

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

"Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord"

Does the King of glory find a welcome entry in your home and heart? Jesus went to Jerusalem knowing full well what awaited him - betrayal, rejection, and crucifixion. The people of Jerusalem, however, were ready to hail him as their Messianic King! Little did they know what it would cost this King to usher in his kingdom. Jesus' entry into Jerusalem astride a colt was a direct fulfillment of the Messianic prophecy of Zechariah (9:9):

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem. Lo, your King comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, and riding on an donkey and upon a colt the foal of a donkey.

Those who believe, hope, and love receive Christ's kingdom of peace and eternal life

The colt was a sign of peace. Jesus enters Jerusalem in meekness and humility, as the Messianic King who offers victory and peace to his people. That victory and peace would be secured in the cross and resurrection which would soon take place at the time of Passover.

Augustine, the great 5th century church father, comments on the significance of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem:

"The master of humility is Christ who humbled himself and became obedient even to death, even the death of the cross. Thus he does not lose his divinity when he teaches us humility... What great thing was it to the King of the ages to become the King of humanity? For Christ was not the King of Israel so that he might exact a tax or equip an army with weaponry and visibly vanquish an enemy. He was the King of Israel in that he rules minds, in that he gives counsel for eternity, in that he leads into the kingdom of heaven for those who believe, hope, and love. It is condescension, not advancement for one who is the Son of God, equal to the Father, the Word through whom all things were made, to become King of Israel. It is an indication of pity, not an increase in power." (Tractates on John 51.3-4)

Psalm 24 is another prophetic passage which echoes this triumphal procession of the King of glory:

Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

Jesus Christ came to bring us the kingdom of God. He is the true King who offers peace, joy, and everlasting life for those who accept his kingship. Does the King of glory find a welcome entry in your heart and home? Do your walls echo with the praise of his glory?

Stewardship Reflections

Luke 6:38

"Give and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

Mass Intentions



Saturday

5:00 P.M.

Sunday

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

11:00 A.M. (1) God's grace and mercy for the Price family as they grieve the loss of Barbara Thomas, req. by Robert Taylor

(2) In Memory of Napoleon Sykes a phenomenal husband, dad and Pop-pop, req. by Brenda and the children

Tuesday

8:00 A.M. God's grace and Mercy for Father Jim McLinden, req. Darleen Thomas

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. Happy repose of the soul of Miles Fitzgerald may he rest in peace, req. Darleen Thomas

Thursday

8:00 A.M. We ask God's blessings on restoring Martha Lewis Dorsey's health and strength, req. by the Office Staff

Friday

8:00 A.M. God's continue blessings for Calvin Butler, as he celebrates his birthday, req. by the family

Today's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7
Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11
Gospel: Mark 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39

Next Weeks Reading

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 10:34a, 37-43
Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4
Gospel: John 20:1-9



SPECIAL NOTICE!

*Please Keep In Your Prayers
All sick and shut in SFX Parish*

Important Note, Envelope Users

When submitting one check for multiple envelopes, please include the amount on each envelope. In addition, please make sure that the amount you are recording on the outside of the envelope is the same as the funds that you are placing inside of the envelope. Both of these things are very important to ensure that your offering is accurately recorded. Please write or print legibly. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Miles Fitzgerald

Miles Fitzgerald home going service is as follows:

Family hour-At Vaughn Green Funeral Home on York Road on Tuesday March 27th from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Wake- Wednesday March 28th at 10:00 a.m. -10:30 a.m.

Funeral Mass- 10:30 a.m.

Interment- Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery

SFX Circle Club is hosting a day trip to Sight and Sound Millennium Theatre to see the production of "Jesus" on Saturday June 30th, 2018 . Deposits of \$50.00 is due by April 15th, with final payment due May 13th. No exceptions, the trip has to be paid 45 days before departure.

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.

