you can help out, please email John Uehlein in the parish office at juehlein@sfxavier.org or if you don't have email, call John at 646-573-0099. Start softening up the butter!!!!

(PS: leftovers will go to the shelter.)

Scriptures & Announced Masses

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Isa 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8.

SECOND MONDAY OF ADVENT: Isa 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26.

7:45AM LEO & ANTOINETTE BUONGIORNO (D)
12:05PM OROZIO STANTINI (D)

TUESDAY~FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE: Zech 2:14-17; Luke 1:26-38.

7:45AM PAUL DECESARE (D)
12:05PM ROBERT WARREN JR. (D)

WEDNESDAY~FEAST OF ST. LUCY: Isa 40:25-31; Matt 11:28-30.

7:45AM JOHN CONNORS (D)
12:05PM MARIA VECERIN (D)

THURSDAY~FEAST OF ST. JOHN THE CROSS: Isa 41:13-20; Matt 11:11-15.

7:45AM GABINO TORRES (D)
12:05PM MARCELITO CUSTODIO (D)

SECOND FRIDAY OF ADVENT: Isa 48:17-19; Matt 11:16-19.

7:45AM AVAILABLE
12:05PM ANGEL MADRID SR. (D)

SECOND SATURDAY OF ADVENT: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Matt 17:9a, 10-13.

12:05PM LORRAINE NELSON (D)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Isa 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.

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. Contact abilityxaviernewyork@gmail.com

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

THE XAVIER IMMIGRATION INITIATIVE: Advocacy, support, and education to empower immigrants. For more information contact sanxnyc@gmail.com

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

THE WOMEN WHO STAYED: nurtures, empowers, calls forth and celebrates the emotional, intellectual and spiritual growth of women and men at SFX. For more information: 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 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