

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.*

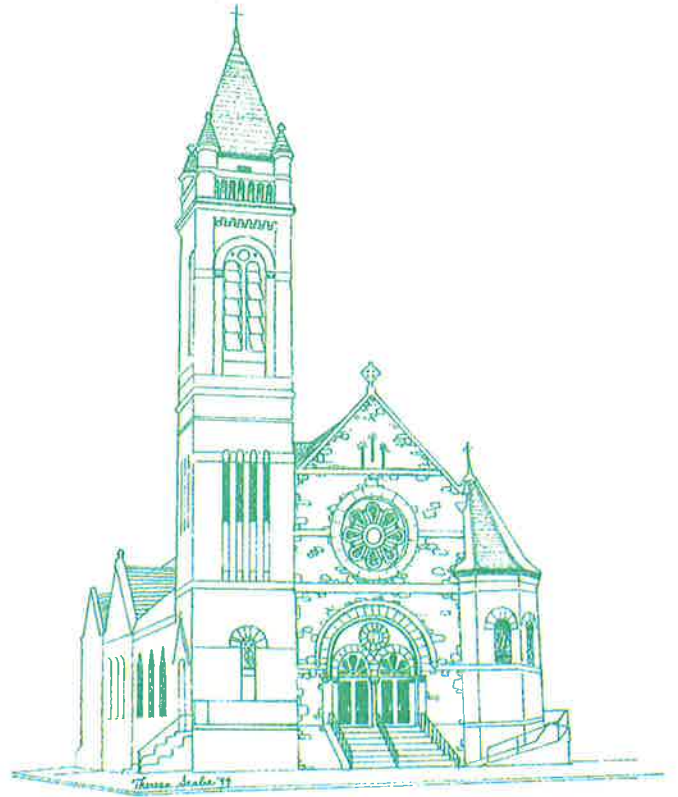
Rev. Xavier Edet, S.S.J.,

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>

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

November 2017

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

One Minute Meditations

St. Catherine Labouré

Born the ninth of eleven children to a French farming family, St.



Catherine eventually joined the Daughters of Charity. Shortly after, the Blessed Mother appeared to Catherine and asked to have a medal engraved with her image and the words, "O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee" engraved on it. The devotion spread quickly, but no one knew St. Catherine's involvement until soon before her death. She was canonized in 1947.

Counting Blessings

How do we handle inconveniences like an irritating coworker, a last-minute schedule change, or occasional miscommunication? God allows us trials so we can grow in virtue, to encourage us to trust him and open ourselves to his grace.

The next trial you face, thank God for his "blessings" and pray for his patience, humility, and grace.

"The Mass is long,' you say, and I reply: 'Because your love is short.'" —St.

Josemaría Escrivá



Do what Jesus did

It is hard to imagine how wonderful Heaven is or the joy that awaits us there. Jesus' mission of salvation while on Earth made Heaven possible for us, if we live a life of holiness and grace as he did. Jesus hoped we would do what he did ...

Service. While on Earth, Jesus' purpose was to serve God and others. He even performed servant tasks such as serving food and washing feet. He asked that we model his servant's heart.

Love. When he walked among us, Jesus reached out to those who felt unloved, comforted those who were suffering, and helped people draw closer to his Father. Try to show love in

these ways every day.

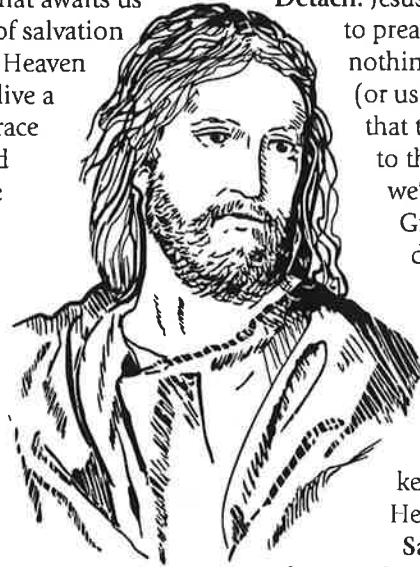
Detach. Jesus sent his disciples out to preach with almost nothing. He didn't want them (or us) distracted. He knew that the more stuff we have to think about, the less we'll think about God.

Give away whatever you don't absolutely need.

Pray. Jesus drew strength from time alone with God.

Spending quiet time with God each day will help keep you on the path to Heaven.

Sacrifice. The most perfect sacrifice offered to God was Jesus' death on the Cross. Yet, when we give up time, effort, or something we value out of love for God and others, we imitate Jesus' generosity.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics honor saints in our churches?

Saints are spiritual role models whose examples we can follow to Heaven. Viewing statues and images of them in our churches helps us to recall their heroic virtue and faithful love for God.

The statues, and the saints

themselves, are not meant to be objects of worship. Instead, we recognize the good these holy people did and honor their examples. Just as in praising a painting we honor the painter, in praising the saints, we honor God who made them.



