

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

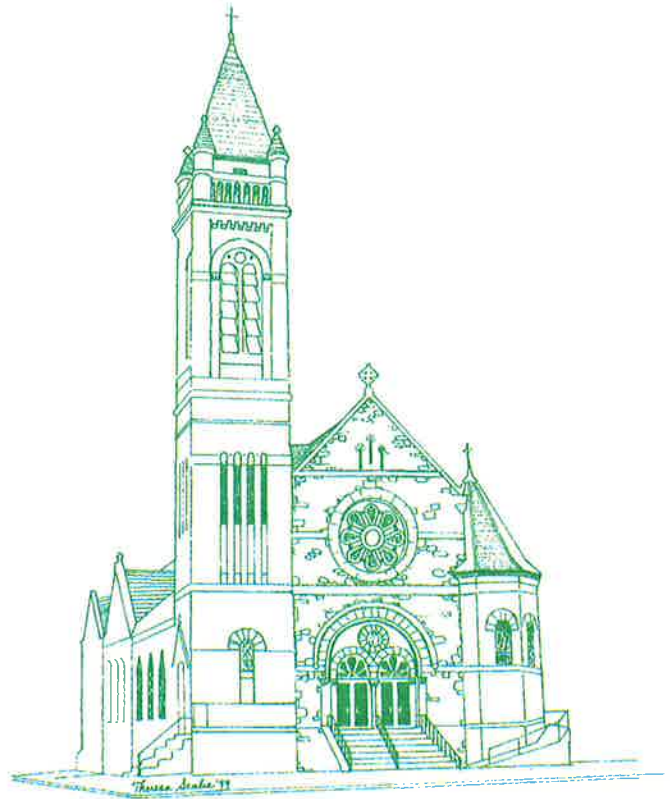
Funerals

*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 master will settle his account with them"

What can economics and productivity teach us about the kingdom of heaven? Jesus' story about a businessman who leaves town and entrusts his money with his workers made perfect sense to his audience. Wealthy merchants and businessmen often had to travel abroad and leave the business to others to handle while they were gone.

Why did Jesus tell this story and what can it teach us? Most importantly it tells us something about how God deals with us, his disciples and servants. The parable speaks first of the Master's trust in his servants. While he goes away he leaves them with his money to use as they think best. While there were no strings attached, this was obviously a test to see if the Master's workers would be industrious and reliable in their use of the money entrusted to them. The master rewards those who are industrious and faithful and he punishes those who sit by idly and who do nothing with his money.

The essence of the parable seems to lie in the servants' conception of responsibility. Each servant entrusted with the master's money was faithful up to a certain point. The servant who buried the master's money was irresponsible. One can bury seeds in the ground and expect them to become productive because they obey natural laws. Coins, however, do not obey natural laws. They obey economic laws and become productive in circulation. The master expected his servants to be productive in the use of his money.

God rewards those who use their gifts for serving him and the good of others

What do coins and the law of economics have to do with the kingdom of God? The Lord entrusts the subjects of his kingdom with gifts and graces and he gives his subjects the freedom to use them as they think best. With each gift and talent, God gives sufficient means (grace and wisdom) for using them in a fitting way. As the parable of the talents shows, God abhors indifference and an attitude that says it's not worth trying.

Stewardship Reflection

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. Happy repose of the soul of Betty Ann Johnson, req. by the family

Sunday

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

11:00 A.M. (1) Praying for Memory of Marie Ameyo Mensah & George Mensah, req. by Sewavi Prince-Agbojan

(2) God's Blessings on CDA's 34th Anniversary, req. by Court #2257

Tuesday

8:00 A.M. Healing mercy for Jeanne Edmonds, req. by Darleen Thomas

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. God's healing mercy for Lucretia Coates, req. by CDA Court # 2257

Thursday

8:00 A.M. In Memory of the deceased members of the Martin and Rutkowski families, req. by John Rutkowski

Friday

8:00 A.M. In Memory of Frank & Dorothy Rutkowski, req. by John Rutkowski

Today's Readings

First Reading: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Gospel: Matthew 23:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-21

Next Weeks Readings

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46



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.	November 20, 2017	Luke 18:35-43
Tues.	November 21, 2017	Luke 19:1-10
Wed.	November 22, 2017	Luke 19:11-28
Thurs.	November 23, 2017	Luke 19:41-44
Fri.	November 24, 2017	Luke 19:45-48
Sat.	November 25, 2017	Luke 20:27-40

