



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.*

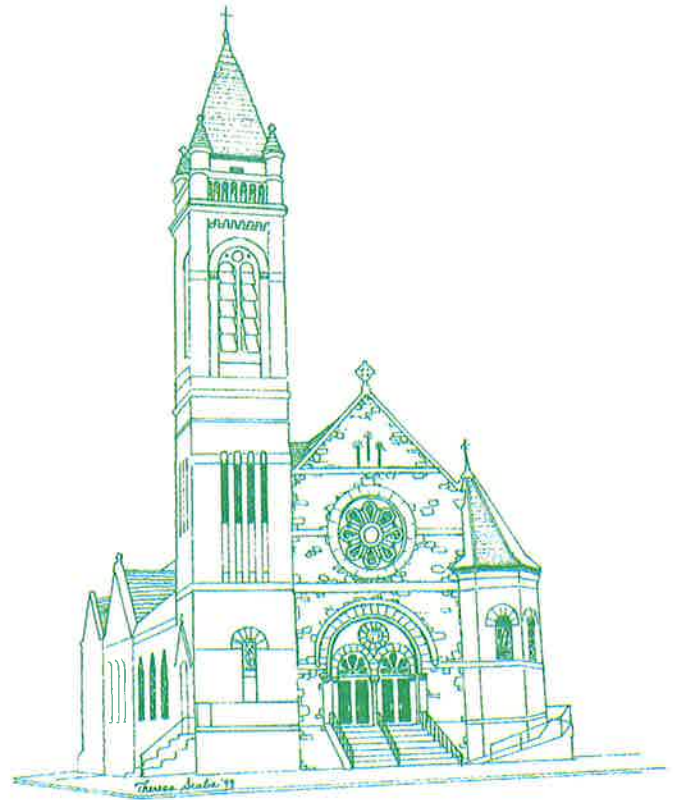
Rev. Xavier Edet, S.S.J.,

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

"Great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire"

Do you ever feel "put-off" or ignored by the Lord?

This passage (Matthew 15:21) describes the only occasion in which Jesus ministered outside of Jewish territory. (Tyre and Sidon were fifty miles north of Israel and still exist today in modern Lebanon.) A Gentile woman, a foreigner who was not a member of the Jewish people, puts Jesus on the spot by pleading for his help. At first Jesus seemed to pay no attention to her, and this made his disciples feel embarrassed. Jesus does this to test the woman to awaken faith in her.

Jesus first tests the woman's faith

What did Jesus mean by the expression "throwing bread to the dogs"? The Jews often spoke of the Gentiles with arrogance and insolence as "unclean dogs" since the Gentiles did not follow God's law and were excluded from God's covenant and favor with the people of Israel. For the Greeks the "dog" was a symbol of dishonor and was used to describe a shameless and audacious woman. There is another reference to "dogs" in Matthew's Gospel where Jesus says to his disciples, "Do not give to dogs what is holy" (Matthew 7:6). Jesus tests this woman's faith to see if she is earnest in receiving holy things from the hand of a holy God. Jesus, no doubt, spoke with a smile rather than with an insult because this woman immediately responds with wit and faith - "even the dogs eat the crumbs".

Seek the Lord Jesus with expectant faith

Jesus praises a Gentile woman for her faith and for her love. She made the misery of her child her own and she was willing to suffer rebuff in order to obtain healing for her loved one. She also had indomitable persistence. Her faith grew in contact with the person of Jesus. She began with a request and she ended on her knees in worshipful prayer to the living God. No one who ever sought Jesus with earnest faith - whether Jew or Gentile - was refused his help. Do you seek the Lord Jesus with expectant faith?

"Lord Jesus, your love and mercy knows no bounds. May I trust you always and pursue you with indomitable persistence as this woman did. Increase my faith in your saving power and deliver me from all evil and harm."

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. Traveling mercy for all of those going on the shopping trip.

Sunday

8:00 A.M. In Loving Memory of my nephew Curtis Nathaniel Fleming Jr. req. by Leonard Brown

11:00 A.M. People of the Parish

Tuesday

8:00 A.M. In Memory of the Deceased family members of the Walters & Rutkowski Families, req. by John Rutkowski

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. Laurentia Strawder rest in peace in God's house, req. by Dottie Mello

Thursday

8:00 A.M. Continued blessings on Mr. Butler and Loving Memory of his wife Dorothy, req. by Dottie Mello

Friday

8:00 A.M. In Loving Memory of my parents and siblings, req. by Dottie Mello

Today's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 56: 1, 6-7
Second Reading: Romans 11:13-15, 29-32
Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

Next Weeks Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23
Second Reading: Romans 11:33-36
Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20



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.	8/21/2017	Matthew 19:16-22
Tues.	8/22/2017	Matthew 19:23-30
Wed.	8/23/2017	Matthew 20:1-16
Thurs.	8/24/2017	John 1:45-51
Fri.	8/25/2017	Matthew 22:34-40
Sat.	8/26/2017	Matthew 23:1-12

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 keep our house of worship clean and shining. The Altar Guild:

- Michael Allen
- Martha and James Dorsey
- Celestia Drake
- Mary English
- Chris Gaddy
- Carolyn Miles
- Venia Cheatham
- Regina Mello
- Jerome Jenkins
- Gwen Williams



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

July Financial Report Income:

Offering Income: 30,721.00

Expenses: 28,755.69

July's Offering Income was able to cover expenses for this month .

