

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

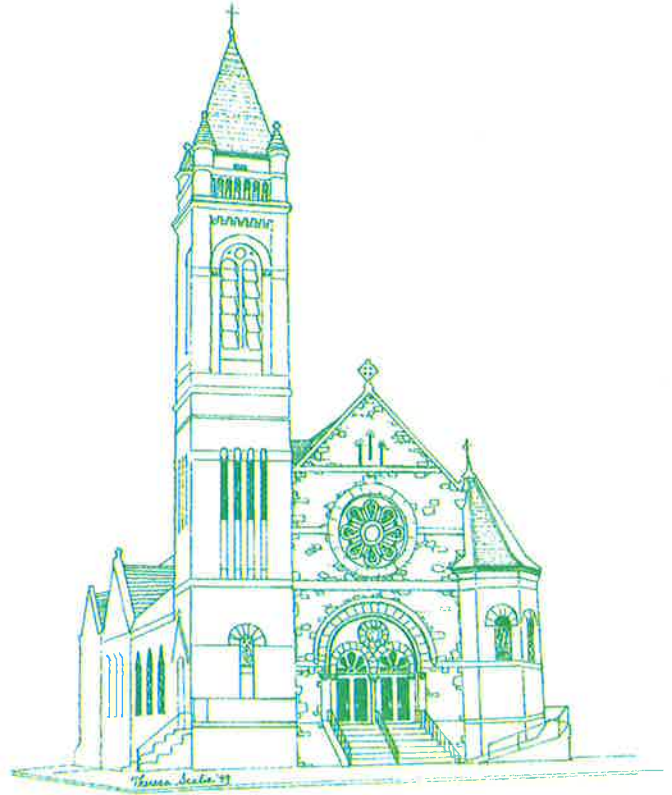
Funerals

*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

Repent and believe in the Gospel

What is the significance of Jesus spending 40 days and nights of solitude, prayer and fasting in the Judean wilderness? In the Old Testament 40 days was often seen as a significant period of testing and preparation for entering into a covenant relationship with God. In the days of Noah, God judged the earth and destroyed its inhabitants in a great flood because of their idolatry and total rejection of God. Noah and his family were spared because they obeyed God and took refuge in the ark for 40 days. When the flood subsided God made a covenant with Noah and promised that he would not destroy the human race again. Jesus came to fulfill that promise.

Forty days of retreat to seek the face of God

When God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt he brought them into the wilderness of Sinai. Moses went to the mountain of the Lord at Sinai and remained there in prayer and fasting for 40 days (Exodus 24:18). At the conclusion of this 40 day encounter God made a covenant with Moses and the people. After the prophet Elijah had confronted the sin of idolatry (the worship of false gods) in the land of Israel and destroyed the 400 priests of Baal (1 Kings 18:20-40), he fled into the wilderness and journeyed for 40 days to the mountain of God at Sinai (1 Kings 19:8). There God spoke with Elijah and commissioned him to pass on the work of restoring the worship of the one true God in the land. After Jesus was anointed by the Spirit in the waters of the Jordan River, he journeyed to the wilderness of Judea for 40 days to prepare himself for the mission which the Father sent him to accomplish - to offer up his life as the perfect atoning sacrifice for our sins. Through the shedding of his blood on the cross he won for us a new and everlasting covenant which fulfilled and surpassed all the previous covenants which God had made with his people.

God's Word and Spirit sustains those who seek God's will

Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell us in their Gospel accounts that Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness. Mark states it most emphatically: "The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness" (Mark 1:12). Why was Jesus compelled to seek solitude for such a lengthy period? Was it simply a test to prepare him for his ministry? Or did Satan want to lure him into a trap? The word tempt in English usually means to entice to sin or wrong-doing. The scriptural word here also means test in the sense of proving and purifying someone to see if there are ready for the task at hand.

Stewardship Reflections

Matthew 6:1-4

"Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

Mass Intentions



Saturday

5:00 P.M. Happy Repose of the Soul of Barbara Thomas, req. by Martha Lewis & Family

Sunday

8:00 A.M. (1) In Loving Memory of Leonard Addison Sr. on his 95th Birthday, req. by Dorothy Addison & Family

(2). God's healing mercy for Charles Lewis, brother of Martha Lewis, req. by Darleen Thomas

11:00 A.M. People of the Parish

Tuesday

8:00 A.M. Pray for the end of violence in Baltimore City, req. by John Rutkowski

Wednesday

10:00 A.M.A.M. (1) In Memory of the 20th Anniversary of the passing of my beloved mother Mrs. Ethel B. Hill, req. by Joyce Turnispeed

(2) In Memory of Rita R. Church on the 9th Anniversary of her death, req. by her children and grandchildren

Thursday

8:00 A.M. Happy Repose of the Soul of Dorothy and Frank Rutkowski, req. by John Rutkowski

Friday

8:00 A.M. God's healing mercy for Velva Foster, req. by Darleen Thomas

Today's Readings

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-15

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

Next Weeks Readings

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

Second Reading: Romans 8:31b-34

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10



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.	February 19, 2018	Matthew 25:31-46
Tues.	February 20, 2018	Matthew 6:7-15
Wed.	February 21, 2018	Luke 11:29-32
Thurs.	February 22, 2018	Matthew 16:13-19
Fri.	February 23, 2018	Matthew 5:20-26
Sat.	February 24, 2018	Matthew 5:43-48

Unsung Black Catholic Woman Award

African History Month is the time of year that we celebrate our dynamic women of St. Francis Xavier Church. The CDA Court 2257, Education Committee is sponsoring the “Unsung Black Catholic Woman Award”. Please nominate a woman who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to her family, church and community. The person submitting the form must complete detailed biography of the women, emphasizing her talents and contributions in the areas above. A picture must accompany the form. Forms are located in the rear of the church. Please leave nominations in a sealed envelope in the CDA Mailbox in the Rectory by February 12, 2018. Pictures will be returned. The celebration will be held on Sunday, February 25, 2018 at the 11:00 a.m. Mass. A reception will follow in the undercroft. For questions please contact Regent Valerie Grays, (410) 967-1695. Email: Vga40@gmail.com.