God loves us as we are

Most of us care about how we come across to other people. Choices about how we live, work, or dress can be influenced by a desire for others' approval. While it is only human to want to be liked, it's important to remember that God's opinion matters most. The best part? God always loves us.

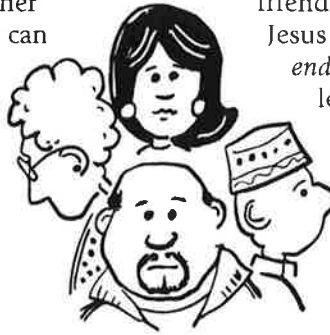
His love never changes. Human standards change over time. Someone considered "in" today, can be "out" in no time. God's love is unchanging and unending.

Friends come and go. Sooner or later,

friendships change or friends may move on. But Jesus said, "... behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). God never leaves.

He loves us for who we really are. There's nothing God doesn't know about us, and he adores us anyway. Go figure.

If God likes you, others may, too. To please God, we have to fill ourselves with love for him and other people, and that makes us even nicer to be around.



from Scripture

Matthew 25:31-46, Judged on love

In this Gospel reading, Jesus describes the coming of the Son of Man, that is, his glorious return on the last day. Jesus will appear at the end of time as the King of the Nations and the Judge of History. Everyone who has ever lived, from the first to the last, from the greatest to the least, will stand before Christ. All of us will be judged on how we loved, especially how we loved those who suffered among us.

The specific criteria for judgment is the basis for the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy,

which are: feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked and welcome the stranger, care for the sick and imprisoned, and bury the dead.

In the end, we will be judged on our response to the suffering of others.

Do we, like the "blessed," respond with compassion and mercy? Or do we, like the others, turn a blind eye and do nothing? The goal is to see Christ in others and to minister to their needs as he did.



Q & A What are indulgences?

An indulgence is "the remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sin whose guilt has already been forgiven" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*). In other words, after certain conditions have been met, the Church prays that the punishment for one's sins – either on Earth or in Purgatory – will be reduced or eliminated.

Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross and the prayers and good works of the saints during their lifetimes make indulgences possible. The Catechism compares this idea to something like an infinite bank account. The Church draws from the "treasury" of spiritual goods – prayers and sacrifices – of the saints and applies the benefits to those completing the indulgence (CCC #1476). To gain an indulgence, certain requirements must be met, including attending Confession, receiving Holy Communion and praying for the intentions of the pope.

Indulgences are only effective for sins that have already been forgiven in the Sacrament of Confession. Otherwise, we could be in danger of presuming on God's mercy or assuming God's forgiveness without true contrition.

Feasts & Celebrations

Nov. 1 – All Saints Day – a Holy Day of Obligation. In the early Church, there was a desire to celebrate saints and martyrs by assigning each a feast day. However, the Christian persecutions were so horrible that there weren't enough days in the calendar for individual commemorations. Pope Gregory IV designated Nov. 1 as All Saints Day.

Nov. 14 – St. Lawrence O'Toole (1180). St. Lawrence was born in County Kildare, Ireland. When he was twelve, he was dedicated to God's service. St. Lawrence became Dublin's

second archbishop and a papal legate. He was canonized in 1225.

Nov. 16 – St. Margaret of Scotland (1093). Queen Margaret of Scotland was dedicated to caring for the poor. She washed beggars' feet and gave them alms. She fed orphans and destitute adults before eating her own meals.

Nov. 26 – Solemnity of Christ the King. God promised his people a king who would triumph over their enemies. Jesus is our King. In Baptism and Confirmation, we are brought under his kingship.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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

SAVE THE DATE

The OFFICE OF BLACK CATHOLIC MINISTRIES, ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE
INVITES ONE AND ALL TO ITS

Celebration of Black Catholic History Gospel Concert Brunch

at

Historic St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church
1501 East Oliver Street, Baltimore, MD 21213
(Oliver @ Caroline Street)

Saturday, November 18th, 2017

10:00 AM-Continental Breakfast / 2:30PM Closing Prayer

Featuring:

Opening Remarks: Most Reverend Denis J. Madden, DD
A Presentation on: "Wisdom from Black Catholic History"
Paula Manchester, Professor at St. Joseph's College
Gospel Choir Concert

Register by: Monday, November 6, 2017

[To order sufficient food and materials, you need to be counted.]

Mail registration to OBCM, 320 Cathedral St., Baltimore, MD 21201

For more information call (410) 625-8472 **Offering: \$10.00**

✂

Gospel Concert Brunch **REGISTRATION**

Name _____

Parish: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone Number: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Please return this form by Monday, November 6, 2017

REFLECTION

"Give to God what belongs to God"

What do we owe God and our neighbor? Scripture tells us to give to everyone whatever is their due and to "owe no one anything, except to love one another" (Romans 13:6-8). The Jewish authorities sought to trap Jesus in a religious-state issue. The Jews resented their foreign rulers and despised paying taxes to Caesar. They posed a dilemma to test Jesus to see if he was loyal to them and to their understanding of religion. If Jesus answered that it was lawful to pay taxes to a pagan ruler, then he would lose credibility with the Jewish nation who would regard him as a coward and a friend of Caesar. If he said it was not lawful, then the Pharisees would have grounds to report him to the Roman authorities as a political trouble-maker and have him arrested.