HALLELUJAH

Senior Job Aids

There are several job aids inserted in the bulletin to assist you with Identity Theft and How to Protect yourself against violence. In this environment, this is good information to read and share with your family.



SPECIAL NOTICE!

Please Keep In Your Prayers

All sick and shut-in parishioners of SFX

If you are using the church's Tax ID for your bank account. It is imperative that you complete the form that is in your mailbox and return it ASAP.

Congratulations to Our 2017 Graduates

1. Greer Ayres
2. Sienna Regina Hare
3. Candr'e Henry
4. Kendall Hyman
5. Amirah Miles
6. Karlo Nicholas Norwood
7. Quinton D. Powell, Jr.
8. TaMara Samuels
9. Jeryl Singleterry
10. Shaneka Victor
11. Xavier Jerome Vinson
12. Nkenge Wheatland
13. Blake A. Williams
14. Deborah Woods

Get Ready to Eat Some Crabs!!

The New Horizons of Men and Women Annual Crab Feast!

The NHM&W sponsoring their annual crab feast at Martins' East on Sunday September 17, 2017 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Donation \$60.00, to support our scholarship Fund.



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

Updating your Church records with changes in address, names, etc.

Several of you have experienced changes in your family and have failed to notify the office. If you have had a birth, wedding, name change, address change etc., please notify the office or use the form on the back of the bulletin. By not notifying the office, mail is coming back, which is an additional expense to the church because you have not bothered to change your mailing address. Please call the office or submit changed information via email or U.S. mail.

You've Got Mail

All ministries and organizations, please clean out your mailboxes.

Mark Your Calendar

Sodality's Annual Christmas Shopping trip, Saturday, December 16, 2017. Tickets will go on sale in September; the cost will be \$50.00.



Seven Sorrows of Mary

Please join the Catholic Daughters Court #2257 SFX in honoring Blessed Virgin Mary Seven Sorrows on Friday, September 15, 2017 the feast day of the Seven Sorrows of Mary at 6:00 p.m. in church. Booklets will be provided. Come and be Blessed!



Special Notices

St. Francis Xavier New Website

St. Francis website: www.historicfrancisxavier.org. Please utilize the new website for your bulletin.

*The Baltimore Sun, July 31st, 2017 Edition
Waiting for a Miracle with the Oblate Sisters of Providence*

Please check out the following website and read the article about our beloved Oblate Sisters of Providence.
<http://darkroom.baltimore.co/2017/07/waiting-for-a-miracle-with-the-oblate-sisters-of-providence/>



New Horizons of Men and Women Travel to Williamsburg, Va.

Next year, August 16th-20th the New Horizon will be going to Williamsburg Virginia for their convention. We will open the trip up to those persons interested in traveling with us. More details will follow after we confirmed the hotel and costs. It will be double occupancy and we will offer a payment plan. If you think this is something you will be interested in, please let any member of the New Horizons know. Thank You.

Don't Be Conned

According to the American Association of Retired Persons, older citizens are victims of fraudulent schemes far out of proportion to their population numbers. Keep informed about the latest con schemes in your community by reading the newspaper. Be skeptical about any proposal that sounds too good to be true or has to be kept secret. Don't rush into anything. Check it out with friends, lawyers, the police department, Better Business Bureau, and your state or county consumer affairs department.

Be especially wary of:

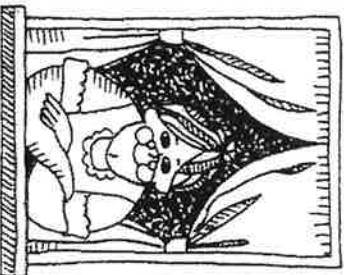
- "Get rich quick" schemes for which you have to put up "good faith" money.
- "Good deals" on expensive repair or home improvement jobs.
- Investments that promise unusually large returns.
- Someone claiming you owe money for an item ordered by a deceased spouse or relative.
- Work at home schemes, door-to-door sales, supplemental medicare insurance, miracle cures, glasses and hearing aids at bargain prices.

If you are the victim of fraud, call the police immediately. You may be embarrassed because you were tricked, but your information is vital in catching the con artist and preventing others from being victimized.

Take Action — Today!

