

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

Joshyn 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

"Lord, how often shall I forgive my brother?"

Does mercy overlook justice? Justice demands that everyone be given their due. So when is it right to show mercy and pardon to those who have acted unjustly or wrongly? The prophet Amos speaks of God forgiving transgression three times, but warns that God may not revoke punishment for the fourth (see Amos 1:3-13; 2:1-6). When Peter posed the question of forgiveness, he characteristically offered an answer he thought Jesus would be pleased with. Why not forgive seven times! How unthinkable for Jesus to counter with the proposition that one must forgive seventy times that.

No limit to granting forgiveness and pardon

Jesus makes it clear that there is no limit to giving and receiving forgiveness. He drove the lesson home with a parable about two very different kinds of debts. The first man owed an enormous sum of money - millions in our currency. In Jesus' time this amount was greater than the total revenue of a province - more than it would cost to ransom a king! The man who was forgiven such an incredible debt could not, however, bring himself to forgive his neighbor a very small debt which was about one-hundred-thousandth of his own debt. The contrast could not have been greater!

Jesus paid our ransom to set us free from the debt of sin

No offense our neighbor can do to us can compare with our own personal debt to God for offending him! We have been forgiven an enormous debt we could not repay on our own. That is why the Father in heaven sent his only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who freely and willing gave up his life for our sake to ransom us from slavery to sin, Satan, and death. Paul the Apostle states, "You were bought with a price" (1 Corinthians 7:23) and that price was Jesus' death on the cross. Through the shedding of his blood on the cross, Jesus not only brought forgiveness and pardon for our offenses, but release from our captivity to Satan and bondage to sin.

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.

Sunday

8:00 A.M. Happy Birthday to Lewis Kearney who will be celebrating his 89th birthday on Monday the 18th.

11:00 A.M. People of the Parish

Tuesday

8:00 A.M. In Memory of Foster Burley on the occasion of his Birthday, req. by Darleen Thomas and Family

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. In Memory of Edmund and Marion Martin, req. by Jeff Martin and John Rutkowski

Thursday

8:00 A.M. Happy birthday to all members of Court # 323 of KPC that will be celebrating birthdays this month.

Friday

8:00 A.M. In memory of all deceased members of the New Horizons of Men and Women., req. by the NHM7W

Today's Readings

First Reading: Sirach 27:30-28:7

Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Next Weeks Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

Second Reading: Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16a



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.	9/18/2017	Luke 7:1-10
Tues.	9/19/2017	Luke 7:11-17
Wed.	9/20/2017	Luke 7:31-35
Thurs.	9/21/2017	Matthew 9:9-13
Fri.	9/22/2017	Luke 8:1-3
Sat.	9/23/2017	Luke 8:4-15

100th Anniversary of the Apparitions at Fatima

Come join the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 14th, 2017 in honoring Our Lady of Fatima's Apparition of the Miracle of the Sun by reciting 5 decades of the Rosary. We will recite in church and some of us may stay for 5:00 Mass. Come and be blessed. Rosaries will be provided.



August Financials

Offering Income: \$21,171.00

Expense: 23,086.50

Deficit: \$1915.50

Recurring expenses:

Salaries

BGE

Catholic Review

Office supplies and equipment supplies

Church supplies

Misc. expenses needed to keep our parish going

SPECIAL NOTICES

St. Francis Xavier Sunday School Fundraiser

Teddy! Support the Saint Francis Xavier Sunday School Fundraiser. Join us at the Arena Players for a musical about Teddy Pendergrass, directed by our own Randolph Smith and featuring our own Wy Chambers and Dominic Gladden. The date is Saturday, October 7, 2017 at 8:00 p.m. The cost is \$25.00. See any Catechist for tickets. EACH ONE BRING ONE!

Congratulations

Congratulations to Varia Alston on receiving the Daniel Rudd Scholarship for 2017-2018 from the Office of Black Catholic Ministries in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Daniel Rudd, 1854-1933, was the publisher of the American Catholic Tribune, a newspaper written by and about Black Catholics. He convened the first Congress in 1889 and is therefore credited with founding the National Black Catholic Congress.

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 Counters:

Earnest Thames	Frederick Jones
Ann Brooks	Sharon Butler
Irene Tackett	Marvin Chambers
Obie Barnes	Paula Fuller
Janet Wiggins	Renae Pierce
Michelly Merrick	Cornel Johnson
Trinna Paris	Lewis Kearney
Celestia Drake	Cynthia Kane
Ina Parker	Rosalind Johnson

Special Notices

Religious Education

RCIA (The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Are you interested in becoming Catholic? Do you know someone who is? Are you an adult Catholic who has not yet been confirmed? Perhaps you just want to learn more about the Catholic Faith, or have questions about it. RCIA is the process for preparing adults for full communion with the Catholic Church, and for instructing adults returning to their faith or who simply want to learn more. RCIA is open to anyone interested in exploring Catholicism. A new group is forming for the fall, so contact the parish office if you or someone you know may be interested.

