

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.*

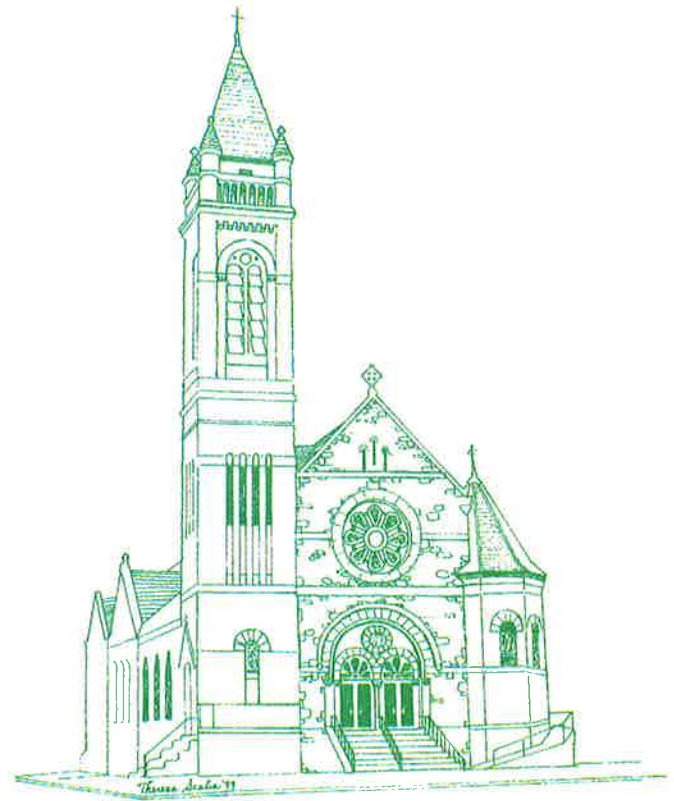
Rev. Xavier Edet, S.S.J.,

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

Jesus taught with authority

Do you believe that God's word has power to set you free and to transform your life? When Jesus taught he spoke with authority. He spoke the word of God as no one had spoken it before. When the Rabbis taught they supported their statements with quotes from other authorities. The prophets spoke with delegated authority - "Thus says the Lord." When Jesus spoke he needed no authorities to back his statements. He was authority incarnate - the Word of God made flesh. When he spoke, God spoke. When he commanded even the demons obeyed.

Faith works through love and abounds in hope
Augustine of Hippo (354-430 AD) remarked that "faith is mighty, but without love it profits nothing. The devils confessed Christ, but lacking charity it availed nothing. They said, "What have we to do with you" (Mark 1:24)? They confessed a sort of faith, but without love. Hence they were devils."

Faith is powerful, but without love it profits nothing (1 Corinthians 13). Scripture tells us that true faith works through love (Galatians 5:6) and abounds in hope (Romans 15:13). Our faith is made perfect in love because love orients us to the supreme good which is God himself as well as the good of our neighbor who is created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26,27).

Hope anchors our faith in the promises of God and purifies our desires for the things which will last for eternity. That is why the word of Christ has power to set us free from all that would keep us bound up in sin, deception, and despair. Bede the venerable abbot of an English monastery (672-735) contrasted the power and authority of Jesus' word with the word of the devil: "The devil, because he had deceived Eve with his tongue, is punished by the tongue, that he might not speak" [Homilies on the Gospels 1.8].

Faith must be nourished with the Word of God
Faith is both a free gift of God and the free assent of our will to the whole truth that God has revealed. To live, grow, and persevere in the faith to the end, we must nourish it with the word of God. The Lord gives us his Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds that we may grow in his truth and in the knowledge of his great love for each of us. If we approach God's word with trust and submission, and with an eagerness to do what the Lord desires for us, then we are in a much better position to learn what God wants to teach us through his word.

Stewardship Reflections

1 Corinthians 9:17

For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me.

Mass Intentions



Saturday

5:00 P.M. God's healing mercies for my brother Charles Lewis Jr. req. by Martha Lewis Dorsey & Family

Sunday

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

11:00 A.M. in Loving Memory of Ethel and Grady Hill, req. by Dottie Mello

Tuesday

8:00 A.M. God's love with healing grace and mercies for Barbara Thomas req. by Dottie Mello

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. God's healing mercy for Barbara Thomas, req. by Darleen Thomas

Thursday

8:00 A.M. God's grace and mercy for James Dorsey and family as they grieve the loss of his sister in law, req. by Darleen Thomas

Friday

8:00 A.M. In loving memory of Rita R. Church on her 82nd birthday req. by her children and grand-children