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, February 23, 2018-KPC Ladies Auxiliary and Knights of Peter Claver*
- *Friday, March 2, 2018-New Horizon of Men and Women*
- *Friday, March 9, 2018-CDA #2257 of SFX*
- *Friday, March 16, 2018-Mass Choir*
- *Friday, March 23, 2018-Lectors, Eucharistic and Hospitality Ministers*
- *Good Friday –March 30, 2018- Youth Ministry*

New Horizons of Men and Women

Deposits are due now for the Williamsburg, Va. trip. The first deposit is \$100.00. The trip is scheduled for August 16th-20th.

***The Ministers of Hospitality
Are seeking new members!***



WE WANT YOU!

Special Notices



February

24th First Penance 10:00 a.m.

25th Class- Student Retreat 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Confessions grades 3-9

March

4th Class

11th Class

18th Class-Community Service Project

25th Class-Palm Sunday

29th Holy Thursday

Retreat

Sunday, February 25th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. we will have our Annual Lent Retreat for the Sunday school students. Parents and guardians please support our Retreat Day by allowing your child to experience the extended day, we have an exciting day planned. Please pray for the success of our Retreat.

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.

CRS

CRS Rice Bowls were distribute 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.

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.

Church Regulations Regarding Fast and Abstinence

Abstinence from meat (beast or fowl) is to be observed by all Catholics fourteen years old and older on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent. Fasting means limiting oneself to one full meal on a given fast day. Catholics who are eighteen years of age but not yet fifty-nine are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On fast days, two additional smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength. However, the two smaller meals together may not equal one full meal. Moreover, eating solid foods between meals on fast days is not permitted.

The Swingers of SFX Annual Bull & Oyster Roast

The Swingers are sponsoring their Annual Bull and Oyster Roast on Sunday, March 4, 2018 at Tiffany East, 4116 E. Lombard St. from 3-7 p.m., music by DJ White, donations \$55.00 (includes open bar) Please see any member of the Swingers for tickets.



Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary 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 yrs. 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.

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, and Charles Lewis Jr.

Oblate Sisters of Providence Annual Chicken Dinner

The Oblates Sisters of Providence will have their Annual Chicken Dinner on Saturday, February 24, 2018 from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at St. Frances Academy Community Center. The proceeds are for the upkeep of the Motherhouse and care of our sisters. Price is \$10.00, tickets will be available soon. Volunteers will be needed. Please contact Sister Helene Therese, OSP (410) 536-5687.

SFX Easter Monday Atlantic City Trip

SFX Atlantic City bus trip is scheduled for Monday April 2, 2018. The cost is \$40.00 with a \$30.00 rebate. The bus will be leaving St. Francis at 9:00 a.m. No reservation will be taken without payment. First come first served. See Darleen Thomas or Polly Hargrove for tickets. 410-303-0952. Don't delay get your ticket today! Tickets are dwindling.



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.



East Baltimore Historical Library is inviting East
Baltimore Residents to come out on **Sunday, February 25th**, to
the Old Brewery Building
1700 N Gay Street (HUMANIM Building)

2:00 PM-5:00 PM

This is “Old East Baltimore Photos DAY &
How to Make A Family Quilt Day”!

Come out, bring your old photos, we will scan them,
& give directly back to you.

Refreshments, Fun, and Stories about E. Baltimore's History

***Politicians running for Election this year have all been invited
to join in the FUN-Filled Day of HONORING East Baltimore's
History!***

For information: 410.327.7224 or EastBaltimore101@gmail.com

Thanks for showing up!

for the bulletin please

St. Francis Xavier Church
Community Faith Formation
Welcomes You to: A Lenten Journey of Faith
“Monday Nite and Saturday Morning Catechism”

with

Dr. Kirk Gaddy

***Topics will include: The Sacraments, The Mass,
Old and New Testaments, Prayer and More***

7:00 PM to 8:00 PM in the undercroft

Monday, February 19th

Monday, February 26th

Monday, March 5th

Monday, March 19th

Monday, March 26th

10:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the School Building

Saturday, March 3rd

Saturday, March
10th

Saturday, March
17th

***Being a Catholic is a life long journey that begins with our
baptism and continues throughout our life.***

We invite you to come walk with us.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Retreat

***Sunday February 25th from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM we will have our annual Lent
Retreat for the Sunday School students. Parents and guardians please support our
Retreat Day by allowing your child to experience the extended day, we have an
exciting day planned. Please pray for the success of our Retreat.***

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.

Faith Builders



**February 23rd , March 16th and March 30th
(Good Friday)**

Noon to 6:00 p.m.

**Historic St. Francis Xavier
(Undercroft)**

**1501 E, Oliver Street
Baltimore, Md. 21213**

Dinners \$15

**Dinner includes
Fish**

**Macaroni and Cheese or Potato Salad
Collard Greens or String Beans
Bread and Soda**

All Proceeds go to the church



Desserts on sale



For tickets see Lillian Smith (443 562-1929) or any Faith Builder Member

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