

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>

Joyful Anticipation of the Messiah

Scripture: *Luke 1:39-45*

39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

Old Testament Reading: *Micah 5:2-4*

2 But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. 3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. 4 And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

Meditation: Do you recognize the indwelling presence of the Lord Jesus in your life? Blessed are you if you see and recognize the Lord with the "eyes of faith". The word "blessed" [*makarios* in Greek] literally means "happiness" or "beatitude". It describes a kind of joy which is serene and untouchable, self-contained, and independent from chance and changing circumstances of life.

God gives us supernatural joy with hope in his promises

There is a certain paradox for those "blessed" by the Lord. Mary was given the "blessedness" of being the mother of the Son of God.

Stewardship Reflections

I proclaim to you good news of Great joy: today a Savior is born to us, Christ the Lord.

Mass Intentions



Saturday

5:00 P.M. *Happy repose of the soul of William Rainey, req. by the family*

Sunday

8:00 A.M. *People of the parish*

11:00 A.M. *In loving memory of John and Julia Matthews on the anniversary of their 93rd and 94th birthdays, req. by the family.*

Tuesday

8:00 A.M. *Happy repose of the soul of Marian Quickly Johnson, req. by the family.*

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. *In remembrance of my parents Grady C. and Ethel Hill, req. by Joyce Hill Turnipseed and Family*

Thursday

8:00 A.M. *Happy repose of the soul of Peggy Williams, req. by the family*

Friday

8:00 A.M. *Happy repose of the soul of Anthony Wiggins, req. by Darleen Thomas*

Today's Readings

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4a

Second Reading: Hebrews 10: 5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Next Week's Readings

First Reading: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Gospel Luke 2:41-52

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
Monday	December 24, 2018	Mark 3:67-12
Tuesday	December 25, 2018	Luke 2:15-20
Wednesday	December 26, 2018	Matthew 10:17-22
Thursday	December 27, 2018	John 20: 1a-2-8
Friday	December 28, 2018	Matthew 2:13-18
Saturday	December 29, 2018	Luke 2:22-35

Mother Mary Lange, OSP Awards Banquet

Please get any nominations forms into the office. Nominations are closed. We have not received any nomination for youth. Parishioners please take time to nominate a youth. Our kids are very active in this church and worthy of recognition. The cost of the banquet is \$60.00. It will be held on Friday February 8, 2019. The office of Black Catholics to honor members of our Black Catholic Parishes for leadership, service and youth activity. The awardees will be announced next week.

SPECIAL NOTICES

Mother Mary Lange Corner

1794-1882



Prayer for the Beatification of Mother Mary Lange

Almighty and Eternal God, you granted Mother Mary Lange extraordinary trust in Your providence. You endowed her with humility, courage, holiness and an extraordinary sense of service to the poor and sick. You enable her to fund the Oblate Sisters of Providence and provide educational, social, and spiritual ministry especially to the African American community. Mother Lange’s love for all enabled her to see Christ in each person, and the pain of prejudice and racial hatred never blurred that vision.

Deign to raise her to the highest honors of the altar in order that, through her intercession, more souls may come to a deeper understanding and more fervent love of you.

Heavenly Father, glorify your heart by granting also this favor (here mention your request) which we ask through the intercession of Your faithful servant, Mother Mary Lange.

Did You Know...

After the founding of the of Oblate Sisters of Providence, Mary Lange became the first Mother Superior, she held that post for nine years. Mother Lange gave permanence to her vision of healing and peace. She affirmed her trust and faith in the providence of God. The Latin word for Oblates means dedicated to a certain work, Providence is defined as the manifestation of God’s care over his people.

Special Notices

Religious Education

2018-2019 Faith Formation Calendar

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

December

16th Class

23rd Class

24th Christmas

25th Christmas



Annual Bake Sale sponsored by The Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary, will be held on Sunday, December 23, 2018, after both Masses.

Annual Retreat Sponsored by Sodality of SFX of the Blessed Virgin Mary, will be April 5-7, 2019 at Loyola at the Potomac. Theme "God's Dream." Cost for first time retreat attendees is \$195.00 for former attendees the cost is \$245.00. To register contact Lorraine Bell (410-899-9196) or Martha Dorsey (410-668-1258). Registration fee deposit of \$115.00 is non-refundable and due in January. More information will be given about the cost for transportation.

Russell Dandridge is currently in Golden Gemz an Assistant Living at 70811 Beverly Ave., off Perring Parkway and Taylor Ave.

SFX Church office will be closed on Wednesday after Christmas.



