

St. Francis Xavier Church

The First African American Catholic Community in the Country
Founded 1793

Served by the Josephites since 1871

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM

Holy Days: 10:00 AM & 7:00 PM

except when the Holy Day falls on a Monday

Holiday, Mass and Novena will be at 8:00 AM only

Weekdays

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:00 AM

Saturday: 5:00 PM

Wednesday: 10:00 AM followed by Bible Study

OTHER SCHEDULED EVENTS

Confessions

Before Masses or by appointments

Marriages

Notify the rectory at least 6 months in advance

Baptisms

*The Sacrament of Baptism is conferred
on the Fourth Sunday, at 2 PM.*

Notify the rectory at least 1 month in advance

Funerals

*Please notify the rectory before making
arrangements with funeral homes.*

Rev. Xavier Edet, S.S.J.,

Pastor

Religious Education

Joslyn Alexander, Director

SVD-SFX Head Start Center (410) 685-7288



THE JOSEPHITES

"Glorious St. Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, to you do we raise our hearts and hands to implore your powerful intercessions in obtaining from the benign Heart of Jesus all the helps and graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special favor we now implore of men and means for our seminary, college and novitiate. Guardian of the Word Incarnate, we feel animated with confidence that your prayers in our behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God.

Amen"

Mission Statement for St. Francis Xavier Church

In the tradition of the oldest African-American Catholic Church in the United States, St. Francis Xavier is committed to meeting the spiritual, educational and social needs of our parishioners and our surrounding community.

1501 E. OLIVER STREET • BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21213

Rectory (410) 727-3103

Fax (410) 625-9587

Website - <http://www.HistoricFrancisXavier.org>

REFLECTION

"The baptism of repentance and purification in the Holy Spirit"

John the Baptist's life was fueled by one burning passion - to point others to Jesus Christ and to the coming of his kingdom. Who is John the Baptist and what is the significance of his message for our lives? Scripture tells us that John was filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb (Luke 1:15, 41) by Christ himself, whom Mary had just conceived by the Holy Spirit. When Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth John leaped in her womb as they were filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:41). The fire of the Spirit dwelt in John and made him the forerunner of the coming Messiah. John was led by the Spirit into the wilderness prior to his ministry where he grew in the word of God and was tested in preparation for his prophetic mission. John's clothing was reminiscent of the prophet Elijah (see Kings 1:8).

Called to hear and obey the Word of God

John broke the prophetic silence of the previous centuries when he began to speak the word of God to the people of Israel. His message was similar to the message of the Old Testament prophets who chided the people of God for their unfaithfulness and who tried to awaken true repentance in them. Among a people unconcerned with the things of God, it was his work to awaken their interest, unsettle them from their complacency, and arouse in them enough good will to recognize and receive Christ when he came. Are you eager to hear God's word and to be changed by it through the power of the Holy Spirit?

Jesus tells us that John the Baptist was more than a prophet (Luke 7:26). John was the voice of the Consoler who is coming (John 1:23; Isaiah 40:1-3). He completed the cycle of prophets begun by Elijah (Matthew 11:13-14). What the prophets had carefully searched for and angels longed to see, now came to completion as John made the way ready for the coming of the Messiah, God's Anointed Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. With John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit begins the restoration to the human race of the "divine likeness", prefiguring what would be achieved with and in the Lord Jesus.

Let the Holy Spirit purify and transform your mind and heart

John's baptism was for repentance - turning away from sin and taking on a new way of life according to God's word.

Stewardship Reflections

Acts 20:35

"In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Mass Intentions



Saturday

5:00 P.M. Happy Birthday and God's continued blessing for Doris Leach, req. by her daughter

Sunday

8:00 A.M. In recognition of all the Ladies of KPC #323 celebrating birthdays this month

11:00 A.M. People of the Parish

Tuesday

8:00 A.M. Healing mercy for Mildred Lane, and her daughters, req. by Darleen Thomas

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. Loving Memory of my husband Joseph Mello, req. by Dorothy Mello

Thursday

8:00 A.M. Healing mercy for Jeanne Edmonds and Thedrick Tapp, req. by The NHMELW.

Friday

8:00 A.M. Happy 94th Birthday to our beloved Father Grady Hill, req. by his children

Today's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
 Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14
 Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Next Weeks Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
 Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
 Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28



SPECIAL NOTICES

Scriptures for Daily Meditation



"And the Scripture gives us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled" Rom.15:4

Day	Date	Gospel
Mon.	December 11, 2017	Luke 5:17-26
Tues.	December 12, 2017	Luke 1:39-47
Wed.	December 13, 2017	Matthew 11:28-30
Thurs.	December 14, 2017	Matthew 11:11-15
Fri.	December 15, 2017	Matthew 11:16-19
Sat.	December 16, 2017	Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

SFX Circle of Recognition

This month we give recognition to all of our parishioners that give of their time and talents to sing in our choirs, the musicians and the dancers.