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.	March 26, 2018	John 12:1-11
Tues.	March 27, 2018	John 13:21-3, 36-38
Wed.	March 28, 2018	Matthew 26:14- 25
Thurs.	March 29, 2018	Luke 4:16-21
Fri.	March 30, 2018	John 18:1-19:42
Sat.	March 31, 2018	Mark 16:1-7

Lenten Journey

Lent is often referred to a journey, one that begins in the desert and ends in the garden. Each Sunday of lent draws us closer to the great high point of the liturgical year, the celebration of the Triduum and immersion into the passion, death and Resurrection of Jesus. We try to focus less on giving up and more on giving ourselves over. Within the three traditional practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we are offered a precious opportunity to encounter Christ as we make our way towards Easter. The journey does not end with Easter, it is a begins.

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

Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary Annual Fashion Show

Annual Fashion, Sunday, May 20, 2018 from 3-6 pm. Theme: Steppin Out. Tickets are \$15.00 per person Fashion Show is in need of Models if you are interested please contact Lorraine Bell (410) 889-9196.

Divine Mercy Sunday

Hosted by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas on April 8, 2018. Starting after Communion at 11:00 a.m. Mass.

Special Notices



March

29th Holy Thursday 7:00 PM St. Wenceslaus Church

April

1st NO CLASS-Easter

8th Class

14th Student Field Trip 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

15th Class

22nd Class Confirmation Retreat 10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

29th Class

May

6th Class

13th No class Mother's Day

20th Class

26th First Communion/Confirmation rehearsal @ 10:00 a.m. – Noon

27th Class First Communion / Confirmation

Religious Education Lenten Service Project

CRS

CRS Rice Bowls were distributed to all Sunday School Children. The children's Lenten sacrifices to CRS will honor Jesus' call to serve our neighbors who have less than we do. Please have the children return their Rice Bowl on Sunday April 8th.

"Blessed are they who Hunger and Thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied."

Let us Feed the Needy.

On Saturday March 17, 2018 13 cases of canned goods and 12 bags of men clothing were delivered to our Daily Bread by members of the Ashanti and Squires. Thanks to all for your generosity and your support of our service project.

Holy Week Activities for the Pastorate

Mon. March 26, 2018 Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of Mary our Queen. Time is 7:00 pm

March 29, 2018 ----- Holy Thursday at St. Wenceslaus at 7:00 p.m.

March 30, 2018 ----- Good Friday at St. Ann's at 3:00 p.m.

March 30, 2018 ----- Good Friday: Stations of the Cross at SFX at 7:00 pm to be led by Youth Ministry

March 31, 2018 ----- Holy Easter Vigil at SFX at 7:30 p.m.

Seder Meal

On Wednesday of Holy Week 3/28/18 @ 7:00 p.m. St Ann will host the Seder Meal. Parishioners from SFX are encouraged to attend. There is a signup sheet on the table in the back of the church. If you are planning to attend please sign up to make sure adequate supplies are available.

Sunday School Field Trip

The Sunday School will take a field trip to The Basilica and National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. We will also visit The National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes both located in Emmitsburg, MD on Saturday April 14, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. Parents please complete the field permission form with the \$10.00 payment and return it as soon as possible before the deadline date. Thank you.

AMISHLANDS *Pennsylvania*

"...NYC-style shows at a fraction of the cost!"



Experience the greatest rescue story of all time! Jesus is the musical stage adventure about the most famous person to ever walk the earth, and the everyday people whose lives he changed forever. Book early, shows fill up quickly!



Featuring **"Jesus" at the Millennium Theatre**

SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 2018

\$ 165⁰⁰ per person

START PAYING NOW =

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- * Performance of "Jesus" at the Millennium Theatre
- * Smorgasbord meal at Shady Maple Restaurant
- * Shopping as time allows
- * Motorcoach transportation
- * Taxes & meal gratuities

Jesus is a musical stage adventure about the most famous person to ever walk the earth, and the everyday people whose lives he changed forever. You will see Jesus' birth, his death and his resurrection, and so very much more. Jesus is a show about love, both whimsical and adventurous, with technology never before used in the theatre. Plus, animals galore!



FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Darlene Thomas

1501 E. Oliver St.

Baltimore, MD 21213

(410) 727-3103



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Divine Mercy Sunday

Jesus said to Saint M. Faustina Kowalska:

"I desire that there be a Feast of Mercy.

*On this day the very depths
of My tender mercy are open.*

*I pour out a whole ocean of graces
upon those souls who approach
the fount of my Mercy.*

*And this why the first Sunday
after Easter is to be the Feast of Mercy, and on
that day, priests are to tell
everyone about my great
and unfathomable mercy."*

April 8, 2018

Starting After Communion at the
11:00 Mass

Historic St. Francis Xavier Church
1501 E. Oliver Street
(Corner of Caroline & Oliver Sts.)



Hosted by the Catholic Daughters of the
Americas (Quality of Life Committee)
Valerie Grays, Regent



Growing in FAITH™

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

April 2018

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

One Minute Meditations

St. Gianna Beretta Molla

Born into a large Catholic family in Italy, St. Gianna studied medicine and became a physician. She opened a medical practice in Mesero, where she met her husband. The pregnancy and birth of their fourth child was very difficult, but Gianna was willing to risk her life for the life of the child. St. Gianna gave birth to a baby girl and died a week later. She is the patroness of mothers, physicians, and unborn children.



No guesswork involved

Followers of Christ never have to rely on guesswork to decide what is right. We have a perfect example for our daily lives in Jesus. And to guide us, he gave us the Catholic Church.

"A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh" (Ezekiel 36:26).



Begin a new life after Easter

The promise of the Resurrection is that faithful followers of Jesus will have new life. Whether we had a fruitful Lent or were lukewarm in our resolve, we can begin now to become new creations.

Make an examination. Call on the Holy Spirit to reveal what is keeping you from becoming the person God intends. Make an examination of your life as you live it. Look at your prayer life, your sacramental life, your dedication to spiritual growth. Do you share your faith? Do you serve others with love?

Face the truth with courage. It can be discouraging to look honestly at our

many faults. Remember, though, that God understands we aren't perfect. He asks us to act with integrity and relentlessly fight against sin.

Being a sinner is not the worst condition – remaining one is.

Devise a plan. Decide what needs to change and make a plan. Write it down and commit to it. Sometimes making a brave life change entails leaving bad company behind. Often it means changing entrenched habits. Change may be uncomfortable but growth can't happen without it.

Take the first steps. New life comes through God. Entrust your plan for change to him. Spend at least 15 minutes a day in prayer, asking for inspiration and strength. Then take the first steps toward new life.

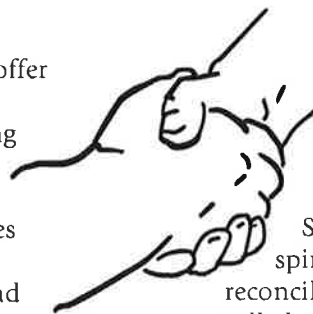


Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics offer the sign of peace?

During the Mass, we offer the Sign of Peace in preparation for receiving Communion. After his Resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples in the Upper Room. Although his friends had abandoned him, Jesus

forgave them, saying: "Peace be with you" (John 20:19). When we offer each other the Sign of Peace, we imitate Christ. The Sign of Peace is also a sign of spiritual unity. Just as Jesus reconciled with his disciples, we are called to reconcile with each other.



Catholic disciples are called to more

Daily prayer, weekly Mass attendance, and regular Confession form the foundation for a solid Catholic life. Yet, discipleship calls us to more. Discipleship moves us to make a "conscious, firm decision, carried out in action, to be followers of Jesus Christ no matter the cost" to ourselves (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops).

A conscious decision. Disciples consciously resolve to follow Jesus with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength. This governing resolution – renewed every day – controls all other decisions in a disciple's life.

