



# CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

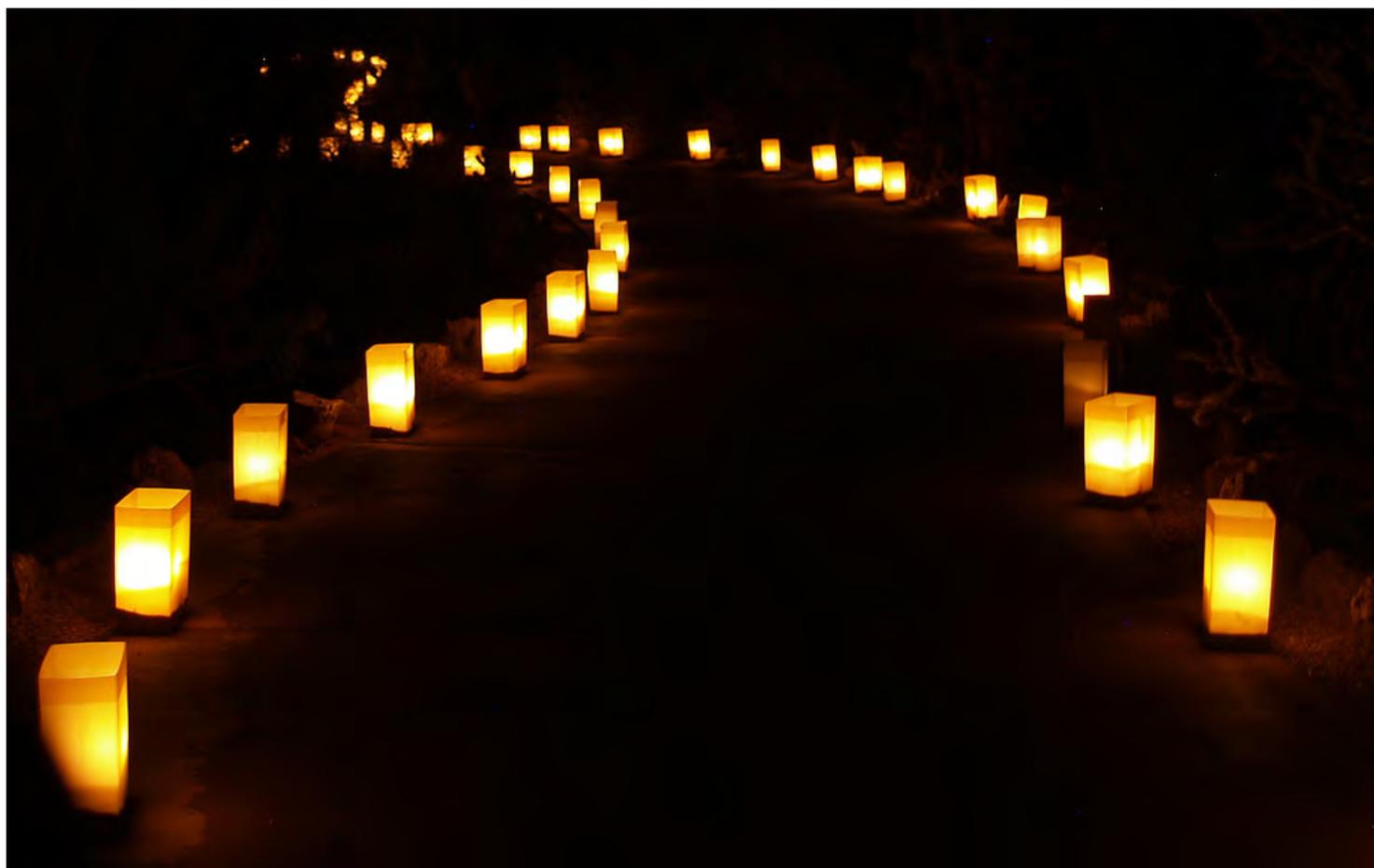
A JESUIT APOSTOLATE

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

Mailing Address: 55 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10011-6801

(Wheelchair Accessible 55 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street - All Masses are Wheelchair Accessible)

E-Mail Address: [StFrancisXavier@sfxavier.org](mailto:StFrancisXavier@sfxavier.org) • Website: [www.sfxavier.org](http://www.sfxavier.org)



*It is in everybody, and if we could see it, we would see these billions of points of light coming together in the face and blaze of a sun that would make all the darkness and cruelty of life vanish completely.*

## OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

One Mass will be celebrated at 9:00am.

Please use 15th Street entrance

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23, 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 29<sup>th</sup>**

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

### **Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**

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

11:30am Mass: *Rev. Ronald Amiot, SJ*

5:00pm Mass: *Rev. Thomas Feely, 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 Fourth Week of Advent and Merry Christmas!**

It is such a joy to see all of the decorations and to hear all of the music here at Xavier and throughout our city. There is a wonderful glow to New York around Christmas time. As we celebrate Christmas I begin with great gratitude for our community, which is growing and living out a prophetic witness.

