



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



God as the seed of possibility, the root of life, the growing harvest of justice, the off-shooting branch of salvation, makes us think of the waiting from seed to bloom. (Jer 33: 14-16)

SECOND COLLECTION
to benefit Xavier Mission

First Sunday of Advent

December 2, 2018

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 (Communion Service), 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. Daniel Corrou, S.J. (Acting Pastor) - 206
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 (Assistant for Financial Planning)
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; Ron Oberdick;

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 8th

5:00pm Vigil Mass: *Rev. Ron Amiot, SJ*

Sunday, December 9th

9:00am Mass: *Rev. Thomas Feely, SJ*

11:30am Mass: *Rev. Daniel Corrou, SJ*

5:00pm Mass: *Rev. Patrick Gilger, SJ*

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

*Anita Ibarra Advincula, Mary Jane Brown, Dan Clarius,
Kay Quinn Cohen, Bobby Cook, Jesús Dabu, Maria Formoso,
Kathleen Friel, Juan Garcia, Ann Grant, James Levaggi,
Manny Lopez, Robyn Luisi, Bertha Mercedes, Joan O'Brien,
Olha O'quinn, Marcy Parlow Pomerance, Eileen O'Keefe,
Brigid Scott, Ava Sellitti, Anthony Sellitti, Jeff Stevenson,
Michael Termini, Dr. Daniel Tynan, Carl Wassmann, Diane
Weyers, David Woolwine*

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

*Adolfo O. Agra, Tim Becker, Vilma Costello, Kristina Esposito,
John Kevin Cloonan, Danilo Cuilao, Al Hurley Jr.,
Anna Jimenez, Eusebia Marzan, Aurea V. Tomines,
Ricardo Vales, 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.**

From the Desk of Fr. Dan

Happy New Year!

As we begin Advent, we begin our new liturgical year. We begin with the anticipation of a birth, in preparation for Christmas. It is interesting that Christmas is not the beginning of the liturgical year, it is the expectation of Christmas.

Amid the transition of this last year, much of my own prayer has been anticipatory. We, as a parish family, are doing the regular work of a church: celebrating the sacraments; deepening our prayer lives; feeding the hungry; accompanying the stranger; realizing God here among us. However, with the transition after Fr. Bob's removal, we are also doing the work of self- reflection.

In conversation with the pastoral council we want this transition time to be prophetic in the larger church. A new pastor will be named sometime before summer 2019. In the past, the pastor has simply been assigned to the parish. It does not need to be that way. As a Jesuit parish, in the tradition of St. Ignatius, we are hoping to model the transition in leadership in the parish in a more Ignatian style. The Pastoral Council, staff, and I would like to do a parish discernment around the next pastor. We acknowledge that the final decision will be made by the Jesuit provincial and the Cardinal, however, it will be important for our community to be part of the conversation by reflecting on who we are and how we would like our parish to be in the future.

To that end, the Pastoral Council has defined five questions that will serve as the foundation of our parish wide discernment. We will use these questions in listening sessions in late January and February 2019. We will use the discussions generated from these questions as the substance of our discernment in conversation with the Jesuit Province. The five questions follow:

“Who are we called to serve?”

“How are we called to serve?”

“How do we want to be lead?”

“What does a new pastor need to know about us?”

“How can a new pastor enable us to move forward?”

As we begin a new liturgical year, I invite you to use these as part of your prayer. As we prepare to welcome the homeless baby Jesus into our messiness at Christmas, what would be most helpful for us as a community?

Happy Advent! Happy new liturgical year!

O Come, Emmanuel! O Come, God with us!

Introducing a new way of giving this Advent season: Text-to-Give!

You can now link your mobile phone number to your credit/debit card for easier giving. Text any dollar amount to (646)-681-7010 and complete the one-time registration page to enroll in the ability to text gifts to St. Francis Xavier through Faith Direct.

ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY: SUSTAINABLE GIFT-GIVING

Next week-end, the Environment Ministry will join the Peace and Justice Committee to sell several items that can help make our daily practices more environmentally friendly. Take a look and see if the following stocking-stuffers might serve as part of your gift-giving this year: a solar lantern for rooftop gatherings or to have handy in case of a blackout; reusable grocery-shopping bags, produce bags, or sandwich wraps for lunches that help us reduce our use of plastic; or reusable dish covers to replace saran wrap.