Prayer Walk for Peace

Please join the members of our "sister churches" St. Ann, (located at Greenmount Ave & 22nd St. and St. Wenceslaus (located at 2111 Ashland Ave) with Bishop Denis J. Madden, Auxiliary Bishop of Archdiocese of Baltimore. For Our Prayer Walk for Peace, Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. To take place in the "Middle East" neighborhood of Baltimore immediately surroundings St. Wenceslaus Church and in the "shadow" of Johns Hopkins Hospital. We will begin with a light meal served in the St. Wenceslaus Lyceum (2100 Madison St.) Please park on the church parking lots). We will then walk together for about an hour, during which time we will stop to pray at significant sites where such prayer is so much needed! The prayer is scheduled to conclude by 7:30 p.m. All of our neighbors and friends are cordially invited and encouraged to join us for the Walk!

Breakfast with Santa

Junior Catholic Daughters will host Annual Breakfast with Santa Workshop on Saturday December 9th, 2017, 9:00 a.m. -12 p.m. Breakfast served until 11:00 a.m. Please see any JCDA for tickets, or contact their Advisor Kim Grays (443) 604-0730. Cost of tickets is \$7.00.



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 catechists and assistants:



- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| Valerie Grays | Natalie Hare |
| Wye Chambers | Stacey Samuels |
| Beryl Graham | Deborah Woods |
| Donna Booth | Mary Watties |
| Joyce Logan | Lynette Richardson |
| Howard Kane | Larry Woods |
| Randolph Smith | Janet Wiggins |
| Dr. Bianca Smith | Arnetta Boyd |
| Frederick Jones | Edna Aiden |
| Gwen Williams | Avis Butler |
| Renee Terry (Office Assistant) | |
| Joslyn Alexander- (Director) | |
| Sr. Magdala Marie Gilbert, OSP- (Director Emeritus) | |

October Finances

Offerings: \$30,440.00

Expenses: \$ 36, 502.42

Deficit: \$6,062.42

Expenses included but not limited to:

- Utilities Expense
- Insurance
- Rectory Expense
- Mailings
- Administrative Expense
- Worship Expense
- Benefits

Special Notices



Family Faith Formation

2017 Faith Formation Calendar

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

November

18th Class Cancelled 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

Mass Notice

There will not be a 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday

December 2, due to the Revival.

November 30th thru Dec. 2nd, then Homecoming on December 3, 2017. All are welcome. Please invite family, friends, and other church members.



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 date: Tuesday, 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.

Knights of Peter Claver, Ladies Auxiliary, Court #323

The Knights of Peter Claver, Ladies Auxiliary, Court #323 are holding a contest. Guess the number of Jelly Beans in the jar for \$1.00. The closest guess will win the Angel Figurine (see the poster in the rear of Church). The jar will be displayed at all Masses. The winner will be announced on Sunday, December 17, 2017. See any member of the Auxiliary to submit your guess.



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 are still available.



Calendar Requests fo 2018

All organizations and ministries, forms are in your mailbox to request Calendar dates. Please be complete in your request as not to cause conflict. List all dates of activities that require use of the undercroft and church.



Angel Tree Project

It's the giving time of year and time to help a child have a good Christmas. As always, the children associated with the Angel Project are a part of our immediate church community. Remember to sign the log book when you remove an Angel so that all registered children will receive a gift. All gifts are due back no later than November 26, 2017. Thank you for your participation and always being there for our children.

Thanks, Angel Team,

Janet Wiggins Renee Terry
Suzonne Vickers Kim Grays
Mary Watties Joyce Logan

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
-

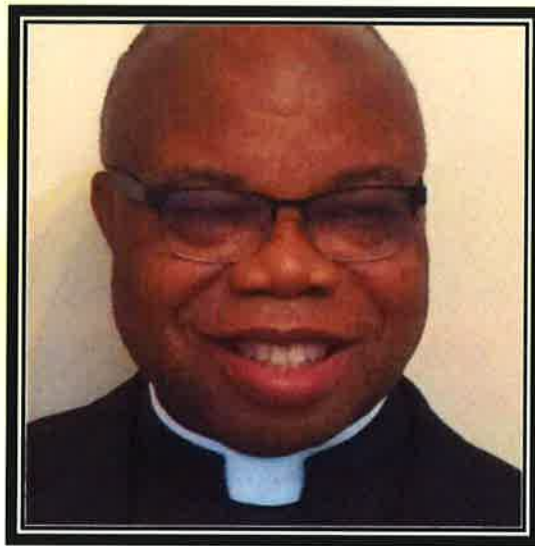
Please cut out and drop in the Collection Basket or mail to the Rectory.