Advent Begins with Mercy

The four weeks before Christmas encompass the Advent season, one of preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ. This year, Advent began December 2, 2018, Giving time, talent, and resources via spiritual and corporal works of mercy offers a way for Catholics to serve while preparing for the Feast of the Nativity of the Lord. Remember the less fortunate, provide food, hats, gloves, coats and Special Prayers.

Special Notices

December Schedule

Monday December 24, 2018 Christmas Vigil Masses

St. Francis Xavier ----- 5:00 pm
St. Wenceslaus -----6:00 pm
St. Ann -----7:30 p.m.
St. Francis Xavier ----- Midnight Mass beginning with Carols at 11:15 pm

Tuesday December 25, 2018 Christmas Day Masses

St. Wenceslaus ----- 9:00 a.m.
St. Francis Xavier ----- 10:00 am



SPECIAL NOTICE!

Please Keep in Your Prayers All sick and shut- in SFX Parishioners

St. Francis Xavier church family extends their deepest sympathy to the following families on the loss of their loved ones. William Rainey, Peggy Williams, Marian Quigley Johnson, and Anthony Wiggins. The Homecoming details are as follows:

William Rainey was funeralized this past Saturday.

Peggy Williams had direct burial on Wednesday December 19, 2018.

Anthony Wiggins -Friday, December 28, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. for wake and funeral immediately following at 10:30 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Church.

Marian Quigley Johnson- Saturday, December 29, 2018, 10:00 a.m. wake, and 10:30 a.m. funeral. To be held at St. Francis Xavier Church.

Youth Voice Contest

A call for entries: Tell us how you would improve interactions between police and youth.

Entries must be submitted by January 15, 2019. Submissions can be: an essay, a drawing, a cartoon, an animated cartoon, a painting, a photograph, a sculpture, a collage or a video

Two prizes will be awarded:
\$1,000 for a winner (age 12-14)
\$1,500 for a winner (age 15-18)

Written entries and photos or scans of artwork should be emailed to: contest@strategiesforyouth.org

Art submissions may also be mailed to:
Strategies for Youth Contest
PO Box 390174
Cambridge, MA 02139

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.

Growing in FAITH™

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

January 2019

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

One Minute Meditations

St. Francis de Sales

Born to a wealthy family in Savoy, near Switzerland, St. Francis became the Bishop of Geneva and worked to revive Catholicism in Chablais, Switzerland. Controversial for his day, he taught that all Christians in whatever station in life could grow in holiness. He was known for his simple but profound sermons, and kindly spiritual wisdom. His famous work, *Introduction to the Devout Life* is still as popular today as it was when he wrote it.

God stays the same

Although the world changes constantly, God stays the same. He can be trusted to provide love, support, and strength when we need it. All we have to do is ask him. *"For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed"* (Malachi 3:6).

Pass it on

"Evangelization means to set out with Christ in order to pass on the gift we have received" (Pope Benedict XVI).



God watches good efforts with loving eyes

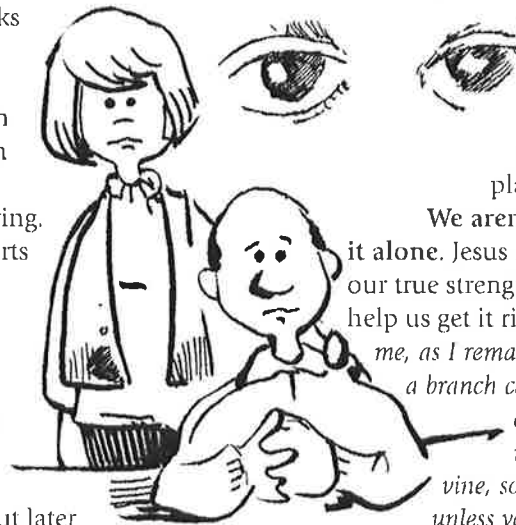
We start the New Year with the best of intentions, but life can get in the way of success. Household expenses leave little for charity, work encroaches on family time, daily tasks distract from prayer time, and healthy habits fall away. It can be discouraging when we stumble, but it's important to keep trying. God watches our efforts with loving eyes.

God knows our limits. Our Father understands that we are weak and that we struggle. Even Peter, Jesus' close friend, promised devotion but later denied knowing him (John 13: 37-38). Not only did Jesus forgive him, he made Peter the first head of his

beloved Church.

Don't let fear of failure keep you from trying again. *"Fear not, I am with you; be not dismayed; I am your God. I will strengthen you, and help you"* (Isaiah 41:10). The key is to get back to the plan.

