

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday December 5, 2015
Vigil for Sunday
 5:30pm Josephine Cinque

Sunday December 6, 2015-Second Sunday of Advent
 7:30am All Parishioners of SFX
 9:30am Enrico Bassani
 11:15am Louis Lombardi
 12:30pm Faruolo and Radino Families

Monday December 7, 2015
 7:30am John Egan
 9:00am Lorraine Criscuolo
Vigil Immaculate Conception
 5:30pm Anthony Cianci, Rocco Barberi & Marianne Barberi

Tuesday December 8, 2015- Immaculate Conception
 7:30AM Maria and George Marino
 9:00am Michael Schiavone
 12 Noon Special Intentions
 7:30pm Pasquale D'Erasmo

Wednesday December 9, 2015
 7:30am Maria Carlantone
 9:00am Anthony Greco


Thursday December 10, 2015
 7:30am Kevin Waters
 9:00am John Schettino

Friday December 11, 2015
 7:30am Lia Roina
 9:00am David Salerno

Saturday December 12, 2015—Our Lady of Guadalupe
 7:30am John Schettino
 9:00am In Thanksgiving to St. Lucy and all the Saints
Vigil for Sunday
 5:30pm Benito Chiatto

Sunday December 13, 2015—Third Sunday of Advent
 7:30am All Parishioners of SFX
 9:30am Salvatore Picone
 11:15am Lucy DeMeo
 12:30pm Lillian and Victor DiGiambattista


Next week's second collection is for Retired Religious.




Weekly Collection (Parish Pay Included):
 Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, November 22: \$5,634
 Second Collection (Thanksgiving/Human Development) \$1,127
 First Sunday of Advent, November 29: \$5,971

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, November 23: \$6,282
 Second Collection (Thanksgiving/Human Development): \$1,380
 First Sunday of Advent, November 30: \$5,547

Thank you for your generosity. May God Bless you.




Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Tuesday, December 8th is a Holy Day of Obligation:
 Mass Schedule: Vigil— Monday, December 7 at 5:30pm; Tuesday, December 8th at 7:30am,9:00am, 12 Noon and 7:30pm.




Bread and Wine is donated this week in loving memory of Joseph F. Saraco by Mary Julia

Reconciliation Monday, December 14th. Confessions will be heard from 4pm to 8 pm here at St. Francis Xavier and in all Churches of the Archdiocese of NY.





ST. FRANCIS XAVIER FEAST DAY CELEBRATION:
TODAY, Sunday, December 6th, Potluck Dinner in the Gym after the 12:30pm Mass. Drawing for \$10,000 Feast Day Raffle.




St. Francis Xavier School: During this Advent season, the children will prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth. Advent wreaths will be displayed in all classrooms. The children will be performing in the 16th annual Christmas Show on Wednesday, December 9th and Friday, December 11th.

Religious Education—Learning to live our Catholic faith 24/7: The Annual Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 13th at 9:30am in the gym. Our Parish Family is invited to attend as the true spirit of Christmas—the Birth of Jesus— comes alive with our children. It is free and all Parishioners are welcome.

Christmas at St. Francis Xavier: As we prepare our Church for the Christmas Season, a reminder that **Christmas Flowers and Decorations can be memorialized in honor of a loved one.** The envelopes are available in the vestibule of the Church and included with your Church envelopes. You can leave these envelopes at the Rectory or drop them in the collection basket. Each \$25 donation can be memorialized with up to three names.



Holy Name Society is sponsoring a "Giving Tree" this Advent Season until December 12th and 13th. Please take a white angel from the tree located in the vestibule of the Church and fulfill a gift request for the Williamsbridge Manor Nursing Home. **Also,** the tree will have angels in blue and pink for gifts for children in East Harlem which will be distributed by the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal. Please do not wrap (wrapping paper can be included).