Amid these difficult times in our church and world, our Xavier parish continues to be a source of light. We gather as a parish to pray beautiful liturgies, to deepen our spiritual lives, to build our community, and to live the Gospel commitment to social justice. Each of these components nourishes the others, just as each member of our parish nourishes the whole.

As we approach Christmas we remember that what we celebrate is all very simple. A mother gives birth to a healthy baby. The family is traveling and does not have money to be in a hotel or hospital. The child is born homeless, and will soon become a refugee. This is the clearest way in which God accompanies us. God is not in the areas of clarity and certainty in our lives; God is in the uncomfortable, creative instability of our lives.

In these days we celebrate the extraordinary reality that God so loves the world that God desires to be in the very heart of it! God does not desire to be part of our lives after we have put everything in order. God desires to be part of our lives here and now.

Being in the present moment is often difficult. It can be easier to yearn for a false past or expect a perfect future. However, God meet us in reality, in the present. God accompanies us here and now. Amid our difficulties may we accompany one another as God accompanies us. This is the greatest work of social justice, to remain in radical solidarity with one another; this is also the Incarnation, the Christmas story.

Please know that you all remain in my prayers and the prayers of our Jesuit community at Xavier! It is a great joy to be part of this Xavier family.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year



# ADVENT SEASON

Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

*Christmas Eve*

Family Mass with Christmas Pageant: 4:00pm  
(Carols begin at 3:15pm)

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

Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

*Christmas Day*

Masses: 9:00am & 11:30am

Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

*New Years Day*

Mass: 11:30am

## 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.

## THOMAS MERTON AT XAVIER



As we celebrate the memory of Thomas Merton, Trappist Monk, peace activist, example of inter-religious dialogue, we remember his prayer experience in Xavier Church.

**January 30 from 5:30- 8:30pm** in **Hurtado hall** we will offer silent meditative prayer as well as recordings of Merton's lectures. It will be a space of prayer and meditation, just as Merton found in the same space in 1939. Please join us for any or all of the evening. Contact Fr. Dan for more details at [dcorrou@sfxavier.org](mailto:dcorrou@sfxavier.org).

## 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 weekend of December 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

## NYC BAN ON STYROFOAM IN EFFECT JAN. 1, 2019

Because we know many of us will receive gifts with Styrofoam packing material, our committee actually tried to find a place to recycle Styrofoam, but the closest place is in Springfield, NJ, where they only accept white packaging material, nothing with a rubbery quality, and no food serving items. The only NYC establishment we found recently stopped accepting Styrofoam because they can no longer ship it to China. So let's make a best effort to avoid Styrofoam completely, especially when tempted to buy/use it for social gatherings.

Starting Jan. 1, 2019, the NY City's ban on Expanded Polystyrene, EPS, commonly called Styrofoam, will go into effect. Consider this a Christmas present for marine life and birds! We're glad that Time is Up on Styrofoam because when we did the coast clean-up this spring, Styrofoam was the most common thing we picked up and much of the little pieces from disintegrated Styrofoam was impossible to clean up and will be mistaken for food either by birds or, when it is eventually washed into the Hudson River, by marine animals.

Think packing material, take-out containers, coolers, display forms such as heads for hats, swimming noodles etc. Starting now, if you are taking out food or asking for delivery from a restaurant or deli, you might request that it be packaged in something other than Styrofoam and inform the vender of the ban. Businesses will be given a grace period, but tickets will be issued when the grace period ends in June. We can all be part of the civic education campaign around this issue.

### Help DACA students

St. Peter's University, the Jesuit University in Jersey City is asking for help for some of their DACA students. If you can help with book vouchers, care packages some tuition costs or letters of support, please email Fr. Dan at [dcorrou@sfxavier.org](mailto:dcorrou@sfxavier.org).

# SPIRITUALITY AND THE TWELVE STEPS

We will begin a reading group for people interested in spirituality and the 12 steps. This group will be open to people who are in recovery. Spaces will be limited. If interested, please contact *Fr. Dan* at [dcorrou@sfxavier.org](mailto:dcorrou@sfxavier.org)

**THE THEME FOR THIS WEEK IS  
LABORING. IN EACH ONE, THERE  
IS A LIGHT TO SHINE BRIGHTLY.  
WE LABOR TOGETHER FOR THE  
LIGHT!**

“At the center of our being is a point of nothingness which is untouched by sin and by illusion, a point of pure truth, a point or spark which belongs entirely to God... This little point of nothingness and of absolute poverty is the pure glory of God in us... It is like a pure diamond, blazing with the invisible light of heaven. It is in everybody, and if we could see it, we would see these billions of points of light coming together in the face and blaze of a sun that would make all the darkness and cruelty of life vanish completely.”

*-Thomas Merton, Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander*

### 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. BYO cups (cup, utensils, plate, serviette), snacks and/or beverages to share with friends, old and new. For more information, contact [SFXWomen@aol.com](mailto:SFXWomen@aol.com) or (929) 333-5011.



