

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

"God so loved the world that he gave us his only Son"

Do you know the healing power of Christ's redeeming love and victory which he won for us on the cross? The Old Testament prophets never ceased to speak of God's faithfulness and compassion towards those who would turn away from sin and return to God with repentant hearts, trust, and obedience (2 Chronicles 36:15). When Jesus spoke to Nicodemus he prophesied that his death on the cross would bring healing and forgiveness and a "new birth in the Spirit" (John 3:3) and eternal life (John 3:15).

The "lifting up" of the Son of Man

Jesus explained to Nicodemus that the "Son of Man" must be "lifted up" to bring the power and authority of God's kingdom to bear on the earth. The title, "Son of Man," came from the prophet Daniel who describes a vision he received of the Anointed Messiah King who was sent from heaven to rule over the earth (Daniel 7:13-14). Traditionally when kings began to reign they were literally "lifted up" and enthroned above the people. Jesus explains to Nicodemus that he will be recognized as the Anointed King when he is "lifted up" on the cross at Calvary. Jesus died for his claim to be the only begotten Son sent by the Father in heaven to redeem, heal, and reconcile his people with God.

Jesus points to a key prophetic sign which Moses performed in the wilderness right after the people of Israel were afflicted with poisonous serpents. Scripture tells us that many people died in the wilderness because of their sin of rebellion towards Moses and God. Through Moses' intervention, God showed mercy to the people and instructed Moses to "make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live"(Numbers 21:8). This miraculous sign was meant to foreshadow and point to the saving work which Jesus would perform to bring healing and salvation to the world.

Cyril of Alexandria (376-444 AD), an early church father, explains the spiritual meaning of the bronze serpent and how it points to the saving work of Jesus Christ:

"This story is a type of the whole mystery of the incarnation. For the serpent signifies bitter and deadly sin, which was devouring the whole race on the earth... biting the Soul of man and infusing it with the venom of wickedness. And there is no way that we could have escaped being conquered by it, except by the relief that comes only from heaven.

Stewardship Reflections *James 1:17*

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Mass Intentions



Saturday

5:00 P.M. Happy repose for the soul of Rita Colbert, the sister of Jeanne Edmonds and Lawrence Mello, req. by NFM7W

Sunday

8:00 A.M. People of Parish

11:00 A.M. In Loving Memory of Napoleon Sykes, a phenomenal husband, dad and Pop-pop, req. by Brenda and children

Tuesday

8:00 A.M. Happy Repose of the soul of my nephew Jamar Kelly, 2nd Anniversary of his death, req. by Martha Lewis Dorsey

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. God's healing mercy for all of the sick in our parish. req. by Darleen Thomas

Thursday

8:00 A.M. In Memory of Dorothy J. Butler, req. by the family

Friday

8:00 A.M. Healing mercy for Harry Butler, req. by the family

Today's Readings

First Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23
Second Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10
Gospel: John 3:14-21

Next Weeks Readings

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34
Second Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9
Gospel: John 12:20-33



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.	March 12, 2018	John 4:43-54
Tues.	March 13, 2018	John 5:1-16
Wed.	March 14, 2018	John 5:17-30
Thurs.	March 15, 2018	John 5:31-47
Fri.	March 16, 2018	John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Sat.	March 17, 2018	John 7:40-53

Ministers of Hospitality, Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers Annual Retreat

Save the Date! For the annual retreat hosted by the Extraordinary Ministers, the Lectors, and the Ministers of Hospitality, to be held on Saturday, March 24, 2018 from 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. The cost is \$12.00. Continental breakfast and lunch will be served. Please see Celestine Kellam, Suzonne Vickers, Janet Wiggins, or Michelle Wiggins to register. Ticket Money due by March 17, 2018.

SfX Circle Club Drawing

The Circle Club Drawing will be held after the 8:00 Mass On Sunday March 25, 2018. It is Psalm Sunday, and we Want to complete it early due to prior commitments.

Seven Sorrows of Mary

Please join Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court #2257 of SFX on Friday, March 23rd, at 6:30 p.m. in the reciting meditation of the Seven Sorrows of Mary. Booklets will be provided.

SPECIAL NOTICES

Stations of the Cross Devotions



Will be celebrated each Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. during the Lenten Season. Parishioners are encouraged to make the Stations of the Cross as part of their Lenten Devotions. Many graces are given for those who walk the final hours of Jesus' life on earth. Confessions during Lent will be held on Friday evening from 6:00 pm-7:00 pm. and also after Stations of the Cross. Stations of the Cross will be led by the different organizations in the Church.

Schedule for the Stations of the Cross

- Friday, March 16, 2018-Mass Choir
- Friday, March 23, 2018-Lectors, Eucharistic and Hospitality Ministers
- Good Friday -March 30, 2018- Youth Ministry

Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary Annual Fashion Show

Annual Fashion, Sunday, May 20, 2018 from 3-6 pm. Theme : Steppin Out. Tickets are \$15.00 per person Fashion Show is in need of Models if you are interested please contact Lorraine Bell (410) 889-9196.