Staying active in your community will help you to feel safer, and help to make your neighborhood a better place to live.

- Join a Neighborhood, Apartment, or Window Watch, or Citizen Patrol.



- Become a foster grandparent or block parent for children who may need help in an emergency.

- If a friend has been a victim of crime, be supportive. Listen carefully and nonjudgementally, cook a meal, help repair damage or replace belongings. Accompany the victim to the police station and to court.

- Volunteer for a local Court Watch to help make courts more responsive to citizen needs.

- Ask the crime prevention officer from your local law enforcement agency to talk to your senior citizens' group.

Crime Prevention tips from:

The National Crime Prevention Council

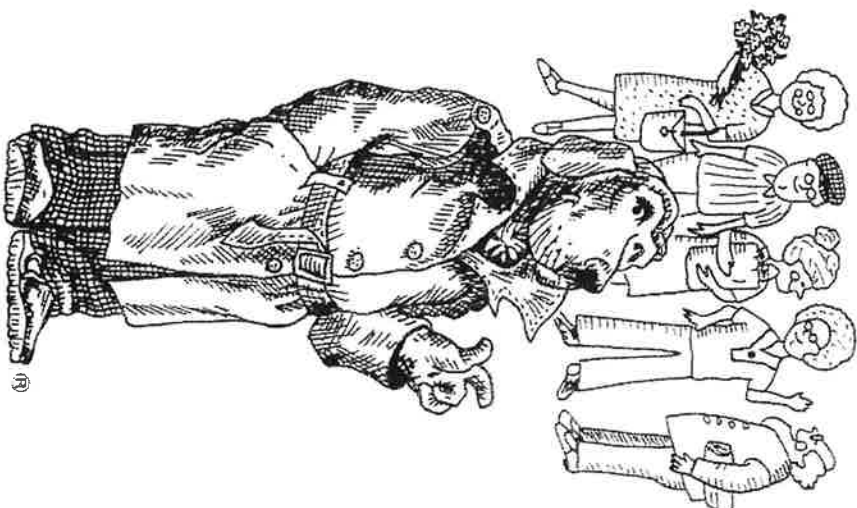
1000 Connecticut Avenue, NW

13th Floor

Washington, DC 20036

and

Senior Citizens Against Crime



Take these tips from me, McGruff,
and be my partner for a safe
community.



Help me, McGruff

TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME

Crime prevention is everyone's responsibility, not just a job for the police. And crime can be reduced by simple measures like remembering to lock a door, knowing about common con games, and watching out for your neighborhood.

Although surveys consistently show that persons over 65 are victims of crime far less frequently than young people, many senior citizens are so worried about crime that they shut themselves up in their homes and rarely go out. But isolating ourselves behind locked doors, not getting together with our neighbors, actually makes it easier for criminals to work in the neighborhood.

Seniors are more vulnerable to certain crimes— purse snatching, mugging, and fraud. But you can reduce opportunities for criminals to strike by being careful, alert, and a good neighbor.

When You're Out

- If you must carry a purse, hold it close to your body. Don't dangle it.
- Never carry a wallet in your back pocket. Put it in an inside jacket pocket or front pocket.
- Make sure someone knows where you're going and when you expect to return.
- Avoid dark, deserted routes, even if they're the shortest.
- Carry change for emergency telephone and transportation use.
- Whenever possible, travel with friends to stores, the bank, or the doctor. Check with your police or sheriff, or senior citizen center about escort services.
- When using the bus or other public transportation, sit near the driver if possible.
- Don't overburden yourself with packages and groceries that obstruct your view and make it hard to react.



- Have your car or house key in hand as you approach your vehicle or home.
- Carry a shriek alarm. In some areas, community groups offer free alarms to seniors.
- When you drive, keep doors locked and windows up. Park in well-lighted, busy areas. If you have car trouble, be wary of strangers who offer help. Stay in your car and ask them to call a service truck or the police.
- If a friend or a taxi takes you home, ask the driver to wait until you are safely inside.
- Communicate the message that you are calm, confident, and know where you are going. Trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable in a place or situation, leave.

When You Are At Home

- Use deadbolt locks on all exterior doors. Keep your doors locked at all times, even when you're inside.
- Protect windows and sliding glass doors with good locks or other security devices.
- Make your home appear occupied when you go out by using a timer to turn on lights and a radio.
- Never let strangers in your home without checking their identification. Call their company if you're not sure. Install a peephole in your door and use it.
- If you live alone, don't advertise it. Use only your first initial in phone books, directories, and apartment lobbies.

- Get to know your neighbors and keep their phone numbers handy for emergencies.
- Work out a "buddy" system with a friend to check on each other daily.

- Engrave your valuables with a unique identification number recommended by the police. Local youth groups may provide this service free to seniors. Keep bonds, stock certificates, seldom worn jewelry, and stamp and coin collections in a safe deposit box.