## **ONLY ONE WEEK LEFT FOR HOLIDAY HOPE & HEALING CAMPAIGN!**

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

Our goal is \$150,000 by December 31. All money raised goes directly into our programs – whether its saving families from eviction by helping them pay their rent arrears or putting groceries on their table, or feeding, clothing and sheltering our homeless neighbors, every penny that you donate impacts someone's life TODAY.

As you prepare to sit down to Christmas dinner with your families and friends, please remember our families and friends at Xavier Mission whose Christmas will be so much merrier and brighter because of your help. THANK YOU!

**GOAL: \$150,000**

**RAISED (as of 12/14): \$116,000**

We're currently at 82% of our goal! Join us and help put us over the top!

**Donate at:**

**[xaviermission.org](http://xaviermission.org)**

## **CONGRATS L-STEP & HOMECOMING GRADS!**

Our heartfelt congratulations to the graduates of our Forty-Sixth session of L-STEP, who shared their stories of struggle and triumph with our community On December 12. We welcome them into the L-STEP Alumni and the Xavier families! Congrats also to the graduates of the Homecoming program at our partner organization, RMM, who shared their stories on December 13. Keep an eye on out for pictures of the graduation on our website soon!

## **A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM XAVIER MISSION!**

As we continue to grapple with deep divisions, hatred, racism, xenophobia, and sexual harassment & assault in our country, let's all remember a few things: Jesus was a brown-skinned refugee, and some called him a rabble-rouser. Embodying the peace of Christ does not mean that we are meek. It means we are not afraid to spread love and justice in the world despite the struggles we may face in doing so.

Thank you for helping us to spread love and justice all year round. For your continuing time, talent, treasure, prayers and support, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. May you be filled with light and love this Christmas season. We look forward to working together with you in the New Year!

*With Love and Peace,*

*Cassandra, Rachel, Christina, Beverly, Ray, and Geoff*

“Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all to the good of all.” – St. Óscar Romero

## Scriptures & Announced Masses

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

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

**MONDAY~CHRISTMAS EVE:** Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matt 1:18-25.

**TUESDAY~FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD:** Isa 9:1-6; Tit 2:11-14 ; Luke 2:1-14.

### WEDNESDAY~FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN:

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Matt 10:17-22.

### THURSDAY~FEAST OF ST. JOHN:

1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8.

7:45AM: LEO & ANTOINETTE BUONGIORNO (D)

12:05PM: DELLA WENDA WILLIAMS (D)

### FRIDAY~FEAST OF THE HOLY

**INNOCENTS:** 1 John 1:5-2:2; Matt 2:13-18.

7:45AM: BARBARA LOIZBES (D)

12:05PM: JUAN CRUZ (D)

### SATURDAY~FIFTH SATURDAY WITHIN THE CHRISTMAS OCTAVE:

1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35.

12:05PM CHARLES SMYLEY (D)

### SUNDAY~FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH:

1 Sam 1:20-22, 24-28; 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24; Luke 2:41-52.

**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](mailto:abilityxaviernewyork@gmail.com)

**CATHOLIC LESBIANS:** Ministry since 1993, meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month, 6 p.m., West Room (offsite July & August), [SFXWomen@aol.com](mailto:SFXWomen@aol.com) (929) 333-5011.

### EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT GROUP:

Contact Katherine Cleary, [krcoff5th@netzero.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:sfxgcgroup@gmail.com)

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

**LITURGICAL COMMITTEES:** See website or

Contact Luz, [LMDiaz@sfxavier.org](mailto:LMDiaz@sfxavier.org)

**MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND:** To become a volunteer or arrange visits, Contact James Fox, [sumiko120@nyc.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto:xavierpeaceandjustice@gmail.com).

**SPIRITUAL MINISTRIES:** Offers spiritual programs, including spiritual direction. Contact Marie Bannister, [mariebannister1@gmail.com](mailto:mariebannister1@gmail.com) or Gerry Moss, [gerrymoss@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:TheWomenWhoStayed@gmail.com)

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

**THE XAVIER IMMIGRATION INITIATIVE:** Advocacy, support, and education to empower immigrants. For more information contact [sanxnyc@gmail.com](mailto:sanxnyc@gmail.com)

**XAVIER YOGA:** Tuesdays at 6pm. Open to all levels. Contact [Ko\\_ko@nyyogalife.com](mailto: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](mailto:sfxavier.youngadults@gmail.com)

**ZEN MEDITATION GROUP:** Mondays at 7pm. Newcomers welcome. Contact Peggy & Paul [schubertnyc@gmail.com](mailto:schubertnyc@gmail.com)

### XAVIER MISSION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**CLOTHING ROOM:** 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, contact Ann Mary: [xmClothingRoom@gmail.com](mailto:xmClothingRoom@gmail.com)

**FOOD PROGRAMS:** Every Sunday soup kitchen and 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday food pantry, contact Christine: [xmFoodPrograms@gmail.com](mailto:xmFoodPrograms@gmail.com)

**L-STEP:** Spring and Fall semesters, contact J: [xmLSTEP@gmail.com](mailto:xmLSTEP@gmail.com)

**SHELTER:** Every night, contact Jim: [xmShelter@gmail.com](mailto:xmShelter@gmail.com)