

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

A spring of water welling up to eternal life

Would you do a favor for someone who snubbed you or treated you like an enemy? Jesus did just that and more! He treated the Samaritans, the sworn enemies of the Jews, with great kindness and respect. The Samaritans who lived in middle region of Israel between Galilee and Judea and the Jews who lived in the rest of the land of Israel had been divided for centuries. They had no dealings with one another, avoiding all social contact, even trade, and inter-marriage. If their paths crossed it would not be unusual for hostility to break out.

When Jesus decided to pass through Samaria he stopped at Jacob's well because it was mid-day and he was both tired from the journey and thirsty. Jacob's well was a good mile and a half from the nearest town, called Sychar. It wasn't easy to draw water from this well since it was over a hundred feet deep. Jesus had neither rope nor bucket to fetch the water.

When a Samaritan woman showed up at the well, both were caught by surprise. Why would a Samaritan woman walk a mile and a half in the mid-day heat to fetch her water at a remote well rather than in her local town? She was an outcast and not welcomed among her own townspeople. Jesus then did something no respectable Jew would think of doing. He reached out to her, thus risking ritual impurity and scorn from his fellow Jews. He also did something no strict Rabbi would dare to do in public without loss to his reputation. He treated the woman like he would treat one of his friends - he greeted her and spoke at length with her. Jesus' welcoming approach to her was scandalous to both Jews and Samaritans because this woman was an adulterous and public sinner as well. No decent Jew or Samaritan would even think of being seen with such a woman, let alone exchanging a word with her!

Jesus broke through the barriers of prejudice, hostility, and tradition to bring the good news of peace and reconciliation to Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles alike. He demonstrated the universality of the gospel both in word and deed. No one is barred from the love of God and the good news of salvation. There is only one thing that can keep us from God and his redeeming love - our stubborn pride and willful rebellion.

What is the point of Jesus' exchange with the Samaritan woman about water? Water in the arid land was scarce.

Stewardship Reflections

Matthew 19:21

Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."

Mass Intentions



Saturday

5:00 P.M. For continued health and blessings for Mary Anne Rutkowski and family, req. by John Rutkowski

Sunday

8:00 A.M. More Vocations for priesthood and religious life, req. by John & Jeff

(2) God's healing mercy for Hattie Boone mother of Daphne Boone, req. by Sharon Butler

11:00 A.M. People of the Parish

Tuesday

8:00 A.M. God's continued blessings on our father Calvin Butler as he celebrates his Birthday, req. by the Family

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. Happy Repose of the souls of Dorothy & Frank Rutkowski, req. by John Rutkowski

Thursday

8:00 A.M. For the poor forgotten souls in the Rutkowski and Martin families, req. by John Rutkowski

Friday

8:00 A.M. All the sick in the Mello Family, req. by Dorothy Mello

2. Happy repose for the soul of Joseph Colbert Jr., req. by Jeanne Edmonds

Today's Readings

First Reading: Exodus 17:3-7

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Gospel: John 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Next Weeks Readings

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel: John 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38



SPECIAL NOTICE!

Please Keep in Your Prayers

- All sick and shut-in parishioners of SFX
 - Thelma Fly
 - Lucretia Coates
 - Mabel Smith
 - Doris Russell
 - Donald Johnson
 - Bernadette Morgan
 - Dorothy Coleman
- The names listed are just a few; if you know of others, please notify the church office.



Step Up to the New Year!!

We are inviting all parishioners to step up to the New Year by making a onetime donation to support the continued renovations and repairs of our church and rectory. Your contribution will be for St. Francis Xavier only.

Religious Education

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. Thank You
Joslyn Alexander, Director Religious Education



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.

SPECIAL NOTICES

Scriptures for Daily Mediation



"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.	3/20/2017	Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a
Tues.	3/21/2017	Matthew 18:21-35
Wed.	3/22/2017	Matthew 5:17-19
Thurs.	3/23/2017	Luke 11:14-23
Fri.	3/24/2017	Mark 12:28-34
Sat.	3/25/2017	Luke 1:26-38

Easter Monday Atlantic City Trip

SFX trip to Atlantic City is scheduled for Easter Monday, April 17, 2017. We will be going to Resorts Casino. The price of the ticket is \$35.00 with a \$25.00 rebate. Please see either Bessie Roberts or Polly Hargrove for tickets.

The Lent Journey

During these forty days of Lent you will have the opportunity for reflection, repentance, and renewal as you walk with Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem and from there, to Calvary's Cross. A Lent calendar was inserted in the bulletin earlier this month, use it to record your journey from Ash Wednesday to the Celebration of Easter.



Please come out for Stations of the Cross. It is a journey to remember.

SPECIAL NOTICES

Catholic Daughters Annual Lenten Prayer Luncheon

Come join the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court SFX#2257 for their Annual Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, April 8, 2017 at SFX undercroft from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Theme: "Finding Unity in Diversity", guest speaker Fr. Kenneth Gaddy, CSSR. Tickets are \$12.00 and can be purchased from any CDA member.



February Financials

Income: \$30,969.50

Expenses: \$31,719.12

Deficit- \$746.20

Prayer Walk

Please join Bishop Madden in a prayer walk for peace in Baltimore City.

*Venue: St. Peter Claver Church
1546 N. Fremont Ave.*

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Date: Tuesday March 21, 2017



Lord Jesus, help me to walk with you each day of my life, even to Calvary. The sorrow and joy, the pain and healing, the failures and triumphs of my life are truly small deaths and resurrections that lead me to closeness with you. Give me the faith and trust I need to walk with you always. Amen.