Religious Education: Sunday school classes are held September through May from 9:30a.m. – 10:45a.m. for grades Pre Kindergarten through 9th grade. We are taking registrations for this year's Sunday school program starting September 3rd. Mark your calendars: Sunday school begins September 24!

Sacramental Preparation: The policy of the Archdiocese of Baltimore is that children undergo two years of faith formation to prepare for the sacraments. This means: Year 1 (the year immediately before the year of reception); and Year 2 (the year of reception). The usual year to receive First Reconciliation and First Eucharist is the Second Grade. This means that our children begin preparation during the First Grade. The usual year to receive Confirmation is the Ninth Grade. This means that our youth begin preparation during the Eighth Grade. If your children satisfied their requirements in Religious Education classes as a first or eighth grader last year then they should be on track to receive the respective sacraments next year 2018.

Special Notices

Religious Education (Cont'd)

If your children were not able to receive these sacraments during the usual years, it is not too late. We will help you and your children to prepare and receive the sacraments. Please contact Joslyn Alexander, Director of Religious Education if you have any questions.

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.



Prayer Walk

St Francis Xavier Church will host Bishop Madden's Prayer walk on Wednesday September 27, 2017. Light refreshments at 5:30 p.m., the walk will start about 6:00 p.m. and end at 7:00 p.m. Please plan to come out and join us.



SPECIAL NOTICE!

Please Keep In Your Prayers

All sick and shut-in parishioners of SFX



Ministers of Hospitality Annual Celebration

Please join the Saint Francis Xavier Ministers of Hospitality Annual Celebration. Our theme is "Blessings" and our honored guest speaker is Rev. (Deacon) Charles Mercer. The date is Saturday, October 14, 2017 from 12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m. The celebration includes music, brunch, raffles and special acknowledgements. The cost is \$20.00; all proceeds to benefit St. Francis Xavier church. See any Minister of Hospitality for tickets.

Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary Annual Christmas Shopping Trip

Sodality's Annual Christmas Shopping trip, Saturday, December 16, 2017, at Reading, PA. outlets and Rockvale outlets in Lancaster, PA. Tickets will go on sale in September; 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.



The Office of Black Catholic Ministries, Archdiocese of Baltimore

*Invites one and all to their
Gospel Brunch & History Presentation
At Historic St Francis Xavier Catholic Church
Saturday, November 18, 2017*

More Details to Follow!

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.

Catechetical Sunday 2017



This year, the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on September 17, 2017. The 2017 theme will be "Living as Missionary Disciples." Those whom the community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to be commissioned for their ministry. Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith.

Please pray for and thank our amazing parish catechists and assistants who give of themselves so generously to pass on our faith and love of Christ to our youth and adults. Below is a listing of our catechists, and assistants.

Valerie Grays (Pre-Kindergarten)
Natalie Hare (Kindergarten)
Wye Chambers (1st Grade)
Stacey Samuels (1st Grade)
Beryl Graham (Reconciliation/ First Communion)
Janet Wiggins (Reconciliation/ First Communion)
Deborah Woods (3rd Grade)
Donna Booth (4th Grade)
Mary Watties (5th Grade)
Joyce Logan (6th Grade)
Lynette Richardson (7th Grade)
Howard Kane (8th Grade)

Larry Woods (8th Grade)
Randolph Smith (Confirmation)
Frederick Jones (Confirmation)
Dr. Bianca Smith (RCIC)
Arnetta Boyd (Upper Sacramental)
Nadine Harris (Upper Sacramental)
Edna Aiden (Substitute)
Gwen Williams (Family Catechesis)
Avis Butler (RCIA)
Renee Terry (Office assistant)
Joslyn Alexander (Director)
Sr. Magdala Marie Gilbert, OSP (Director Emeritus)

A Catechist's Prayer

Father of all families, you have called me to serve the family in truth and love as a catechist. May I be faithful to this call, rooted in your Word, and open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

May I use these gifts, especially the gifts of faith, hope, and love, to serve the family as a witness to you, who are love and life and the source and destiny of all families.

Let your Spirit enlighten my mind and strengthen my heart so that I can be a path of Christ's love to families, especially those in need, the home bound and aged, the disabled and disheartened.