



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

***Sing aloud, o people, sing and shout!
Rejoice with all your heart, o church!
Set your feet firmly on the ground, open your mouth,
And Sing! Sing to bless God who is in your midst.***

***Here is our song: a triumphant light against the long shadows.
With joy, we sing!***



SECOND COLLECTION
to benefit Parish Maintenance

Third Sunday of Advent

December 16, 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 22nd

5:00pm Vigil Mass: *Rev. Thomas Feely, SJ*

Sunday, December 23rd

9:00am Mass: *Rev. Daniel Corrou, SJ*

11:30am Mass: *Rev. Thomas Feely, SJ*

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Anita Ibarra Advincula, Jesus Andaluz, Mary Jane Brown, Michael Carroll, Dan Clarius, Kay Quinn Cohen, Bobby Cook, Jesús Dabu, Isaac Falci, 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'Keeffe, Brigid Scott, Ava Sellitti, Anthony Sellitti, baby Paloma Solis, 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, James Ferrando, Al Hurley Jr.,
Msgr Tom Leonard and Clint Winant*

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 Gaudete Sunday!

Rejoice! Again, God tells us to rejoice! This third week of Advent, when we light the pink candle, is meant as a time to remember that our preparation for the birth of Jesus is about joy.

A reporter from an international news service called me last week as she was preparing a story about churches closing in New York. Her assumption was that the Catholic Church in New York was dying under the weight of corrupt leadership, and scandal wearied laity. I agreed with her that we are all struggling with the sins of the Church. However, I began telling her the story of Xavier and spoke of a church filled with life. The number of children in our Family Faith program is growing; the number of people in RCIA is growing; the number of baptisms and weddings are all growing. We do not neglect the sin of the Church, but we act as prophets from the middle of it. There is much reason to rejoice!

It is for that reason that I was most frustrated by an email I received this week. It seems that during the 11:30am mass on Dec. 9. A person began accosting a family simply because a child was asking questions of her mother. There have been similarly aggressive actions against people with disabilities in our community. This kind of behavior is not part of our Xavier family. We strive to be a welcoming and inclusive community. We take the work of welcome very seriously. In order for this to be a welcoming environment, it must be a safe environment for all. If you are aware of someone belittling another person, please remind that person that all are welcome here. We must take our collective responsibilities of community seriously.

We have beautiful music here, but this is not a concert. We rest in a beautiful space here, but this is not a museum. We are active in many important actions for justice in our world, but we are not a political organization. We are a Church; we are a community; we are a family. We all, children and adults, come with questions; let us savor those questions. We all, whatever our varied abilities, come with great gifts from God; let us savor all of those gifts. As we light that pink candle this week we acknowledge that we are messy, but let us take joyful responsibility for the safety and welcome of all of our parish family.



ADVENT SEASON

Sunday, December 16th

Lessons and Carols

7:00pm~Main Church

Monday, December 17th

Advent Reconciliation

4:00pm-8:00pm~Main Church

Monday, December 24th

Christmas Eve

Family Mass with Christmas Pageant: 4:00pm

(Carols begin at 3:15pm)

Mass: 11:00pm(Carols begin at 10:00pm)

Tuesday, December 25th

Christmas Day

Masses: 9:00am & 11:30am

Tuesday, January 1st

New Years Day

Mass: 11:30am

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY) IS SINGING

Sing aloud, o people, sing and shout!
Rejoice with all your heart, o church!
Set your feet firmly on the ground, open your
mouth, And Sing! Sing to bless God who is in
your midst.

Here is our song: a triumphant light against
the long shadows. With joy, we sing!

The Choir of the Church of Our Saviour will present a Concert for Christmas on **Wednesday, December 19th** at 7:30 p.m. at the Church of Our Saviour, 59 Park Avenue at 38th Street (near Grand Central) in Manhattan. Tickets are \$20 (General Admission) and may be purchased in advance at oursaviourchristmas.bpt.me or at the door on the evening of the concert. For more information, please call (212) 679-8166.

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!

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 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!

SFX ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY

Being Greener with Our Gift Wrapping

Wrapping paper can be a recycling contamination. Earth911 estimates that approximately 4.6 million lbs. of wrapping paper is produced in the U.S. each year, and about half of it ends up in landfills.

A common mistake many people make around the holidays is loading their recycling bins with wrapping paper, tissue, ribbons, and more. Unfortunately, the shiny, laminated paper is, in fact, not recyclable in most circumstances. Including it in the bin with other paper products can make an entire load unrecyclable.

If wrapping paper is metallic, has glitter on it, or has a texture to it, it is not recyclable. However, unlaminated paper-based wrapping paper and pre-recycled wrapping paper are usually recyclable. A good way to test, as the BBC reported last year, is to crush wrapping paper into a ball. If it stays bunched up, it is more than likely recyclable.

Other decorative features of gifts are also not recyclable. Decorative ribbons, bows, and glitter-laden holiday cards are nightmares for recycling centers.

There are plenty of eco-friendly alternatives: reusable plain or decorative boxes; plain butcher paper or newsprint - decorated via rubber stamps or potato stamps if you want to be creative; fabric wrapping - including small usable scarves, or tea towels etc.

Care should be taken with recycling Christmas cards: the front of cards with glitter, photo paper, metallic embossing, though the plain paper back can be put in the paper recycling.

This week-end, the SFX Environment Ministry is selling eco-friendly products that you might use yourself or consider for stocking stuffers and as alternatives to one-time use plastic. These products require some intentionality to get in the habit of using. Gift them as a nudge for your friends to “take one small step” for the planet!