- Don't hide extra house keys under a doormat or other obvious spots.

Protect Your Money

- If you receive checks in the mail regularly, arrange for them to be sent directly to the bank instead.

- Avoid carrying large sums of money. If you must take a large sum, have a friend accompany you.

- Don't display large amounts of cash in stores or other public places.

- Don't sign a check or contract until you're sure it's for a legitimate reason and know the details. Check with a friend, lawyers, or police officer if in doubt.

- Never put your purse or wallet on a counter while you examine merchandise in a store.

What If You Are Assaulted?

- If the attacker is only after your purse or other valuables, don't resist. Your life and safety are worth more than your possessions.

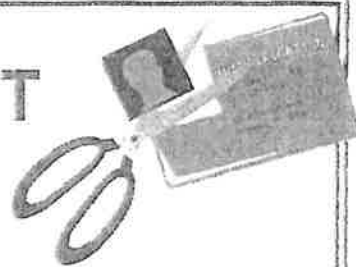
- Make a conscious effort to get an accurate description of the attacker and call the police or sheriff immediately.

- Contact your local victim assistance agency to help you deal with the trauma that all crime victims experience. They can help you learn more about counseling, victim compensation laws and how to follow your case's progress.

- Start a crime prevention program in your building or neighborhood. Turn your tragedy into a helping experience for others.

TIPS ON IDENTITY THEFT

Identity Theft: It's Deceiving



What's identity theft? The U.S. Department of Justice defines it this way: "Identity theft and identity fraud are terms used to refer to all types of crime in which someone wrongfully obtains and uses another person's personal data in some way that involves fraud or deception, typically for economic gain."

It's up to all of us to keep this crime from spreading. It's a battle we can win.

Strictly Confidential

- ❑ Don't carry your Social Security card with you and give it out only when it's absolutely necessary.
- ❑ Commit all passwords to memory.
- ❑ Don't give out your financial or personal information over the phone or Internet unless you have initiated the contact or know for certain with whom you are dealing.
- ❑ Don't exchange personal information for "prizes." Ask to have the offer put in writing and mailed to you so you can consider it more carefully.
- ❑ Destroy the hard drive of your computer if you are selling it, giving it to charity, or otherwise disposing of it.
- ❑ Burglar-proof your home, then burglar-proof what's inside your home, especially your financial records and important documents (put them inside a locked metal filing cabinet or safe).
- ❑ Shred anything that has your personal information on it before you put it in the trash.

Banking

- ❑ Examine all of your bank and credit card statements each month for mistakes or unfamiliar charges that might be the sign of an identity thief at work.
- ❑ Make sure you know when your bills and bank statements normally arrive. If one is late, call to find out why.
- ❑ Use direct deposit, whenever possible, instead of a paper paycheck or pension check.
- ❑ Be alert if you get a call or email from someone purporting to be from your bank or credit card company who asks for personal data to update your "records." This is almost always a scam.

Mail Matters

- ❑ Don't put outgoing mail, especially bill payments, in personal curbside mailboxes. Use U.S. Postal Service mailboxes or drop it off inside a post office.
- ❑ Don't write your account number on the outside of envelopes containing bill payments.
- ❑ When you're out of town, have the post office hold your mail for you or have someone you trust pick it up every day.

E-Commerce

- ❑ Make sure nobody is standing right behind you when you're using an ATM machine. He or she may be trying to photograph your card number and password with a camera cell phone. Always shield your hand and the screen, even if no one is right behind you.

- ❑ Pay your bills online using a secure site if that service is available.
- ❑ Don't give out your credit card number on the Internet unless it is encrypted on a secure site.

What To Do if Your Identity Is Stolen

As soon as you can, contact your local police department or sheriff's office. They should take your report and give you a copy. You should also report the crime to state law enforcement. You will need a police report to pursue your case with creditors. You may also want to contact your state attorneys general office for consumer fraud information. For a list of state attorneys general, go to www.naag.org.

As soon as you know your identity has been stolen, call one of three major credit reporting agencies to flag your account. The law requires the agency you call to notify the other two. The three agencies and their phone numbers are

Equifax	Experian	TransUnion
800-525-6285	888-397-3742	800-680-7289

In addition, these three agencies are each required to provide you with a free report once a year regardless of whether you've been a victim of fraud. Reviewing your report will let you check for suspicious activity. You can request your free reports from www.creditreport.com or by calling 877-322-8228.

Remember, preventing identity theft is a battle we can win!



National Crime Prevention Council
2515 Clays Drive • Suite 500 • Arlington, VA 22202
202-365-6272 • www.nccp.org

The Wireless Foundation
1400 16th Street, NW • Suite 600 • Washington, DC 20036
202-785-0081 • www.wirelessfoundation.org