Special Notices

Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary's Retreat "Entering into the Father's Joy"

Come join the Sodality of Blessed Virgin Mary on their weekend Retreat, April 21-23, 2017. For first time retreatants and/or young adult up to 30 yrs. of age the cost for the weekend is \$185.00. For retreatants that have been on retreat before at Loyola on the Potomac (A Jesuit Retreat House) the cost is \$235. A deposit of \$115.00 is due now along with registration. Free Van Transportation will be provided by the Sodality of BVM. We will be leaving from SFX Church at 1:30 P.M. on Friday, April 21, 2017. Return on Sunday, April 23, 2017 after lunch at the Retreat house. If you are interested in attending, please contact: Lorraine Bell (410) 889-9196 or Martha Lewis Dorsey (410) 668-1258.

St. Francis Xavier New Website

St. Francis has a new website you can go there to retrieve the weekly bulletin. The website is: www.historicfrancisxavier.org. Please utilize the new website for your bulletin.

Archbishop Annual Appeal 2017

If you missed the opportunity to pledge over commitment weekend, you can still make a gift either through the mail or online at

www.archbalt.org/appeal. Forms are available in the back of the church.

Remember, that the Archdiocese Appeal is not just another special collection, rather, it is the one time during the year that all Catholics are asked to join together as one to make a significant pledge to support the work of the Archdiocese. The contribution serves the needs of parishes, schools, and the people throughout the Archdiocese

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. The Stations of the Cross will be led by the different organizations in the Church.

Schedule for the Stations of the Cross

- Friday, March 31, 2017-Mass Choir
- Friday, April 7, 2017-Lectors, Eucharistic and Hospitality Ministers
- Good Friday -April 14, 2017- Youth Ministry

ROBERTA'S HOUSE

Fostering Through Grief

An eight week peer support group for foster kinship care youth ages 7-17 with five objectives.

1. . Provide youth with a basic understanding of death and other dramatic losses.
2. . Explore the meaning of grief and loss for youth in foster care.
3. Instill a sense of belonging through connections with peers and the community.
4. Validate experiences and grief reactions with a focus towards teaching healthy coping.
5. Help youth self-actualize, identify individual strengths and strive towards personal goals.



Prayer for Silent!

Jesus Christ my Lord, you remained silent before Pilate and chose not to say something even when you had a lot to say. Please help me not to open my lips to speak unless I realize what to say and how to say it; that it may glorify your name, Amen.

Scriptural passages about silent

- i. Be silent in the heat of anger (Prov. 14:17)
- ii. Be silent when you don't have all the facts (Prov. 18:14)
- iii. Be silent when you haven't verified the story (Deut. 17:6)
- iv. Be silent if your words will offend a weaker person (1Cor. 8:11)
- v. Be silent when it is time to listen (Prov. 13:1)
- vi. Be silent when you are tempted to make light of holy things (Eccl. 5:2)
- vii. Be silent when you are tempted to joke about sin (Prov. 14:9)
- viii. Be silent if you would be ashamed of your words later (Prov. 8:8)
- ix. Be silent if your words would convey the wrong impression (Prov. 17:27)
- x. Be silent if the issue is none of your business (prov. 14:10)
- xi. Be silent when you are tempted to tell an outright lie (Prov. 4:24)
- xii. Be silent if your words will damage someone else's reputation (prov. 16:27)
- xiii. Be silent if your words will damage a friendship (Prov. 16:28)
- xiv. Be silent when you are feeling critical (Jas. 3:9)
- xv. Be silent if you can't say it without screaming it (Prov. 25:28)
- xvi. Be silent if your words will be a poor reflection of the Lord or your friends and family (1Pet. 2:21-23)
- xvii. Be silent if you may have to eat your words later (Prov. 18:21)
- xviii. Be silent if you have already said it more than one time (Prov. 19:13)
- xix. Be silent when you are tempted to flatter a wicked person (Prov. 24:24)
- xx. Be silent when you are supposed to be working instead (Prov. 14:23)

Beloved, let us reflect on these and pray God to help us with his grace and strength in our lives.

Fr. Xavier

Camp Erin Baltimore

CHILDREN & TEENS GRIEF SUPPORT

AUGUST 4TH - 6TH, 2017



**The Moyer Foundation and
Roberta's House**

Created and funded by The Moyer Foundation, Camp Erin® is the largest network of free bereavement camps in the country designed for children and teens ages 6-17 who have experienced the death of someone close to them. It is a 3 day experience filled with traditional, fun camp activities that are combined with grief education and emotional support—led by grief professionals and trained volunteers. Camp Erin provides a unique opportunity for peer bonding between children and teens facing a similar life circumstance. Support from The Moyer Foundation and local communities, including corporate organizations, community groups and partner agencies help ensure that Camp Erin is free to all campers and families. Camp Erin will be held August 4^h thru 6th this year at North Bay Adventure Center, in North East, Maryland. Campers will enjoy a weekend of camp activities including:

- Water activities
- Arts and crafts
- Talent show
- Remembrance activities
- Field Sports
- Games
- Rock climbing
- Nature walks
- Evening campfires
- Creative expression



Call 410-235-6633 or go to www.robertashouse.org for details.

Camp Erin Baltimore REGISTRATION REQUEST FORM

Please complete this form and mail to: Camp Erin Baltimore, C/O Roberta's House, 2510 St. Paul Street, 1st Floor, Baltimore, MD 21218, or fax to 410-235-6636 or E-mail to info@robertashouse.org. Please submit the completed registration form as soon as possible, as camp space is limited and there could be a waiting list.

Date: _____

Camper's Name: _____ Gender: M ___ F ___ Date of Birth: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Relationship to Camper: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell/Work phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Name of deceased: _____ Relationship to Camper: _____

Your name: _____ Relationship to Camper: _____

(If not parent or guardian)