Historic St. Francis Xavier Church 3 Day Revival

“God Wants to Speak to You!
Are You Ready to Listen to Him?”

**Thursday, November 30th thru Saturday, December 2nd
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Nightly
(6:30 p.m. Doors Open)**

Guest Revivalist



Father Desmond Chidi Ohankwere, MSP

Historic St. Francis Xavier Church
1501 E. Oliver Street
(Corner of Caroline and Oliver Streets)
Baltimore, Md. 21213

Host: Rev. Xavier Edet, S.S.J.

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

Special Advent Issue

Historic St. Francis Xavier Church
Rev. Xavier Edet, S.S.J., Pastor

One Minute Meditations

Why Advent?

Advent is a time of warning, a time of preparation, a time of urgency.



It is when the Church wants us to ask, "What do I need to do to be ready to greet the Lord?" We know Jesus will come at our death and he will come at the end of time. The season of Advent encourages us to make the necessary preparations so we can joyfully greet Jesus whenever we meet him next.

Grow in prayer

Our prayer life can mature and grow when we pray for intentions that are outside ourselves. For example, we can pray for the victims of war, the sick, for the people who don't believe in God, and for those in jails and prisons, whether we know them or not. The best kind of prayer is the kind that comes from the heart.

"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins"
(Matthew 1:21).



Advent is preparing for something wonderful

Advent is a gift from the Catholic Church to let us know something wonderful is going to happen at Christmas. Yet in our impatience to get to that something wonderful, we can forget that the wait can be wonderful, too. Try taking it one week at a time and wait, hope, prepare, and rejoice at the miracle of Christ's wonderful birth ...

Week One - Wait.

Whenever you find yourself waiting for something this week, think of the fact that you are also waiting for Jesus to come. Ask him what you need to do to be ready for his arrival.

Week Two - Hope. This week

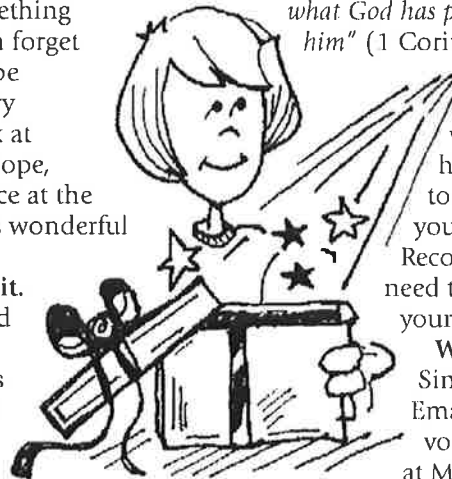
remember that God keeps his promises in ways more glorious than we can imagine. *"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"* (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Week Three -

Prepare. Look for ways to prepare your heart for Christmas. Go to Confession to ready your soul for God's grace. Reconcile with anyone you need to in order to increase your peace.

Week Four - Rejoice.

Sing "O Come, O Come Emanuel" at the top of your voice. Pray with enthusiasm at Mass. Spend time with family and friends. Write out a list of all the things in your life for which you are grateful. Welcome our Savior with a peaceful, joyful heart.



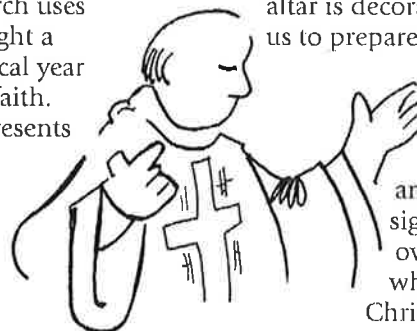
Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why is purple the color of Advent?

The Catholic Church uses visual aids to highlight a season of the liturgical year or a mystery of the faith. Purple - violet - represents a time of penance and preparation. During the weeks of Advent, the priest wears violet vestments and the

altar is decorated with violet to remind us to prepare penitentially for Christ's coming.

On the third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday), rose vestments and altar cloths are used to signal that Advent is almost over. This is a happy time when we anticipate the joy of Christ's coming.