Parish Evaluation: This year Father Matthew J. Furey will be completing his first six-year term as Pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish. In keeping with Archdiocesan policy, an evaluation of the parish has begun. Parishioners and staff who wish to do so may write letters with their own comments about our parish and the pastoral leadership of the Parish. Please address your letters to: Reverend Monsignor Edward Weber The Office of Priest Personnel/Archdiocese of New York 1011 First Avenue, New York, NY 10022

Next Week's Readings (Third Sunday of Advent): Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Psalm—Isaiah 12:2-3,4,5-6 (6); Philipians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18



Dear Parishioners,

I pray for many graces and blessings upon our parish and all of our families to flow from our celebration of the Feast of St. Francis Xavier this past Thursday. We celebrated with our school children at a School Mass in the morning when we welcomed back our own Fr. Justin Cinnante, an alumnus and native son of our parish, as the main celebrant, and with our parishioners at the morning Masses and a special evening Mass. Hopefully this afternoon's Pot Luck Dinner will be a wonderful Parish Family event as we continue to celebrate our Patron Saint, and that a few of our Parishioners will go home with a little extra cash for Christmas with the drawing of our \$10,000 Feast Day Raffle winners. Thank you again for always supporting our Parish and making it such a beautiful place to be.

Every year on this Second Sunday of Advent the Church takes us back to the Jordan River to the preaching of John the Baptist. It was John whom God the Father chose to get His people ready to receive His Son by preaching a baptism of *repentance* for the *forgiveness of sins*. We hear John the Baptist in today's gospel crying out: *"Prepare the way of the Lord...make straight His paths."* To make straight the paths of the Lord means to clear the path of sin, which is the major obstacle for the Lord to come into our lives and into our hearts. John's message is *repentance* and *conversion*. Real conversion begins with the desire to turn toward the Lord and come closer to Him. This leads us to a genuine sorrow for our sins, and then to turn away from those sins and seek God's Mercy, culminating in a good Confession in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Conversion comes to its fullness when, after receiving God's Mercy, we in turn become people of Mercy, and share the Mercy we have received from God with others, forgiving others as our Lord has forgiven us.

This Advent we focus in a particular way on the Mercy of God, for Pope Francis has announced a *Jubilee Year of Mercy* to begin on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception this week and end on the Feast of Christ the King, the last day of this New Liturgical Year. The purpose behind these "Holy Years" is to focus the attention of the Church on an important aspect of Christian life and practice that needs to be better appreciated and lived. Mercy has been the major theme of Pope Francis since he began his pontificate, for he passionately believes that Mercy must characterize everything the Church does, and that Mercy is a special need of our time. In his first general audience in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis said: *"Jesus has this message for us: Mercy. I think – and I say it with humility – that this is the Lord's most powerful message: Mercy. It was He, Himself, who said: 'I did not come for the righteous...I came for sinners.' The Lord never tires of forgiving: never! It is we who tire of asking His forgiveness. Let us ask for the grace not to tire of asking forgiveness, because He never tires of forgiving."*

Let us never tire of asking forgiveness especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is Pope Francis' hope that many will return to this beautiful Sacrament this Advent and make it a regular practice in their lives. Again, in the words of Pope Francis: *"Do not be afraid of Confession! When one is on line to go to Confession, one feels all these things, even shame, but then when one finishes Confession one leaves free, grand, beautiful, forgiven, candid, happy. This is the beauty of Confession! I would like you to ask yourself: when was the last time you went to Confession...two days, two weeks, two years, twenty years, forty years? And if much time has passed, do not lose another day. Go, the priest will be good."*

Let us heed these words of Pope Francis to make good use of the Sacrament of Confession this Advent, throughout this Year of Mercy, and throughout the rest of our lives. It will bear the fruit of such joy, serenity, and peace deep in our hearts, the sure sign that Jesus, who was born into the world over 2000 years ago the first Christmas, has been born once again in my heart this Christmas. May God bless us all.



Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. Matthew J. Furey

FAMILY PRAYER: Second Sunday of Advent

The Advent Season is a time to look forward to Christ's coming. The Advent Wreath is a circle of four candles, each candle representing a week of Advent. The family may gather around the wreath, recite a short prayer and light the appropriate number of candles. As each week passes, one more candle is lit to remind the family that Christ's birthday is getting closer. The purple candles remind us of our need for penance. The Rose candle (third week) reminds us Christmas joy is truly near. Prayer for the Second Sunday of Advent: *Lord God, O Lord, stir up our hearts to prepare the way of your beloved Son, so that, through His coming on earth, we may serve you always with pure intentions. We ask this through Our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son. (Someone lights two purple candles.)*



Please remember the following

members of our parish community in your prayers:

William Ahearn, Dennis Aiello, Eduardo Alcega, Mary Annunzio, Judith Arriaga, Betty Barbagallo, Nettle Bianchini, Joe Blandino, Nellie Calderon, Louis Campisi, Flavia Chiappa, Marie Ciacco, Theodore Civetta, Jenny Cioffi, Loren Clavin, Lorraine Capozzi, Angelo Caruso, Brenda Colon, Mary Cozzocrea, Joanne Cunnane, Richard Dauri, Carlani Defedele, Antoinette DeLillo, Baby Colin Depriest, Al & Dot DeSantis, Patrick Dolan, Baby Max D'Onofrio, Carmella Emily DonVito, Mario Esguerra, Cheryl Espinoza, John Esposito, Esther Finn, Carmen Flores, Billy Fischer, Rosemarie Flatley, Luis Paz Florencio, Sr., Peter Frenna, Donald Gallagher, Maritza Garcia, Brian Gillick, Alexis Marie Gonzalez, Cora Gonzales, John Hastings, Charlotte Hayes, Kerry White Hemmer, Laura Liffrieri Hernandez, Gloria Irizarry, Frances Jenkins, Felix Jalman, Emily Koch (8-yr. old), Janet Kreage, Rosemarie Leo, Margaret Leonard, Ann Kittle, Angela Liffrieri, Gloria Lisanti, Lucy Lorusso, Barbara Lyne, Andy Massa, Vincent (Jimmy) Mastrogiovanni, Paul McAllister, Theresa McDermott, Jonnie Miraglia, Maria Mayo, Maria Mazzella, Marjorie Morales, John Mullane, Brianan Murtagh, John Muzzillo, Michael Nichols, Paige O'Donnell, Kerry O'Keefe, Rosa Maria Ortiz, Louie Paone, Ralph Palumbo, Sylvia Pankovcin, Virginia Panchen, Richard Quararone, Barbara R. and Nollie R, Giselle Ramos, Thomas J. Reardon, Blake Rosenn, Angela Rizzo, Alejandra Rosario, Rosa Russo, Gloria Santaniello, Maureen Dean Schmidt, Theresa Smith, Niko Stravlianopoulos (3-yr. old), Marie Swain, Paul Teehan, Frank Toapha, Justina Torres, Patricia Trainor, Lori Mayer Tricoli, Dominick Villara, Christopher Vitale, Kathy Vitale, George Walsh, Gary Wheeler, Jonathan Wilson (12-year old), Ottilia Zangrandi, Madelyn Ziesel



In your prayers please remember all the men and women serving in our

Armed Forces, especially: Zachary Piragnoli, Nick Visconti, Christopher C. Cannata, Carlos E. Blanco, Emmanuel Martinez, Lt. Michael Tafone, Cpl. Christopher Antony, Cpt. Brian Pascozzi, Master Sgt. Janelle Amador, Anthony Thomas Candito, Sgt. Troy Mastin, 1st Lt. Nicholas Cardillo



Pray for those who have died: Joseph Saraco

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Father Reiman's Advent Talks on Monday Evenings

November 30th: Our Lady of Guadalupe
December 7th: Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Monday, December 4th: Our Lady of Fatima
Monday, December 21st: Our Lady of Lourdes

December 3rd: Feast of St. Francis Xavier

Mass Schedule: 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:00am (School Mass), 7:00pm

December 4th: First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

1pm-7pm Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
7pm- 8pm Holy Hour and Benediction

December 8th: Immaculate Conception – Holy Day of Obligation

Mass Schedule: Vigil, Monday, December 7th at 5:30pm
Tuesday, December 8th at 7:30am, 9:00am, Noon and 7:30pm

December 12th: Our Lady of Guadalupe

Mass 7:30am and 9:00am

December 14th: Reconciliation Monday

Prepare your heart for the Peace of Christ
Confessions from 4:00pm to 8:00pm here and at all the Churches
throughout the Archdiocese of New York

December 22nd: Simbang Gabi – Filipino Christmas Novena Mass at 7:00pm

Reception in Lower Level of Rectory

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2015

Christmas Eve Schedule

Thursday, December 24th
4:00pm – Vigil Mass
5:30pm – Vigil Mass
12:00 Midnight Mass

Christmas Day - Friday, December 25th

7:30am, 9:30am, 11:15am and 12:30pm

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God- Thursday, December 31, 2015

5:30pm – Vigil Mass

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God -Friday, January 1, 2016

7:30am, 9:30am, 11:15am, 12:30pm