Today's Readings

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:32-35
Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Next Week's Readings

First Reading: Job 7:1-4, 6-7
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23
Gospel: Mark 1:29-39



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.	January 29, 2018	Mark 5:1-20
Tues.	January 30, 2018	Mark 5:21-43
Wed.	January 31, 2018	Mark 6:1-6
Thurs.	February 1, 2018	Mark 6:7-13
Fri.	February 2, 2018	Luke 2:22-40
Sat.	February 3, 2018	Mark 6:30-34

Unsung Black Catholic Woman Award

African History Month is the time of year that we celebrate our dynamic women of St. Francis Xavier Church. The CDA Court 2257, Education Committee is sponsoring the "Unsung Black Catholic Woman Award". Please nominate a woman who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to her family, church and community. The person submitting the form must complete detailed biography of the women, emphasizing her talents and contributions in the areas above. A picture must accompany the form.. Forms are located in the rear of the church. Please leave nominations in a sealed envelope in the CDA Mailbox in the Rectory by February 12, 2018. Pictures will be returned. The celebration will be held on Sunday, February 25, 2018 at the 11:00 a.m. Mass. A reception will follow in the undercroft. For questions please contact Regent Valerie Grays, (410) 967-1695. Email: Vga40@gmail.com.

SPECIAL NOTICES

CDA Court #2257 's Education Committee

CDA Court 2257 will be collecting payments for the trip to The Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, April 7, 2018. The cost of the trip is \$30.00 per person. Members of The Education Committee will be in the back of the church after 11:00 Mass. For more info. contact Marsha Powell@ 443-467-2841.

Shouts Out to the Bereavement Committee:

*Gracie Ferguson
Avis Butler
Sharon Butler
Sandra Davis
Celestia Drake
Mary English*

When Needed:

*Nadine Harris
Janet Wiggins
Venia Cheatham
Different organization members*

The Swingers of SFX Annual Bull & Oyster Roast

The Swingers are sponsoring their Annual Bull and Oyster Roast on Sunday, March 4, 2018 at Tiffany East, 4116 E. Lombard St. from 3-7 p.m., Music by DJ White, donations \$55.00 (includes open bar) Please see any member of the Swingers for tickets.



Special Notices



SFX Sunday School will host an Open House on Sunday 28th at 9:30 a.m. Join us to hear about our Religious Education Program and how much parent involvement is necessary for your child's faith formation. Come to meet the catechist, tour the classrooms, meet other parents ask questions and find out what your child is learning.

January

28th Class-Open House

February

4th Class-African American History Program

11th Class

14th Ash Wednesday

18th Class

24th First Penance 10:00 a.m.

25th Class- Student Retreat 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Confessions grades 3-9

March

4th Class

11th Class

18th Class-Community Service Project

25th Class-Palm Sunday

29th Holy Thursday

April

1st NO CLASS EASTER

8th Class

Special Notices

CDA Court #2257 Education Committee

The CDA Court #2257 Education Committee is sponsoring the CDA Education Contest. The contest is for students in grades 4-12. The themes for 2018 are "The Lord has done great things for us, we have joy" Psalm 126 and "Finding Joy in my life." The applications can be found in the back of the church. Please contact Marsha Powell @443-467-2841 for more information.

New Horizons of Men and Women

Deposits are due now for the Williamsburg, Va. trip. The first deposit is \$100.00. The trip is scheduled for August 16th-20th.

Lent

The Lenten Books are available for purchase @ \$1.00 each.

2018 Vision Release Live

Seek- (pray)

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well"
-Matthew-6:33

Conceive-(plan)

'As (s) he thinks so is (s) he-" Proverbs -23:7

Believe-(faith)

"For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry". Habakkuk 2:3

Receive (acceptance)

"Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word". Luke-1:38

Release (trust and obey)

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed." Proverbs 16:3

SPECIAL NOTICE!

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

So many of our parishioners are dealing with health issues, please remember them in your prayers. Barbara Thomas, Lucretia Coates, Candice Coates, Mildred Lane, Jeanne Edmonds, Bernie Fuller, Bernadette Morgan, Sharon Butler, Mabel Smith and Miles Fitzgerald.

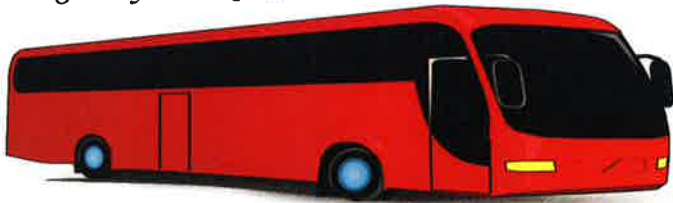
Blessings of the Throat

Saturday, February 3rd is the feast day of St. Blaise. Blessings of throats will be on Sunday, February 4th, 2018 at both Masses.