We are entering the holy season of Advent, a season full of anticipation as we reflect on God breaking forth into our world. We encourage you to reflect on how our practice of gift giving can reflect both a concern for our common home and a spirit of giving. Some things to consider in decisions about gifts: is the item necessary, are you sure it will be used, is it merely a status gift, was it made sustainably, is it made with materials that are mined with slave labor, is it replacing something that is still functional, will the replaced item be recycled, is the packaging sustainable material, does it reflect "simple living" as Pope Francis calls us to in *Laudato Si'*, will its use create a carbon footprint by using more electricity, is it made with palm oil, will it end up in a landfill etc. One way of getting out of the consumer rat race and throw away culture is to give to the needy instead of our peers who have enough, and let our peers know we are doing that. Or give fair trade items or products from cooperatives that we know will not harm the environment and offer a fair wage to producers. Or simply give the gift of lending a helping hand, sharing a skill, or taking time to visit someone who is socially isolated.

If you have children, consider giving them money to use in charitable gift-giving....have them take a tag from the Mission Giving Tree in the back of church and select what they will give to a homeless person. Or have them choose a toy for the gifting project of the SFX Lesbian group for kids in difficult circumstances. An Advent review of toys offers an incentive for kids to let go of toys they no longer use if they know it will provide Christmas gifts to kids who have less by giving them to Goodwill. These options offer kids a way of seeing Christmas as a time to give as well as receive or recycle rather than increasing landfill.

The Xavier Company presents

"AN ADVENT CAROL"

a musical drama written by JS Pecorella with musical compositions by Gerard DeMan, Anne Holland, Laurence Rosania and others. "An Advent Carol" tells the story of the Advent journey from the Annunciation to the flight into Egypt through drama, song and dance. The characters of Mary, Joseph, Gabriel, Anna, Joachim and Elizabeth are masterfully crafted as genuine people who struggle with hopes and dreams, fears and doubts. An Advent Carol offers a message of hope and freedom to the alienated and oppressed and stretches far beyond the traditional Christmas pageant.

An Advent Carol will be performed on

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8TH
at 7:30 pm in the Mary Chapel.

Admission: free will donation.

THE THEME OF THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT IS WAITING

"Waiting is essential to the spiritual life. But waiting as a disciple of Jesus is not an empty waiting. It is a waiting with a promise in our hearts that makes already present what we are waiting for. We wait during Advent for the birth of Jesus... We are always waiting, but it is a waiting in the conviction that we have already seen God's footsteps." Henri Nouwen

In the first reading of Jer 33: 14-16, *God as the seed of possibility, the root of life, the growing harvest of justice, the off-shooting branch of salvation, makes us think of the waiting from seed to bloom.* This is why the Art and Environment Committee has prepared a jar with bags of flower seeds. If you want to plant in your house, grab one of the bags with seeds.



THE NEW SANCTUARY COALITION

Once again the United States has found itself at a moment in history where the rights, dignity, and humanity of black and brown bodies and marginalized people have been met with violence and oppressive immigration policies. The tear gassing of children is yet another tactic of a system that has criminalized and dehumanized our communities for decades. With the migrant Exodus making its way to the border we are faced with a moral decision.

The New Sanctuary Coalition is issuing a National Call to Action to spend 40 days and 40 nights in the desert to help and support the Exodus of people fleeing to the U.S. for sanctuary.

We must respond strategically and purposefully and ensure our work is led by those immediately impacted. The New Sanctuary Coalition has the skills to support asylum seekers and assist them as they petition their claim at the border. We operate under the guidance of three rules: 1. No Judgement 2. Respect 3. Do No Harm.

We are resolved to form a U.S. Caravan of thousands of supporters who will meet the Central American Caravan in Mexico; launch a legal clinic to work in solidarity with them as they prepare to seek asylum; accompany them into the U.S. and witness the response. Our goal is to assist those seeking entry with their demands to enter the U.S. without losing their liberty.