Remember Xavier When Considering a Year-end Gift

First we want to thank all of you who have given so much of your time, talent, and treasure to support our parish throughout the year. As the end of the year approaches, we begin to reflect upon the many blessings bestowed upon us. The end of the year also provides a great opportunity to thank God for these blessings by gifting to Xavier. Your year-end gift can help us continue to celebrate vibrant liturgies and support our many ministries.

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. A gift can also help support Xavier for years to come. There are many different ways of contributing a gift. Two of the easiest and most direct methods to gift are donations of cash and appreciated stock or other investments. You can also make other financially advantageous gifts such as real estate, life insurance, charitable remainder trusts, gift annuities, will/trust bequests and IRA/retirement accounts. For more information on how you can help make a difference contact the parish office.

Catholic Lesbians

Friday, January 11, 2019

6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.~West Room

“What we bring to the pursuit of the God of Life is what we will get out of it” (Joan Chittister). What will you bring this new year in the pursuit of Love? What will we bring as a ministry? Let’s sketch that out for 2019. BYOCups (cup, utensils, plate, serviette), snacks and/or beverages to share with friends, old and new. For more information, contact SFXWomen@aol.com or (929) 333-5011.

‘HOLIDAY HOPE & HEALING CAMPAIGN’ STRETCH GOAL!

In a month and a half, our Holiday Campaign reached its original goal of \$100,000!!

Thank you so much to everyone who has already donated—you are AMAZING!!

Because of your incredible generosity, we are setting a new “stretch” goal of \$150,000. With this additional \$50,000, we will be able to provide financial assistance to 50 more families who are in danger of being evicted, and keep them in their homes. The need for assistance is overwhelming – we are only 3 months into our fiscal year and have already spent half of our rent assistance budget. With this additional \$50,000 (or more!), we will be able to continue to provide help to families for the entire year!

If you haven’t given already, please consider contributing \$50, \$100, or \$1000, and give the gift of home this Christmas. Thank you so much!

**NEW STRRRRRRETCH GOAL: \$150,000
RAISED (as of 12/10): \$112,495**

We’re currently at 75% of our stretch goal!
Join us and make an impact on our community today!

Donate at:
xaviermission.org

(BELATED) THANKSGIVING THANK YOU!!!

A HUGE thank you to the following people for their contributions to our Thanksgiving Festivities! We served more than 4,000 total meals to families and individuals in need!

Christina Bowman, Beverly Torres, Ray Perez, Dawn Besthoff, Mark Kiley, Danny Tore, Jennie Tichenor, and The Kitchen Crew and Volunteer Teams!

Thank you also to all of our donors! Without their generosity, this meal would not have been possible!

A very special thank you goes out to Greg Stelzer & the Student Body of Xavier High School for collecting 12,000+ items of food and Jennie Tichenor and the NYU Administrative Management Council for collecting 5000+ items of food for our Thanksgiving Food Pantry baskets.

GIVING TREES ARE BACK!



From now through the end of December, you can take a tag (or two or three!) and purchase much-needed items for our Clothing Room. Help us help our guests make it through this winter with warm, clean, new clothing that will protect them against the elements. You can return your unwrapped items to the reception desk or put them back under one of the trees. Thank you so much!

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

December 3, 2018

Hon. Barbara Underwood
New York State Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
The Capitol
Albany, NY 12224-0341

Dear Attorney General Underwood:

We, the Pastoral Council of the Church of St. Francis Xavier in New York City, fully support your efforts to investigate sexual abuse of children within the eight New York dioceses of the Roman Catholic Church. We join in your demand for accountability, transparency, and truth-telling.

We applaud the efforts of your office in partnering with District Attorneys, who have the power to convene grand juries, to investigate and, when warranted, prosecute any individuals who have committed criminal offenses.

Like you, we urge the New York State Legislature to pass the Child Victims Act. Our state's current statute of limitations is antiquated and predator-friendly.

The Church hierarchy's systemic cover-up of abuse of minors by clergy and religious, in a shameful attempt to protect Church assets and the Church's reputation rather than its children, demands an external investigation of *every* ecclesiastical diocese and province in New York State to help ensure that all children are protected from these crimes in the future.

We stand in solidarity with victims, named and unnamed, who need to be heard and to receive the justice they deserve.

We thank you for your service to the people of our state and for your continued commitment to justice for all New York State citizens.

Respectfully,

THE PASTORAL COUNCIL OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER R.C. CHURCH, NEW
YORK CITY

Cc: Hon. Letitia James – New York Attorney General-Elect

Scriptures & Announced Masses

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

Zeph 3:14-18a; Isa 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18.

THIRD MONDAY OF ADVENT:

Gen 49:2, 8-10; Matt 1:1-17.

7:45AM: ELEANOR JOHNSON (D)
12:05PM ANASTASIA SPENCER DOWRIE (D)

THIRD TUESDAY OF ADVENT:

Jer 23:5-8; Matt 1:18-25.

7:45AM: YVONNE E. LINDNER-DIETRICH(D)
12:05PM ROBIN LANDES (D)

THIRD WEDNESDAY OF ADVENT:

Judg 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25.

7:45AM: TONY OROFZLANY (D)
12:05PM: CATHERINE O'HAGAN (L)

THIRD THURSDAY OF ADVENT:

Isa 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38.

7:45AM: MARY SANTIROCCO (D)
12:05PM: THOMAS CORWIN (D)

THIRD FRIDAY OF ADVENT:

Song 2:8-14; Luke 1:39-45.

7:45AM: AVAILABLE
12:05PM: DR. NAPOLITANO (D)

THIRD SATURDAY OF ADVENT:

1 Sam.2; Luke 1:46-56.

12:05PM MARTIN CRAWFORD (D)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

Mic 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45.

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