

MASS INTENTIONS



Bread and Wine is donated this week in loving memory of **Patty D'Agostino** by **Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Mastrogiovanni**



Altar flowers are donated this week in loving memory of **Claire Cardinale** by **Doppelt Family and Wiseman Family**



Sanctuary lamp is lit this week in loving memory of **Patty D'Agostino** by **Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Mastrogiovanni**



Newly Baptized: We welcome into our Parish Family: Matthew Francesco Mihalchik son of Stephen and Anna



Sunday, May 8th—Mother's Day: What greater gift for your Mother on Mother's Day than to be remembered in a special way at all the Masses which will be offered for all Mothers living and deceased. Offertory envelopes are available in the Vestibule of the Church which will be placed on the Altar and remain throughout the month of May.

St. Francis Xavier Golden and Silver Wedding Celebration

Mass: For couples celebrating their 50th or 25th Anniversary during 2016, there will be a parish celebration with renewal of vows on Saturday, June 4th at the 5:30pm Mass here at SFX. Please contact the Rectory so that we can have a certificate commemorating your golden or silver jubilee prepared for you.

Congratulations Angela Deegan, recipient of FIAME

"The Michael Tomasetti Principal's Award: May God bless our Principal for her many years of service to our children and families of St. Francis Xavier School.



St. Francis Xavier School: The Gatsby Card Party was a huge success thanks to Chairwoman Liane Weihe and her committee. Everyone had a fun evening. Application and scholarship information is available online at www.ApplyCatholicSchoolsNY.org. Please visit sfxschool.net.



Religious Education—Learning to live our Catholic faith 24/7:

The children and families are so excited as we approach First Holy Communion day on May 7th and 8th. **"Wednesdays With Jesus"**: This week the children were taught more about Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament by our Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal. May God bless our Sisters always! The children are also learning that Jesus is our Shepherd and we are His sheep. We listen to Him with our ears and hearts and we follow Him.

Holy Name Society is sponsoring a collection of supplies for babies and young mothers in need in our City **until Sunday, May 1st**. Items needed: newborn baby clothes, maternity clothes, "Baby-Bjorn" style carriers (over the shoulder), plain baby strollers (not the kind that convert to car seats), food cards for Stop & Shop and other supermarket chains in NYC, Metro cards for bus and subway travel. Donations can be left in the large boxes in the Church Vestibule for the Sisters of Life at Visitation Mission Center in Manhattan.

Please visit our Parish Website: stfrancisxavierbronx.com. The Parish Bulletin can be read each week on the website.

Next Week's Readings (Fifth Sunday of Easter): Acts 14:21-27; Psalm 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13 (see1); Revelation 21:1-5a; John 13:31-33a, 34-35

Saturday April 16, 2016
Vigil for Sunday
5:30pm Carolyn Cuffari

Sunday April 17, 2016
7:30am All Parishioners of SFX
9:30am Carolyn Cuffari
11:15am Maria and Nicholas Knopf
12:30pm Maria Avellino

Monday April 18, 2016
7:30am Claire Cardinale
9:00am John Denner

Tuesday April 19, 2016
7:30am Maria Teresa Ciaccio
9:00am Margaret Rita Dean

Wednesday April 20, 2016
7:30am Alice Fogarty
9:00am Patsy D'Agostino

Thursday April 21, 2016
7:30am Carmela D'Alesandro
9:00pm Nora Carney

Friday April 22, 2016
7:30am Daniel J. Moloney
9:00am Gennaro Galderisi

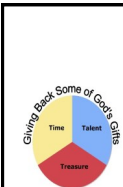
Saturday April 23, 2016
7:30am Fred Manniello and Michael Manniello
9:00am Mary Bombace

Vigil for Sunday
5:30am Joseph Milone

Sunday April 24, 2016
7:30am All Parishioners SFX
9:30am Agostino Chiappa
11:15am John Noonan
12:30pm Special Intentions of All Volunteers of SFX (Living)



League of the Sacred Heart will meet on First Friday, May 6th in the Rectory after the 9am Mass.



Our Gifts Back to the Lord
Weekly Collection (Parish Pay included) 2016
April 10, 2016 : \$6,001
Second Collection (Archdiocese of the Military): \$1,052

Collection last year (Parish Pay included) 2015
April 12, 2015: \$5,584
Thank you for your generosity. May God bless you.



Dear Parishioners,

We welcome this weekend Saul Llacsa, a second year Seminarian at St. Joseph's Seminary who will be speaking at all the Masses on this "Good Shepherd Sunday." Through the Prophet Isaiah, God promised: "I will give you Shepherds after my own Heart." Let us pray for Saul and all of the young men at St. Joseph's preparing for the Priesthood, that they persevere in becoming shepherds after the Heart of Jesus. Let us pray, too, that more of our young may be open to the possibility that Jesus may be calling them to a life of service in the priesthood or religious life.

