

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



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"

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

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

They would not come to the feast!

What can a royal wedding party tell us about God's kingdom? One of the most beautiful images used in the Scriptures to depict what heaven is like is the wedding celebration and royal feast given by the King for his newly-wed son and bride. Whatever grand feast we can imagine on earth, heaven is the feast of all feasts because the Lord of heaven and earth invites us to the most important banquet of all - not simply as bystanders or guests - but as members of Christ's own body, his bride the church! The last book in the Bible ends with an invitation to the wedding feast of the Lamb - the Lord Jesus who offered his life as an atoning sacrifice for our sins and who now reigns as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The Spirit and the Bride say, Come! (Revelations 22:17). The Lord Jesus invites us to be united with himself in his heavenly kingdom of peace and righteousness.

Whose interests come first - God or mine?

Why does Jesus' parable of the marriage feast seem to focus on an angry king who ends up punishing those who refused his invitation and who mistreated his servants? Jesus' parable contains two stories. The first has to do with the original guests invited to the marriage feast. The king had sent out invitations well in advance to his subjects, so they would have plenty of time to prepare for coming to the feast. How insulting for the invited guests to then refuse when the time for celebrating came! They made light of the King's request because they put their own interests above his. They not only insulted the King but the heir to the throne as well. The King's anger is justified because they openly refused to give the king the honor he was due. Jesus directed this warning to the Jews of his day, both to convey how much God wanted them to share in the joy of his kingdom, but also to give a warning about the consequences of refusing his Son, their Messiah and Savior.

An invitation we cannot refuse!

The second part of the story focuses on those who had no claim on the king and who would never have considered getting such an invitation. The "good and the bad" along the highways certainly referred to the Gentiles (non-Jews) and to sinners. This is certainly an invitation of grace - undeserved, unmerited favor and kindness! But this invitation also contains a warning for those who refuse it or who approach the wedding feast unworthily.

Stewardship Reflections

1 Corinthians 9:17

For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me.

Mass Intentions



Saturday

5:00 P.M. (1) In Memory of my husband Joseph Mello, req. by Dottie Mello
(2) In Memory of Warren Boston, req. by Melanie Holland

Sunday

8:00 A.M. God's Healing Mercies for Janice Baker and Alice King, req. by Dottie Mello

11:00 A.M. People of the Parish

Tuesday

8:00 A.M. In Memory of Willa Mae Nicholas, req. by Melanie Holland

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. (1) Healing mercies and blessings for all the sick, req. by Dottie Mello
(2) Healing Mercies and a successful surgery for Michael Allen req. by Martha Lewis Dorsey & Family

Thursday

8:00 A.M.

Friday

8:00 A.M.

Today's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10a
Second Reading: Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20
Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14 or 22:1-10

Next Weeks Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6
Second Reading: Thessalonians 1:1-5b
Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21



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.	October 16, 2017	Luke 11:29-32
Tues.	October 17, 2017	Luke 11:37-41
Wed.	October 18, 2017	Luke 10:1-9
Thurs.	October 19, 2017	Luke 11:47-54
Fri.	October 20, 2017	Luke 12:1-7
Sat.	October 21, 2017	Luke 12:8-12

SFX Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary's Day of Reflection

Come join the Sodality of BVM of SFX on Saturday, November 11, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on their Annual Day of Reflection.

"The Blessed Virgin Mary in the Christian Life of Faith and Prayer". Our guest speaker is Father Godwin, SSJ. This is a free event. A continental breakfast and light lunch will be provided. Please contact Lorraine Bell (410) 889-9196 or Martha Lewis Dorsey (410) 668-1258 if interested in attending. We need a count to provide the right amount of food by November 5, 2017.



Sunrise Choir

If you are interested in enhancing a choir that will inspire our church family and yourself, please consider joining the Sunrise Choir at the 8:00 a.m. Mass. We need basses, tenors, altos and sopranos. We sing on the 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays. We rehearse on 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays after the 8:00 a.m. Mass in the small meeting room in the undercroft. Please contact Harriet Brown, President (410-444-4441) or any of the choir members.

SFX Circle of Recognition

We have so many unsung heroes that give of both their time and talents. This month we are recognizing those parishioners that are the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Iteha Barnes</i> | <i>Obie Barnes</i> |
| <i>Mary Harmon</i> | <i>Theresa Butler</i> |
| <i>Rhona Pack</i> | <i>Theodrick Tapp</i> |
| <i>Suzonne Vickers</i> | <i>Deborah Woods</i> |
| <i>Cecilia Johnson</i> | <i>Celestine Kellam</i> |
| <i>Jackie Langley</i> | <i>John Wheatland</i> |
| <i>Keith Bridgeforth</i> | <i>Vanda Chambers</i> |
| <i>Catherine Gray</i> | <i>Pauline Hargrove</i> |
| <i>Elizabeth Eley</i> | <i>Diane Lewis</i> |
| <i>Ronald Lewis</i> | <i>Donna Booth</i> |
| <i>Gracie Ferguson</i> | <i>Stacy Brown</i> |
| <i>Michael Allen</i> | <i>Cecilia Hargrove</i> |
| <i>Patricia Williams</i> | <i>Yvette Wylie</i> |
| <i>Pia Butler</i> | |



We sincerely thank all that participated in supporting the "Teddy Pendergrass Production" fundraiser for Sunday School produced by Randolph Smith on Saturday, October 7, 2017 at the Arena Players. The show was "Awesome" and SFX folks showed up and showed out! We met our goal on the ticket sales and sold a few more at the door. May God continue to keep and bless each of you. We could not have been this successful without each of you. Thank You ... Thank You ... Thank You! Randy, Janet, Wy and the Sunday School Staff

Special Notices

Religious Education

2017 Faith Formation Calendar

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

September

24th Class Begins

October

1st Class

8th Class

15th Class

22nd Class

28th Parent Class for Sacramental Students

29th Class/Fall Festival

November

1st All Saints Day Holy Day of Obligation

5th Class

11th Parent Class for Sacramental Students

12th Class

18 Parent Class for Sacramental Students

19th Class

26th NO CLASS-Thanksgiving

December

3rd Class/Homecoming

8th Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation

10th Class

17th Class

24th Class 3 p.m. followed by Mass

Special Notices

Home Coming Planning Committee

Home Coming Celebration/St. Francis Xavier Feast Day, December 3rd, 2017 -11:00 a.m. Mass with dinner immediately following. The Planning Committee will be meeting on the following dates: Tuesday's 10/3/10/17, 11/7 and 11/21 @ 6:30 p.m. in the undercroft meeting room. All interested persons please contact Lynette Richardson (410) 802-3888. For those that are interested but unable to physically attend a conference call will be set up. Thank you in advance for sharing your time and talents.

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.

Save The Date

TEA TIME WITH THE OBLATE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE

Saturday, October 21, 2017, 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sacred Heart Hall, 701 Gun Road, Donation: \$35.00.



SPECIAL NOTICE!

Please Keep In Your Prayers

All sick and shut-in parishioners of SFX

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 have to be purchased by November 1st, 2017.

CDA COURT #2257

Please join CDA Court #2257 as we celebrate National CDA Day on Sunday October 15, 2017 at the 11:00 a.m. Mass. We are inviting ladies to join us at our meeting at 1:00 p.m. in the small meeting room. Our guests will receive information on CDA'S charities. For more information please contact Regent Valerie Grays at 410-967-1695

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 Rectory.

Jim Bush

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