Five ways to keep the season peaceful

Without our really knowing or intending it, the joy of Christmas can get lost in the wrappings and trappings of a hectic holiday. That's why the Church created Advent as the season for quiet and joyful preparation. Here are some ways to help savor the spirit of the season.

Plan ahead. Try to anticipate and avert the usual holiday problems. Sit feuding relatives at opposite ends of the Christmas dinner table. Plan how to handle guests who smoke.

Stay within your budget. Try postponing shopping as long as you can. You won't have the luxury of time to overbuy.

Stockpile gifts. Afraid of getting a gift without having one to give in return? Wrap and set aside a few extra batches of Christmas cookies just in case.

Make time for personal prayer. Throughout the season, make time for peaceful meditation and prayer - even if it's only a few minutes a day. Not only will it help defuse the tension, you'll be less frazzled when Christmas arrives.

When in doubt, sing. If you find your patience and good cheer running out, sing your favorite Christmas carol - the louder, the better. A little silliness might be the best antidote to holiday stress.

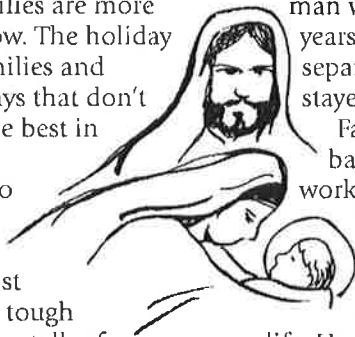


from Scripture

Luke 2:41-52, Families aren't always holy.

Perhaps there is no time during the year when our families are more challenged than now. The holiday brings together families and their baggage in ways that don't always bring out the best in us.

Perhaps it helps to remember that the Holy Family was a real family just like ours. They had tough times, too. There was talk of divorce when Joseph found out Mary was pregnant. Then they had trouble finding a place for Mary to give birth. Immediately afterwards, the family



fled to a strange land because a mad man wanted Jesus killed. Twelve years later, he and his parents were separated for three days when he stayed behind at the temple.

Families have good times and bad, and it takes every member working together to make a healthy family. One gift that strengthened the Holy Family was their cooperation with grace - the gift of God's divine life. How does that look in our own families? For a start, try for harmony in your family this year, and love them as a Holy Family, even if not everyone is singing along.

Q & A Why do we light wreaths during Advent?

Advent wreaths are a time-honored tradition and are rich in symbolism. The wreath is an ancient symbol of victory, in this case, paying tribute to Christ's victory over sin. The circular shape of the wreath reminds us that God is eternal; he - like his everlasting love for us - has no beginning and no end. The wreath is usually made of evergreen branches, symbolizing everlasting life.



Traditionally, the four candles (three violet, one rose) represent the four thousand years between the fall of Adam and Eve and the birth of Christ. Each week an additional candle is lit, accompanied by Scriptural meditations and prayers. The three violet candles stand for the prayers, penances, and good works we do to prepare for Christ's coming. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent as a reminder to rejoice, because it tells us the season is almost over. Finally, the progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the light of Jesus' arrival, which brought us out of the darkness of sin.

Use Advent well

Many of us look forward to Christmas all year but let Advent pass unnoticed. This quiet season can't compete with the lights, the joy, and the excitement of Christmas. Instead, why not use this year's season of Advent to prepare for Christmas? Look beyond what your eyes can see to focus on your inner preparations.

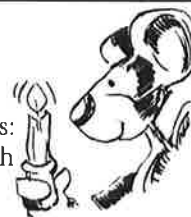
Keep watch. Jesus is coming.

We know this because we celebrate his coming every Christmas. He will also come again in glory but we don't know when that will be. Advent reminds us to always be prepared for the coming of Christ. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths (Matthew 3:3)."

Give the gift of yourself. This year

prepare the one gift for Jesus that he truly wants: YOU. Jesus thought each of us was worth love and his life. To him, we are a gift from the Father (John 17:24). Prepare yourself during Advent so that when he unwraps your gift on Christmas morning, it is the very best you have to offer - your love.

Break down barriers. Let go of anything that stands between you and your faith. Perhaps you have a bad habit or a companion who is a poor influence. Take the opportunity during Advent to make things right. Ridding yourself of opportunities for sin will help you be ready to greet the Savior when he comes.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
 Success Publishing & Media, LLC
 Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™
 (540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
<http://www.growinginfaith.com>

(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)