Every year on this Fourth Sunday of Easter we are given the image of Jesus as the "Good Shepherd." For thousands of years throughout the Old Testament the Jewish people were given the image of God as their Shepherd. We hear in the beautiful 23rd Psalm: "The Lord is my Shepherd there is nothing I shall want." Jesus fulfills this ancient prophesy in today's Gospel as He speaks of Himself as the Good Shepherd: "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish." There are so many other voices out there that seek to drown out the Voice of Jesus and His Church, false shepherds who lead so many astray, especially our young people. Only Jesus can lead us safely through this world to the green pastures of Heaven. If we are not following Him, if we are not listening to His Voice, we are going to lose our way in this difficult and morally confused world.

On this Good Shepherd Sunday and with the release of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation last week on the *Joy of Love in the Family*, this is a good time to bring up a pastoral issue that is quite prevalent these days regarding marriage. In speaking of the Spirituality of Marriage and the Family, Pope Francis writes: "The Trinity is present in the temple of marital communion...God dwells deep within in the marital love that gives Him Glory...If a family is centered on Christ, He will unify and illumine its entire life. Moments of pain and difficulty will be experienced in union with the Lord's Cross, and His closeness will make it possible to surmount them." The Pope speaks beautifully here of the importance of the Sanctifying Grace of the Sacrament of Marriage which helps a marriage and family to remain strong, happy and holy through all the trials that come with living. How close our Lord, the Good Shepherd, wants to be to married couples and families.

The reality is that, today so many couples are living without the Grace of the Sacrament of Marriage for many different reasons. I just want to extend a heart-felt invitation to assist any of our couples who are not married in the Church for whatever reason toward celebrating the Sacrament of Marriage. We are here to help you. The process of having a civil marriage *con-validated* in the Church is much easier than most people think.

If a prior marriage and divorce has necessitated a couple to be married civilly outside the Church, please let us help you to try to have the prior marriage declared Null and Void so that you are free to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage, that is have your current *con-validated*. Pope Francis has amended the Annulment Process to make it much more accessible than it seemed before. The process now is much simpler, faster, and it is free of charge. Again, please let us help you. Fr. Reiman and I are here for no other reason than to help our people come closer to God. May St. Francis Xavier always be a place where the Love of Jesus is present and felt by all every day. May God bless us all.

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. Matthew J. Furey



So far 113 of our parishioners have pledged \$32,155 to the Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal which puts us at 61.3% of the goal for our parish of \$52,500. Cardinal Dolan is asking for your support of the many charitable works of the Archdiocese. Please consider making a gift or pledge to help our Parish surpass our goal and earn a much needed rebate for our Parish. Please fill out your pledge card and send it in, or drop it in the collection or at the Rectory. Extra pledge envelopes are available in the Vestibule of the Church. You can also make a gift online: www.cardinalsappeal.org. If you have already made a pledge, thank you!

Xavier Players Proudly Present: "The Lion King": April 29th, 30th and May 1st. \$15/person. See flier in Vestibule of the Church.

The Salesian Players proudly present "Tarzan", April 21-23 at 7:30pm and April 24 at 2:30pm at Salesian High School. Please see flier in Vestibule of Church for more information.



Please remember the following

members of our parish community in your prayers:

William Ahearn, Dennis Aiello, Edwardo Alica, Mary Annunzio, Judith Arriaga, Betty Barbagallo, Nettie Bianchini, Joe Blandino, Nellie Calderon, Louis Campisi, Flavia Chiappa, Marie Ciacco, Theodore Civetta, Jenny Cioffi, Loreen Clavin, Lorraine Capozzi, Yolanda Carrozza, Angelo Caruso, Brenda Colon, Mary Coccozrea, Joanne Cunneen, Richard Daum, Margaret Mary Dean, Carlan Defede, 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, Bill Ford, Luigi Fumo, Donald Gallagher, Maritza Garcia, Brian Gillick, Alexis Marie Gonzalez, Cora Gonzales, John Hastings, Charlotte Hayes, Kerry White Hemmer, Laura Lifrieri Hernandez, Gloria Irizarry, Frances Jenkins, Felix Jaiman, Emily Koch (6-yr. old), Janet Kreage, Rosemarie Leo, Margaret Leonard, Ann Kittle, Angela Lifrieri, Gloria Lisanti, Lucy Lorusso, Barbara Lyne, Andy Massa, Vincent (Jimmy) Mastrogiovanni, Paul McAllister, Theresa McDermott, Jennie Miraglia, Maria Mayo, Maria Mazzella, Marjorie Morales, Brianan Murtagh, John Muzzillo, Michael Nichols, Paige O'Donnell, Kerry O'Keefe, Rosa Maria Ortiz, Louie Paone, Ralph Palumbo, Sylvia Pankovcin, Virginia Parthen, Richard Quartarone, Barbara R. and Mollie R, Giselle Ramos, Thomas J. Reardon, Blake Rosenn, Angela Rizzo, Alejandra Rosario, Rosa Russo, Gloria Santaniello, Maureen Dean Schmidt, Theresa Smith, Niko Stravrianopoulos (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 Wieler, 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 Pascuzzi, Master Sgt. Janelle Amador, Anthony Thomas Candito, Sgt. Troy Mastin, 1st Lt. Nicholas Cardiello



Pray for those who have died: Juanita Payla, Domingo Rivera, Luigi Fumo, Theresa Zavattoni, Norma Sorg