

# 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 Lord has clothed me with the garments of salvation and righteousness*

Do you know the favor of the Lord? Every 50 years the people of Israel were commanded to celebrate a Year of Jubilee - a year of favor by the Lord (Leviticus 25:10-12). God did not want his people to forget all the blessings and favors he had shown them over the years. Isaiah prophesied in a year of Jubilee that God would send his anointed one to bring his people back from their time of exile (Isaiah 61). The anointed one would bring good news (the same word as "gospel") - news of freedom for those who were oppressed by sin, darkness, despair, and brokenness (Isaiah 61:1-2).

### *John humbly recognized that his calling came from God and not from man*

When John the Baptist announced the imminent coming of God's Anointed One, the Messiah, and the religious leaders questioned his authority to speak so boldly in God's name. They asked him bluntly, "Who are you?" and "What do you say about yourself?" They wanted to know if he was really sent by God. Did he claim to be the Messiah or one of the great prophets who was expected to return and announce the Messiah's arrival (see Malachi 4:5, Deuteronomy 18:15)? John had no doubt and no mistaken identity about his call and mission. In all humility and sincerity he said he was only a voice bidding people to get ready for the arrival of the greatest Ruler of all, God's anointed King and Messiah.

### *John's identity and our identity are derived from God's Son - Jesus Christ*

John the Baptist bridges the Old and New Testaments. He is the last of the Old Testament prophets who points the way to the Messiah. He is the first of the New Testament witnesses and martyrs. He is the herald who prepares the way for Jesus and who announces his mission to the people: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world! (John 1:29). John saw from a distance what the Messiah would come to accomplish - our redemption from slavery to sin and our adoption as sons and daughters of God, our heavenly Father. Do you recognize who you are in Christ? The Lord Jesus has come to restore us to friendship with God and he has made us citizens of heaven - his everlasting kingdom of peace and justice.

### *Stewardship Reflections*

*Ephesians 6:7*

*With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men,*

## Mass Intentions



### Saturday

5:00 P.M. (1) In Memory of Nathan Thomas on the Anniversary of his death and his 55<sup>th</sup> Birthday, req. by Aunt Darleen Thomas

(2) Happy birthday to Celestine Michelle Kellum on her 61<sup>st</sup> Birthday. May God continue to bless her, love your Family

### Sunday

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

11:00 A.M. (1) In Memory of Foster Burley on the Anniversary of his death, req. by Darleen Thomas

(2) In Memory of Julia Matthews on her 92<sup>nd</sup> Birthday, req. by the Family

### Tuesday

8:00 A.M. (1) In Memory of Sean Trafton on the Anniversary of his Birthday and death, req. by his Family

(2) God's continued blessings on Roxie Baker, req. by Dottie Mello

### Wednesday

10:00 A.M. In Memory of Ethel and Grady Hill, req. by Joyce Turnispeed

### Thursday

8:00 A.M. Continued blessings on all the sick in the Family, req. by Dottie Mello

### Friday

8:00 A.M. Continued blessings on all the sick in Ladies Sodality, req. by Dottie Mello

## Today's Readings

**First Reading:** Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

**Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

**Gospel:** John 1:6-8, 19-28

## Next Weeks Readings

**First Reading:** 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

**Second Reading:** Romans 16:25-27

**Gospel:** Luke 1:26-38



## 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 18, 2017	Matthew 1:18-25
Tues.	December 19, 2017	Luke 1:5-25
Wed.	December 20, 2017	Luke 1:26-38
Thurs.	December 21, 2017	Luke 1:39-45
Fri.	December 22, 2017	Luke 1:46-56
Sat.	December 23, 2017	Luke 1:57-66

### November Financials

**Offerings: \$23,051.00**

**Expenses: \$27,317.99**

**Deficit: \$4,266.99**

**Other expenses includes but not limited to:**

**Labor Costs**

**Benefits**

**Operating Costs**

**Facilities Expenses: (gas, electric, water, etc)**

**Utilities: (custodial supplies, vehicle expense, telephone, cable, etc.)**

**Administration Expense: (office supplies, liturgical supplies, worship Expense, lease expense).**

## *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 Season 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.

### **CDA Court #2257 's Education Committee**

Please join the CDA Court #2257 Education Committee as we travel to Washington, D.C. to tour the new Museum on the Bible on Saturday, April 7, 2018. The cost of the trip is \$30.00. The payment can be made in 2 installments of \$15.00 each. The 1<sup>st</sup> is due on January 15, 2018. Please contact Marsha Powell @443-467-2841.

# Special Notices

## Religious Education

### Family Faith Formation

2017 Faith Formation Calendar

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

17th Class

24th Class 3 p.m. followed by Mass

31 st 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

### 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.
7. Donate gently used coats to the homeless.

# 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, Jelly Bean contest extended to December 31st. The Jelly Bean jar is missing; therefore, we cannot count the number of Jelly Beans in the jar. For those who have already made a guess or guesses, see us after Mass to receive a raffle ticket(s) as your entry into the contest. We sincerely apologize for this mishap and we hope you will continue to support our fundraising efforts in the future. Thanks, Grand Lady Renee Terry and Spiritual Committee.

## 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

April Robinson- Piano

Kirk Gaddy- Drummer

Christina Wright- Heavenly Praise Dancers

Praise Ensemble

Gospel Choir

Children's Choir

Men's Choir

Mass Choir

The Heavenly Praise Dancer

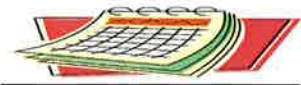


## SPECIAL NOTICE!

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

### *Calendar Requests for 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.



### **Mother Languge Awards Banquet 2018**

It is time to celebrate those parishioners that continue to make a positive difference in our parish. Please use the month of December to nominate parishioners that are outstanding in the areas of Leadership, Service and Youth.

The forms for each of the categories are located in the vestibule of the church. Please complete the form in its entirety. It must be back in the office no later than December 31, 2017 because the forms have to be in the archdiocese by January 4, 2018. The Banquet will be held on Friday, February 9, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. The cost per person is \$60.00. No reservation accepted without payment.



### **CDA Court #2257 Education Committee**

The CDA Court #2257's 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.

## 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:

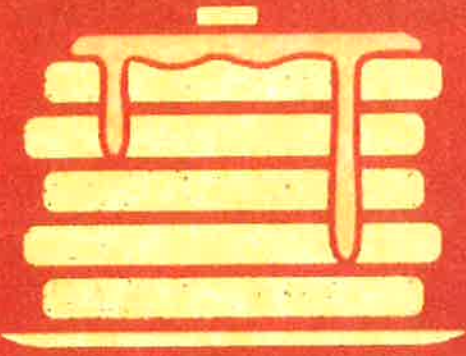
Name \_\_\_\_\_

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.



Applebee's  
GRILL + BAR

**SHORT STACKS FOR A  
TALL CAUSE**

**You're invited to an  
Applebee's® Flapjack Fundraiser Breakfast  
to support PBC OF MD - YOUTH & YOUNG  
ADULTS**

**\$10.00 per person**

**WHEN: Saturday, January 6, 2018  
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**

**WHERE: Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar  
7760 Eastpoint Mall**

**Baltimore, MD 21224**

*For More Information:*

Rev. Sheila Leslie PBC OF MD - YOUTH DEPARTMENT 443-985-3945

Valid only at participating restaurant listed above. Ticket valid for pancake event only.  
Applebee's menu items are not included as part of purchase.