We aren't meant to do it alone. Jesus is the source of our true strength and wants to help us get it right. *"Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me"* (John 15:4). *"Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from his mighty power"* (Ephesians 6:10).



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics call Mary the Mother of God?

When we refer to Mary as "Mother of God," we are saying that Jesus is God. The Church has always taught that Jesus is both God and sinless man. As the Word of God, he always



existed. He took on flesh and became man in history through Mary (John 1:14). Mary is truly his mother: she gave birth to him and raised him. Since Jesus is God, Mary, his mother, is the Mother of God (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #495).

Forgiveness makes good sense

"My best friend hurt me terribly, hasn't apologized and doesn't act sorry. I refuse to forgive her."
 "When my parents died, my brother took more than his share of their estate. I'll never speak to him again."

Refusing to forgive merely prolongs the hurt feelings and traps us in the past. It forces us to dwell on bad feelings and keep them alive. That feels awful. Forgiving is something we do for ourselves.

But when we forgive, the energy that



sustained the anger and hurt is now available for better purposes. That feels better.

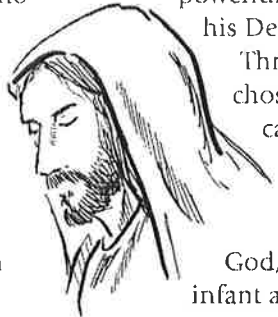
Need another reason? Jesus taught us that to receive forgiveness of our own sins we must forgive those who have hurt us. If we can't or won't – how can we obtain it for ourselves?

Instead, pray for those who hurt you and ask God to bless them. Not only will you find the pain start to lessen, you'll be saying one of God's favorite kinds of prayers. It's exactly how Jesus prayed while on the Cross.

from Scripture

Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21; Jesus teaches in the synagogue

In this passage, Jesus returned home to Nazareth to teach in the synagogue. He read the prophecy of Isaiah about the advent of the Messiah, who would come to "bring glad tidings to the poor." Then he said, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." He confirmed that he was the long-awaited Messiah.

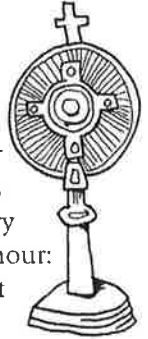


Messiah-king to defeat the oppressive Romans and make Israel a powerful nation. Instead, Jesus conquered the powerful enemies of sin and death by his Death and Resurrection.

Throughout the Bible, God chose unlikely heroes to carry out his plan: think of Abraham, Moses, David, St. Peter, St. Paul, and many others. Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth as a newborn infant and lived in humility, poverty, and service. The Good News is that God's love is stronger than sin and death. If he rose to glory, those who follow him will, too.

His hearers must have been shocked. They expected the Messiah to be a worldly king from an important city, not a carpenter-turned-preacher from a small town like Nazareth. They expected this

Q & A What is a "holy hour?"



A "holy hour" is a devotion during which one sets aside an hour for prayer and meditation before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Try these ideas to make a holy hour:

Find a tabernacle with a lit sanctuary lamp. The lamp signifies the presence of Christ. Silence yourself both interiorly and exteriorly. Clear your mind of daily stresses or outside distractions.

Start the conversation. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you, then make acts of faith, hope and charity. Tell God how you believe, trust and love him. Ask for more faith, hope and love.

Adore God. Rather than recite prayers, focus on adoration. God is all powerful, all good, more beautiful than we can imagine, and more real than the distractions on which we focus.

Imagine Christ sitting with you. It's not your love for God, but his for you that saves. God delights in the company of his children (Proverbs 8:31). If you can't pray, then just be with him. That itself is a prayer pleasing to God.

Feasts & Celebrations

Jan. 2 – St. Gregory Nazianzen (389). Born in Cappadocia, Turkey, St. Gregory was awarded the title of "The Theologian" for his faithfulness and eloquence. Preferring the quiet life of a monk, he was unwillingly made a bishop of Sasima by his friend, St. Basil the Great. With St. Basil and St. Gregory of Nyssa, St. Gregory helped clarify the Church's teachings about the Holy Trinity.

Jan. 3 – Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. We honor Jesus' name, which means, "God saves," and refers to his

mission as Savior (Matthew 1:21). Jesus is "the name above all names," at which "every knee should bend ..." (Philippians 2:10).

Jan. 5 – St. John Neumann (1860). The first American bishop to be canonized was born in the present-day Czech Republic in 1811. St. John traveled to New York as a missionary before becoming bishop of Philadelphia. He built up the Catholic school system and established diocesan schools. He also built more than 89 churches, several hospitals and orphanages.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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 Publishers of *Growing in Faith™* and *Partners in Faith™*
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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)