Demonstrated by action. Our discipleship is visible to others by our devotion to the Church and by the good works we perform. Our charitable actions are offered in obedience to Jesus' example – and instructions – in the New Testament. The Church suggests the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy as guidelines.

Despite the cost. "So therefore, whoever of you does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:33). To be Christian isn't always comfortable. Yet, disciples persist out of love, no matter the cost.

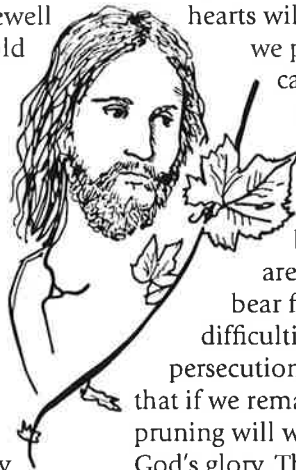


from Scripture

John 15:1-8, Stay faithful to Christ

This Gospel comes from Jesus' Last Supper Discourse, a kind of farewell speech for his disciples. Jesus told his disciples – and us – that without him, we can do nothing. He used a familiar image to explain. A grapevine has a main stem and smaller branches growing from it. Just as the main stem is the source of life for the branches, so Jesus is the source of spiritual life for us.

We received this life when we were "grafted onto" Jesus in Baptism. We preserve this life by taking his words seriously and



striving to live by them. Then our hearts will become like his. When we pray in Jesus' name, we can trust that God will answer our prayers. There is a "catch" to following Jesus, though. Just as the branches on a grapevine are pruned – cut short – to bear fruit, we will encounter difficulties and even persecution. Yet, Jesus reminds us that if we remain faithful to him, this pruning will work for our good and God's glory. Then we'll become the saints we were called to be.

Q & A What does the Resurrection mean for us?

Jesus' Resurrection – the most important event in human history – is how we know that what he said and did while on Earth is true and his promises to us are trustworthy.



During his public ministry, Jesus spoke and acted as God. He promised that if we follow him, we will have eternal life. Either he was God and had the power to make it true, or he was a mere man claiming to be someone he wasn't.

That Jesus rose from the dead – a fact verified by more than 500 eyewitness accounts – means that his word can be trusted. He warned of the specifics of his own death, predicted his Resurrection, and proved that he really is God. Therefore, his promises of eternal life are real, too.

The Resurrection gives us hope. "By his death, Christ liberates us from sin; by his Resurrection, he opens for us the way to a new life" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* #654). All those who die in God's friendship will live with him forever.

Feasts & Celebrations

April 3 – St. Richard of Chichester (1253). Born in England, St. Richard studied law at Bologna. Known for his holiness and administrative skills, he was named archbishop of Chichester, but King Henry III refused to let him rule until the pope threatened the king with excommunication. Even as an archbishop, St. Richard lived a humble life. He died in Dover while preaching a crusade.

April 8 – Divine Mercy Sunday (1935). In 1931, Jesus appeared to St. Faustina and asked that the Sunday after Easter become the "Feast of

Mercy." Jesus promised anyone who honors him as King of Mercy and prays the Chaplet of Divine Mercy – the prayer he gave St. Faustina – would receive special graces and great mercy.

April 25 – St. Mark the Evangelist (1st Century). St. Mark wrote the second Gospel largely based on St. Peter's perspective. Mark accompanied Saints Paul and Barnabas (Mark's cousin) on their missionary journey through the island of Cyprus and is credited with founding the Church of Alexandria.