We are calling on you to stand with us,
to put your bodies on the line. Please join us.
You can find the information at our website:
www.sanctuarycaravan.org



LESSONS AND CAROLS: SHARING THE JOY

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

*Featuring the St. Francis Xavier Choir, the Bell Choir,
and The Xavier Players and Schola
John Uehlein, Director of Music Ministries*

**Sunday, December 16th
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. 16th 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.)

Do you feel called to support others in their spiritual journey or know someone who shares such a calling? Applications are now being accepted for the Spiritual Director Formation Program, an 18-month parish-based training program that will begin in February 2019. For an application and more information please visit the Faith Formation tab at www.sfxavier.org or email Bob Choiniere at rchoiniere@sfxavier.org. Deadline for submission is **December 15, 2018.**

OPEN STUDIO

Sneak peek of new work for the exhibit *“Delirious New York”* opening uptown in January, 2019, and a chance to view two works in progress- “Encarnación” and “La Cena”. The dates for this open studio will be **December 2nd and December 9th**, from **10:30am-5:00pm** in the choir loft.

Art Prints will be on sale and 10% of all proceeds will be donated to the Church of St. Francis Xavier.

PEACE AND JUSTICE FAIR TRADE HOLIDAY SALE

**Saturday, December 8th
and Sunday, December 9th**

After all Masses in the back of the church

Find goods that are all sourced from Fair Trade companies that will make perfect gifts!

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, Thrive for Life Prison Project NYC, 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.

ALL SALES WILL BE CASH OR CHECK ONLY

On **Wednesday December 12th at 6:30pm** at the Xavier High School Chapel, please join The Women Who Stayed and our guest, Katie Mahon, co-author of *The Miracle Chase*, *Three Women*, *Three Miracles* and *a Ten Year Journey of Discovery and Friendship*, for a discussion about miracles. Katie will share the extraordinary stories at the heart of their “Chase” and the many discoveries they made about the nature of miracles along the way. There will also be plenty of time for Q&A, discussion, and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there!

HOLIDAY CARD SALE TO BENEFIT HONDURAS PROJECT

The Honduras Companion Communities Project will again offer a selection of Alternative Giving holiday cards for sale after all the masses during the weekends of December 9, 16 and 23. The cards provide a way for you to remember friends and loved ones while contributing to the local community projects in Honduras which Xavier and its parishioners have supported for the last 19 years. This is our major fund raising event for sustaining our efforts with several local community groups in Honduras, a country where the challenges of daily life in an environment of high crime, lack of opportunity and government corruption have led to the formation of caravans of people searching for a better life for themselves and their children.

Again this year, our cards are artwork created by children who have lived in Casa Corazon, the home operated by the Sisters of Mercy for children who are HIV+. Aside from printing expenses, you can be sure that all the proceeds from the sale are used for continuing the scholarships we have been providing for secondary school students so that perhaps they can find satisfactory employment opportunities and contribute to the development of their country rather than leaving in caravans.

As always, thank you for your support !

Catholic Lesbians & Friends—All Are Welcome!

16TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS WRAPPING PARTY

**Friday, December 14th
6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m. Larkin/Hurtado Hall**

67 kids! 12 days! Bring Christmas cheer to children from Picture the Homeless, Community Voices Heard, Life Experience & Faith Sharing, and STEPS to End Family Violence. Contact SFXWrap@gmail.com or (929) 333-5011 for one, two or three kids' names, and bring your gifts to the wrapping party.



**THE PASTORAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
55 WEST 15TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10011-6801**

November 16, 2018

Very Rev. John J. Cecero, S.J.
Provincial
The USA Northeast Province
of the Society of Jesus
39 East 83rd Street
New York, NY 10028

Dear Fr. Cecero:

We members of the Pastoral Council at the Church of St. Francis Xavier write from a recent epicenter of the pain and disruption caused by the misconduct of clergy. As we have learned since the mid-1980s abuse scandal in Louisiana, misconduct has ranged from unwanted attention and boundary violations to predatory, serial physical abuse. With the national disclosures this past summer, we learned the extent to which church leaders protected abusers and buried information about credible claims of abuse ostensibly in the name of protecting the faithful and the institutional Church. Their actions had the opposite result. Children remained the prey of predators and the institutional Church is now in crisis due to the moral failure of Church leadership to openly expose the predators and address the institutional causes of the aberrant conduct.