Coins inscribe the owner's name and authority on them. Jesus avoided their trap by confronting them with the image of a coin. Coinage in the ancient world had significant political power. Rulers issued coins with their own image and inscription on them. In a certain sense the coin was regarded as the personal property of the ruler. Where the coin was valid the ruler held political sway over the people. Since the Jews used the Roman currency, Jesus explained that what belonged to Caesar must be given to Caesar.

We have been "stamped" with God's image and likeness. This story has another deeper meaning as well. We, too, have been stamped with God's image since we are created in his own likeness - "God created man in his own image .male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:26-27). We rightfully belong not to ourselves, but to God who created us and redeemed us in the precious blood of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ (see 1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Paul the Apostle says that we are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God (Romans 12:1). Do you acknowledge that your life and everything you possess belongs to God and not to yourself? And do you give to God what rightfully belongs to him?

Stewardship Reflections

Luke 16:11

If then you are not trustworthy with money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches?

Mass Intentions



Saturday

5:00 P.M. God's continued blessings and mercies on Fr. Fred as he celebrates his birthday tomorrow req. by Office Staff

Sunday

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

11:00 A.M. (1) In Memory of all the deceased members of my family, req. by Darleen Thomas

(2) In recognition of the 93rd birthday of John Matthews req. by The Family

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. (1) God's Blessings on Rita and Joe Colbert, req. by Dottie Mello

(2) Happy repose of the soul of Dorothy M. Butler on the 9th Anniversary of her death req. by Calvin Butler and Daughters

Thursday

8:00 A.M. Happy repose of the soul of my brother Donald Lewis on 3rd Anniversary of his death, req. by Martha Lewis Dorsey & Family

Friday

8:00 A.M.

Today's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

Next Weeks Readings

First Reading: Exodus 22:20-26

Second Reading: Thessalonians 1:1-5c-10

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40



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.	October 23, 2017	Luke 12:13-21
Tues.	October 24, 2017	Luke 12:35-38
Wed.	October 25, 2017	Luke 12:39-48
Thurs.	October 26, 2017	Luke 12:49-53
Fri.	October 27, 2017	Luke 12:54-59
Sat.	October 28, 2017	Luke 6:12-16

SFX Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary's Day of Recollection

Come join the Sodality of BVM of SFX on Saturday, November 11, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on their Annual Day of Recollection.

"The Blessed Virgin Mary in the Christian Life of Faith and Prayer". Our guest speaker is Father Godwin, SSJ. This is a free event. A continental breakfast and light lunch will be provided. Please contact Lorraine Bell (410) 889-9196 or Martha Lewis Dorsey (410) 668-1258 if interested in attending. We need a count to provide the right amount of food by November 5, 2017.

Sunrise Choir

If you are interested in enhancing a choir that will inspire our church family and yourself, please consider joining the Sunrise Choir at the 8:00 a.m. Mass. We need basses, tenors, altos and sopranos. We sing on the 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays. We rehearse on 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays after the 8:00 a.m. Mass in the small meeting room in the undercroft. Please contact Harriet Brown, President (410-444-4441) or any of the choir members.

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 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

<i>Iteha Barnes Mary Harmon Rhona Pack Suzonne Vickers Cecilia Johnson Jackie Langley Keith Bridgeforth Catherine Gray Elizabeth Eley Ronald Lewis Gracie Ferguson Michael Allen Patricia Williams Pia Butler</i>	<i>Obie Barnes Theresa Butler Thedrick Tapp Deborah Woods Celestine Kellam John Wheatland Vanda Chambers Pauline Hargrove Diane Lewis Donna Booth Stacy Brown Cecilia Hargrove Yvette Wylie</i>
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Special Notices



2017 Faith Formation Calendar

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

September

24th Class Begins

October

1st Class

8th Class

15th Class

22nd Class

28th Parent Class for Sacramental Students

29th Class/Fall Festival

November

1st All Saints Day Holy Day of Obligation

5th Class

11th Parent Class for Sacramental Students

12th Class

18 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

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 dates: Tuesday's 11/7, 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.

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 have to be purchased by November 5th 2017



The Angel Project

It is giving time of year and we would like 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. To apply, please fill out the forms located at the back of church or you can contact Suzonne Vickers by text or phone call at 443-857-7016 with the requested information. Use SUBJECT: Angel Project. There should be one form for each child. Children should be age 18 and in high school or younger. All forms are due back no later than **November 5, 2017**. Important-Please make sure you complete the parent information section. If you do not complete it, your child will not receive a gift under this project.

Thanks, Angel Project Team,

- Mary Burton
- Kim Grays
- Joyce Logan
- Renee Terry
- Suzonne Vickers
- Janet Wiggins

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.

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