February Financials

Offering Income: \$24,269.70

Expenses: \$29,926.83

Deficit: \$5,657.13

- Salaries
- Administration
- Rectory support
- Maintenance Expenses
- Benefits
- Insurance
- Rental Expense

Special Notices



March

11th Class

18th Class-Community Service Project

25th Class-Palm Sunday

29th Holy Thursday 7:00 PM St. Wenceslaus Church

April

1 NO CLASS-Easter

8 Class

14 Student Field Trip 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

15 Class

22 Class

29 Class

Children's Envelopes

Envelopes have been distributed to all Sunday school children. Start your child on a lifetime path of stewardship practice by using their envelopes weekly.

Religious Education Lenten Service Project

CRS

CRS Rice Bowls were distributed to all Sunday School Children. The children's Lenten sacrifices to CRS will honor Jesus' call to serve our neighbors who have less than we do. Please have the children return their Rice Bowl on Sunday April 8th.

"Blessed are they who Hunger and Thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied."

Let us Feed the Needy. We are collecting canned goods and dry food. We will take these items to SVDP Beans and Bread and Our Daily Bread on Saturday, March 17th.

Special Notices

CDA Court #2257 Education Committee

The CDA Court #2257 Education Committee is sponsoring the CDA Education Contest. The contest is for students in grades 4-12. The themes for 2018 are "The Lord has done great things for us, we have joy" Psalm 126 and "Finding Joy in my life." The applications can be found in the back of the church. Please contact Marsha Powell @443-467-2841 for more information.

Holy Week Activities for the Pastorate

March 29, 2018 ----- Holy Thursday at St. Wenceslaus at 7:00 p.m.

March 30, 2018 ----- Good Friday at St. Ann's at 3:00 p.m.

March 31, 2018 ----- Holy Easter Vigil at SFX at 7:30 p.m.

Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary's Retreat "Come, Follow Me!"

Come join the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary on our weekend Retreat, April 6-8, 2018. For first time retreatants and/or young adults up to 30 years of age the cost for the weekend is \$195.00. For retreatants that have been on retreat before at Loyola on the Potomac (A Jesuit Retreat House) the cost is \$245. A deposit of \$115.00 is due now. If you are interested in attending please contact: Lorraine Bell (410) 889-9196 or Martha Lewis Dorsey (410) 668-1258. All deposits are due by March 18, 2018 for registration.

Important Note, Envelope Users

When submitting one check for multiple envelopes, please include the amount on each envelope. In addition, please make sure that the amount you are recording on the outside of the envelope is the same as the funds that you are placing inside of the envelope. Both of these things are very important to insure that your offering is accurately recorded. Please write or print legibly. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

SPECIAL NOTICE!

*Please Keep In Your Prayers
All sick and shut in SFX Parish*

So many of our parishioners are dealing with health issues, please remember them in your prayers.

Lucretia Coates, Candice Coates, Mildred Lane, Jeanne Edmonds, Bernie Fuller, Bernadette Morgan, Mabel Smith, Miles Fitzgerald, Velva Foster, Charles Lewis Jr. Michael Butler and Dorothy Mello.

SFX Easter Monday Atlantic City Trip

Thank you for your response, the Atlantic City Trip is sold out.

SOLD OUT

SVD NEEDS YOU!



If you are interested in volunteering to support our church St. Vincent De Paul program, and providing support to those communities surrounding our church, and you have at least two hours that you can contribute 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, please call Gracie Ferguson or Darleen Thomas. The program usually starts around 8:45 a.m. and ends no later than 11:30 a.m. It will consist of xeroxing, paper work, checking files to verify information, and consulting with our clients. It is a position that requires absolute confidentiality. If you care about those dealing with hard times, then you are the person. The office number is 410-727-3103, ext. 4.

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 Parish office, 410-727-3103. Please also remember to contact the office 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 Rectory.



STRESS WORKSHOP
ST. ANN'S CHURCH



St. Ann's Church will host a Workshop on dealing with Stress this Saturday, March 17, 10 am – 12 noon in the Anchorage. A light breakfast will be provided at 10 am. Learn the many ways stress affects us mentally, physically and spiritually and the ways in which we are able to cope with and become resilient against the things that cause us distress. Please use the sign-up sheet or call the church office to register (410 235-8169).



Knights of Peter Claver, Ladies Auxiliary
Court #323

Bake Sale

Given by the Spiritual Committee



Where: SFX Undercroft
When: Palm Sunday, March 25th
Time: After 8am and 11am Masses
Cakes, Pies, Cookies, and Brownies

Grand Lady Renee Terry

Chairperson: Lady Paula Fuller