During our recent experience of Fr. Bob VerEecke's removal as our pastor, our faith community, including the Jesuits who join with us, trusted that the disclosure of misconduct information to the parish community at the earliest opportunity was an important value. Another value was to name the reality of the misconduct in as transparent a manner as the obligations of confidentiality allow. As painful as the process has been, we believe we are healing as a community and able to pray for Fr. Bob and the victim in a manner consistent with the Gospel.

Recently, Fr. Ed Quinnan spent an evening with us discussing the challenges we as a parish and as members of the larger Church face in addressing the institutional Church crisis. The meeting was collaborative and, we believe, mutually beneficial. Among the items discussed, we urged Fr. Ed to communicate to you the importance of releasing the names of Jesuits in the Northeast Province against whom credible claims of sexual abuse of minors have been made. Not long after our meeting, Fr. Scott Santarosa, S.J., Provincial of the USA West Province, announced that on December 7, 2018 the province will release the names of Jesuits from the province against whom credible allegations of sexual abuse were made dating back to 1950.

We write to urge you to follow Fr. Santarosa's lead and release the names of Jesuits from the now-merged New England and New York provinces dating from 1950 to the present against

whom credible claims of sexual abuse of minors have been made. Similar to the West province, it would enhance the credibility of the release to engage an outside entity to conduct an external review to confirm that the identities of all Jesuits who meet the criteria are identified.

It is the charism of the Society of Jesus in difficult times to show the way to Jesus and the Holy Spirit who, in turn, lead all of us to greater love and service of God. Your release of names will encourage and lead to healing the members of the larger Jesuit community. And, your actions may encourage the Church leadership to themselves take the critical first steps in the repentance and penance process that the leaders of the institutional Church must experience in cleansing themselves of the sins that lead to this crisis.

Please know that you and all your brother Jesuits are in our prayers,

The Pastoral Council of the Church of St. Francis Xavier

Scriptures & Announced Masses

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

Jer 33:14-16; 1 Thes 3:12-4:2; Luke 21:25-28, 34-36.

MONDAY~FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS

XAVIER: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 16:15-20.

7:45AM: NANCY GORRA (D)

12:05PM MARK A. DEBENEDICTIS (D)

FIRST TUESDAY OF ADVENT: Isa 11:1-10;

Luke 10:21-24.

7:45AM: IN HONOR OF ST. CUMILLUS

12:05PM KATE GALEONE (D)

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF ADVENT: Isa 25:6-

10a; Matt 15:29-37.

7:45AM: DONNA GOGDANOWICZ (D)

12:05PM: NANCY MILLER (D)

FIRST THURSDAY OF ADVENT: Isa 26:1-6;

Matt 7:21, 24-27.

7:45AM: ELIZABETH HUNT (D)

12:05PM: JOANNA AND HELEN GLEESON (D)

FRIDAY~FEAST OF ST. AMBROSE:

Isa 29:17-24; Matt 9:27-31.

7:45AM: SANTIAGO ARMSTRONG (D)

12:05PM: ELIZABETH CONROY (D)

SATURDAY~FEAST OF IMMACULATE

CONCEPTION: Gen 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;
Luke 1:26-38.

12:05PM ARTURO ESPINA (D)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6.

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

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

Ongoing Parish Happenings

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

CATHOLIC LESBIANS: Ministry since 1993, meets 2nd
Friday of each month, 6 p.m., West Room (offsite July & August),
SFXWomen@aol.com (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

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 sfxgcgroup@gmail.com

INTERFAITH COMMITTEE: works toward ending
religious discrimination and persecution, through prayer,
education and other activities. Contact Jose Ramon,
joseramonperezlopez@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 Marie Bannister,
mariebannister1@gmail.com or Gerry Moss,
gerrymoss@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

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

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

XAVIER YOGA: Tuesdays at 6pm. Open to all levels. Contact
Ko_ko@nyyogalife.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