*Evelyn Bowman- Director
 Sonya Johnson- Director
 Kenyatta Hardison -Director
 Alice Deshazo- Organist
 Robert Rucks- Piano
 N. April Robinson- Piano
 Kirk Gaddy- Drummer*

*Praise Ensemble
 Gospel Choir
 Children's Choir
 Men's Choir
 Mass Choir
 The Heavenly Praise Dancer*



Christmas Mass Schedule

Wednesday, December 20, 2017-Combine Penance Service of St. Ann, St. Wenceslaus, SFX, hosted by SFX at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 24, 2017- One Mass during the day at 10:00 a.m.
 Christmas Eve-5:00 p.m. Mass
 Midnight Mass

Monday, December 25, 2017 -Christmas Day- 10:00 a.m. Mass

Sunday, December 31, 2017- One Mass during the day 10:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve- 6:00 p.m.

Monday, January 1, 2018-New Year's Day, 10:00 a.m. Mass



Advent Begins With Mercy

The four weeks before Christmas encompass the Advent season, one of preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ.

This year, Advent began Dec.3, 20127. Giving time , talent, and resources via spiritual and corporal works of mercy offers a way for Catholics to serve while preparing for the Feast of the Nativity of the Lord. Remember the less fortunate. Provide food , hats gloves, coats, and Special prayers.

Special Notices

Religious Education

Family Faith Formation

2017 Faith Formation Calendar

Sundays 9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m.

December

3rd

Class/Homecoming: First Sunday of Advent, Religious Education classes will be held that day in the undercroft at 9:30 a.m. We will have special activities for our Pre-K thru grade 4. Grades 5-8 and Confirmation class will be assisting in serving during our reception.

8th Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation

10th Class

17th Class

24th Class 3 p.m. followed by Mass

31st NO CLASS

January

7th Class

14th Class

21th Class

28th Class-Open House

February

4th Class-African American History Program

11th Class

14th Ash Wednesday

18th Class

24th First Penance 10:00 a.m.

25th Class-Student Retreat 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Confession grades 3-9

Special Notices

Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary Court #323

The Knights of Peter Claver is the oldest Black Catholic organization in the country. Our goal is to encourage lay apostolic and community action. We support worthwhile causes through volunteerism and charitable contributions. Ladies Auxiliary-Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange Court #323 is seeking new members. If you are interested in joining please contact Carolyn Finney at 443-570-9577.

The Knights of Peter Claver, Ladies Auxiliary, Court #323 are holding a contest. Guess the number of Jelly Beans in the jar for \$1.00. The closest guess will win the Angel Figurine (see the poster in the rear of Church). The jar will be displayed at all Masses. The winner will be announced on Sunday, December 17, 2017. See any member of the Auxiliary to submit your guess.



Suggested Advent Activities

1. Collect new cards and stamps to give to the Women Detention Center to send cards to their families.
2. Step up to activities in your parish.
3. When shopping pick up extra canned goods to donate to homeless families.
4. Return your Angel Tree gifts now.
5. Prepare holiday treat stockings and drop them off to nursing homes, or shelters.
6. Last, but not least pray for others and to give God his Glory.

Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary Annual Christmas Shopping Trip

Sodality's Annual Christmas Shopping trip, is Saturday, December 16, 2017, at Reading, PA. Outlets and Rockvale outlets in Lancaster, PA. The cost will be \$50.00. Contact any Sodality member for tickets or Martha Lewis Dorsey for tickets (410- 668-1258). Tickets are still available.



Calendar Requests fo 2018

All organizations and ministries: Forms are in your mailbox to request Calendar dates. Please send in your request as not to cause conflict. List all dates of activities that require use of the undercroft and church.



Thank you

A Special Thank you to all that made this past weekend a memorable one. The revival lifted our spirits, and the food and networking gave us Grace. We thank all that gave of their time and talents. The cooks, the servers, the planners, and the congregation that supported it monetarily. It really is a great feeling to belong to Historic ST Francis Xavier Catholic Church..

For Your Information

Please Note:

If you are sick at home or in the hospital, or if you know of someone who is, Please Contact the Rectory, 410-727-3103. Please also remember to contact the Rectory to advise us when to remove your name from the Sick and/or Shut-in Listing.

Mass Intentions

The normal donation for a Mass Request is \$5.00 and must be paid at the time of request. We will no longer take Mass requests over the telephone. Mass requests envelopes are located on the table in the rear of the church.

Address changed?

Please notify the office if you have moved for address changes.

Proper Church Etiquette

No cell phones or other electronic devices should be left on while in Church, especially during Mass. Also, please do not chew gum, eat or drink at anytime while you are in Church, especially when receiving Holy Communion our mouths should be free from all food items. Parents please do not bring potato chips or other foods to give your children during Mass. Food is being found in the Pews. Please give them snacks before Mass. If you cannot hear the Lector or other Ministers from the Altar, please raise your hand and do not yell out in Church, this is very disrespectful. We ask your full cooperation in adhering to these rules of etiquette.

Parish Membership/Census Update:

The use of Church envelopes is the responsible way to support your Parish. Parishioners are requested to register at the church office, Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. or complete the following form:

Name _____

Street _____

Phone _____ Zip _____

- Moving out of Parish
- Want Envelopes
- Change of telephone number/address
-

Please cut out and drop in the Collection Basket or mail to the office.