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)

**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISHIONERS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL
OUR SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS!**

Addison, Dorothy	4/09	Hargrove, Cecelia	4/09	Pullett, Kathleen	4/18
Afungchwi, Donald	4/11	Hargrove, Michael	4/17	Rainey, Easter	4/06
Arroyo, Teresa	4/16	Harlee, Justyn	4/16	Ralph, Teresa M.	4/05
Bailey, Adrienne	4/22	Holcombe, JoAnn	4/26	Richardson, Jannie	4/04
Ball, Hayes	4/20	Holman, Helen	4/29	Ricks, Tyrika E.	4/13
Bell, Theodoric	4/19	Holmes, Nikita	4/06	Roberts, Maya Circe	4/04
Bennett, Adlette	4/19	Hyman, Kendall	4/13	Ross, Daria	4/26
Booker, Doreen A.	4/11	Jackson, Abreyah	4/08	Rowe, Derrode T.	4/05
Brooks, Andrea	4/06	Jacobs, Miranda E.	4/02	Ryan, John J.	4/01
Brown, Naije	4/20	Johnson, Andrea	4/02	Sands, Sandra	4/10
Burley, Jacqueline	4/11	Johnson, Cory W.	4/03	Scott, Lowand	4/27
Burley, Rhonda	4/15	Johnson, Devon	4/18	Sharif, Soraya	4/10
Butler, Eva L.	4/07	Johnson, Marian	4/20	Simms, Margaret	4/23
Carter, Khalil	4/26	Jones, Jessica A.	4/02	Stanley, Kimberly B.	4/11
Carter, Lawanda	4/20	Kane, Harold	4/28	Sterm, Omeka E.	4/10
Chambers, Herman	4/11	Kane, Matthew Irving	4/04	Stokes, Carl F.	4/30
Chase, Vanessa E.	4/08	Kelly, Dionne L.	4/14	Stokes, Cynthia	4/29
Church, Stephen B.	4/23	Kerney, Angelique	4/07	Sykes, Brenda	4/25
Clark, George	4/17	Kerney, Lisa	4/27	Taylor, Dondre	4/18
Coleman, John G.	4/22	Kerney, Monica	4/12	Taylor, Rhyan Jayla	4/19
Cooper, Wayne N.	4/02	Lane, Mildred	4/10	Taylor, Robert	4/14
Culmer, Kierra	4/30	Langley, Anne H.	4/03	Taylor, Shaquoia	4/22
Curtis, Rose	4/07	Latham, Jordan D.	4/25	Terry, Brittany	4/17
Cutlette, Dennia	4/10	Lyons, Christopher	4/28	Thames, Raynard	4/16
Daughtry, Monique A.	4/07	Mackall, Marcus A.	4/19	Thomas, Brian A.	4/16
Davis, Antonio	4/29	Martin, Leonard Sr.	4/16	Uche, Hansitta	4/30
Davis, Monique D.	4/24	Mackall, Marcus A.	4/19	Washington, Caryn	4/15
DeGross, Demaris	4/12	Martin, Leonard Sr.	4/16	Whitley, Niya S.	4/21
Douglas, Chiranda	4/07	Mobley, Carissima M.	4/10	Williams, Brittany	4/29
Drake, Celestia A.	4/28	Moore, Kearyce, M.	4/02	Williams, Morgan	4/16
Drayton, Brian	4/09	Nicholson, Gloria	4/07	Wilson, Michael T.	4/07
Duke, Nina	4/28	Nipper, Sharron Patricia	4/07	Woods, Doris	4/17
Egbunine, Innocent	4/07	O'Garro-Roles, Sherron	4/14	Woods, Larry	4/21
Egbunine, Sharon	4/28	Oglesby, Rickia	4/02		
English, Mary	4/03	Owens, Donna	4/20		
Floyd, Deborah	4/26	Owens, III Robert	4/04		
Forde, Andrea	4/24	Pasley Jr., Christopher	4/11		
Gaddy, Jr. Kirk E.	4/20	Patterson, Janice L.	4/13		
Gray, James H.	4/16	Paul, Monica	4/17		
Gray, Sr. Reginald	4/12	Perrin, Mary F.	4/03		
Grays, Sheryl E.	4/05	Powell, Danielle	4/15		
Green, Damaris	4/12	Powell, Marsha	4/09		
Haney, Seaton N.	4/16	Price, Marvin	4/05		
Hare DeMello, Terrance	4/30	Price, Pearl	4/12		