SFX Easter Monday Atlantic City Trip

SFX Atlantic City bus trip is scheduled for Monday April 2, 2018. The cost is \$40.00 with a \$30.00 rebate. The bus will be leaving St Francis at 9:00 a.m. No reservation will be taken without payment. First come first served. See Darleen Thomas or Polly Hargrove for tickets.



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.

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

One Minute Meditations

St. Scholastica

St. Scholastica was the sister of St. Benedict, the founder of the Benedictines. She was born in Italy around 480. She entered religious life and founded an order of Benedictine nuns. Every year, Benedict and Scholastica would meet about spiritual matters. After one of his visits, knowing she would die soon, she begged St. Benedict to stay longer. When he refused, she prayed to God and there was a terrible thunderstorm, forcing Benedict to stay. She died three days later.



Desire for change

When we decide that change in our lives is necessary, we can be impatient for results. Attitudes, outlook, and habits develop over time and will take time to modify. Sometimes our best achievement may be our determination to persevere for change, despite slow progress. Sincere, consistent effort is all that God requires.

"At the evening of life we shall be judged on our love." (St. John of the Cross, *Dichos*)



Goals for the Lenten journey

Lent is our gift from the Church to help us move from one state to another, through conversion to peace and joy at Easter. Consider these goals as you travel your Lenten journey.

Know that you are a sinner. The holiest people are most conscious of their sinfulness. The better we know God and his perfection, the more clearly we see our own faults and sins. The good news? Identifying our sinfulness leads to healing and cleansing.

Listen attentively. Hearing the sound of God's voice during prayer is rare. More often, God inspires us through Scripture, spiritual reading, homilies, prayer meditation. Throughout Lent, use these

opportunities to ask God questions and listen for the answers.

Grow in authenticity. God created us to become the best possible version of ourselves. Living authentically means saying "yes" to what helps us become that best self and "no" to what doesn't. Starting with Lent, work to acquire virtues – saying, "yes" – and exercise self-control to eliminate bad ones – saying, "no."

Live generously. It is easy to notice what we don't have but Lent invites us to live in gratitude for what we do have. Gratitude then gives rise to generosity – sharing

God's love and gifts with others. Generous people are encouraging, positive, and appreciative. During Lent, notice and appreciate God's gifts and share them with others.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics believe in Purgatory?

Throughout Scripture, there are references to the prayers for the dead. For example, Judas Maccabeus prayed that fallen soldiers he commanded would be forgiven their sin (2 Maccabees 12:46). Jesus discussed the forgiveness of sins "in this age or the age to come" (Matthew 12:32).



All who die in God's friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are assured of Heaven.

Purification after death may be required to achieve the necessary holiness to reach Heaven. The Church calls this state of purification, Purgatory.

How do I know God loves me?

God's love isn't earned and can't be lost. Such an amazing gift almost sounds too good to be true. So, how do we know God's love is real?

He sent his Son to us. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

His closest friends told us so. St. Paul said, "For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things

to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

He watches over us. "Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'... your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well (Matthew 6:31-33).



from Scripture

Mark 9:2-10, The Transfiguration.

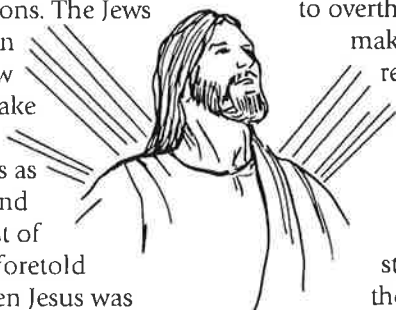
In Jesus' time, Israel was occupied by the Romans. By that point, the Israelites had a long history of being invaded and conquered by other nations. The Jews dreamed of the day when the Messiah would throw off their enemies and make Israel a strong nation.

God established Moses as liberator and lawgiver, and sent them Elijah, the first of the great prophets who foretold Christ's coming. So, when Jesus was transfigured in glory with Moses and Elijah, the Apostles realized that God was revealing Jesus as the Messiah.

Moses and Elijah spoke with Jesus about his death and Resurrection. Jesus

had warned his disciples that he would suffer and die (Mark 8:31). While everyone was expecting the Messiah to overthrow the Romans and make himself king, Jesus revealed that the Messiah would save his people by his own death and Resurrection.

The Transfiguration strengthened the faith of the Apostles and prepared them for the Passion. The Transfiguration is a reminder that, however difficult this life may be, it is nothing compared to the glory that awaits us in Heaven.



Q & A What are the Corporal Works of Mercy?

In Jesus' parable of the judgment of the sheep and the goats (Matthew 25:31-46), Jesus lists the ways we can take care of those in physical need: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." (Matthew 25:35).

These are the Corporal Works of Mercy: to feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to visit the sick and imprisoned, to shelter the homeless and to bury the dead. Most importantly, "it is by what they have done for the poor that Jesus Christ will recognize his chosen ones" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2443).

At their heart, the Corporal Works of Mercy are about being aware of others' needs and responding to them. By this, we make our love for God and others visible and effective. "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40).



Feasts & Celebrations

Feb. 14 – Ash Wednesday. The first day of Lent. Ashes from the burnt palms of the previous Passion Sunday are blessed and placed on the foreheads as a sign of penance.

Feb. 22 – St. Margaret of Cortona (1297). Born in Italy, St. Margaret ran away to live with a young man and had a son. When her lover was unexpectedly killed, St. Margaret returned home with her young son and became a penitent. Eventually, she joined the Franciscans. She founded the Confraternity of Our Lady of Mercy to

care for the sick and poor.

February 23 – St. Polycarp (155). Bishop of Smyrna, Asia-Minor, St. Polycarp was a disciple of the Apostle St. John and a friend of St. Ignatius of Antioch. He passed on the Apostles' teachings to the next generation of Christians. He faithfully cared for his flock despite being surrounded by pagans and a government opposed to Christianity. Before he was martyred, he thanked God for making him worthy of a martyr's death.



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. ANN'S CHURCH

INVITES YOU TO BREAK BREAD
AND JOIN US FOR OUR "SPOUP AND
SCRIPTURE"

**LENTEN PROGRAM
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS**

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM WITH PRESENTATIONS

FROM SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS BEGINNING AT 7:00 PM:

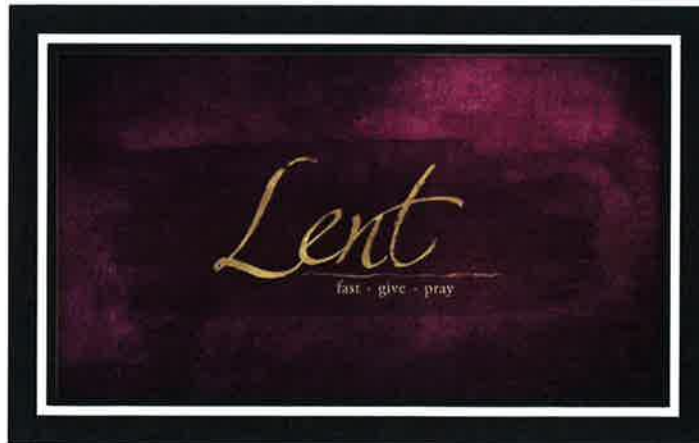
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

FRIAR TIMOTHY DORE, OFM, Conv.
FR. JOE MUTH
FR. DONALD STERLING
SR. GWYNETTE PROCTOR, SNDdeN
DR. PATRICIA FOSARELLI

OUR JOURNEY WILL REFLECT ON

"FINDING HOPE WHEN LIFE HURTS"

ALL ARE WELCOMED TO TAKE THIS JOURNEY WITH US



2018

GOD OF MERCY AND LOVE

we place our African American and African Families before You today. May we be proud of our history and never forget those who paid a great price for our liberation.

Bless us one by one and keep our hearts and minds fixed on higher ground. Help us to live for you and not for ourselves, and may we cherish and proclaim the gift of life.

Bless our parents, guardians and grandparents, relatives and friends. Give us the amazing grace to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Help us, as Your children, to live in such a way that the

beauty and greatness of authentic love is reflected in all that we say and do. Give a healing anointing to those less fortunate, especially the motherless, the fatherless, the broken, the sick and the lonely. Bless our

departed family members and friends. May they be led into the light of Your dwelling place where we will never grow old, where we will share the fullness of redemption

and shout the victory for all eternity. This we ask in the Precious Name of Jesus, our Savior and Blessed Assurance. Amen. Holy Mary, Mother of Our Families, pray for us.

Prayer composed by FRIMM GOODE, OSM, MSW
in 1989 founded this National Day of Prayer for
the African American and African Family

NATIONAL DAY
OF PRAYER
FOR THE
AFRICAN AMERICAN
AND
AFRICAN FAMILY

FEBRUARY 4, 2018

Share
The
Journey