

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

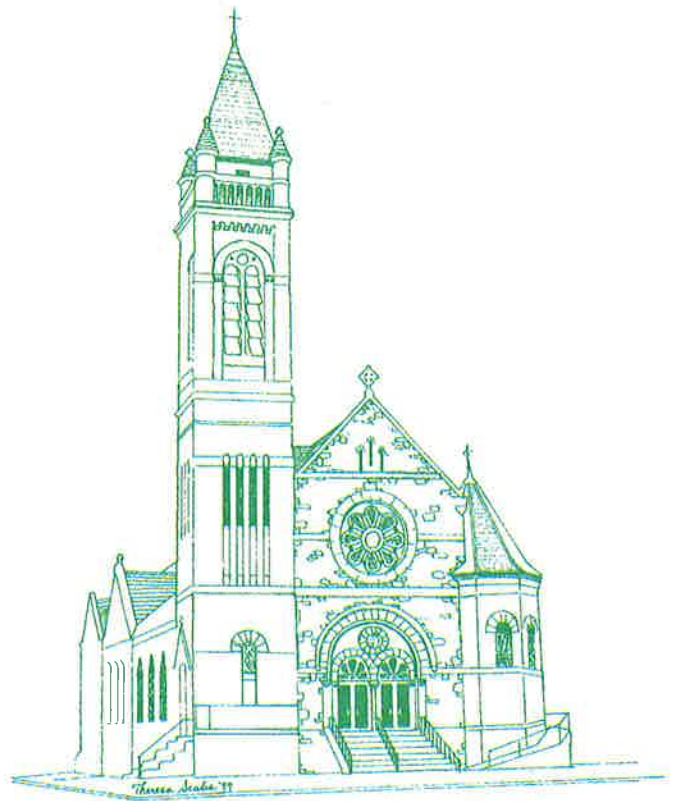
Funerals

*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

The surpassing treasure of God's kingdom

What do you treasure the most and how do you keep it from being lost or stolen? In a peasant community the best safe was often the earth. The man in the parable (Matthew 13:44) "went in his joy" to sell everything. Why? Because he found a treasure worth possessing above all else he had. He did not, however, have enough to buy the treasure.

Fortunately, he only needed enough to buy the field. In a similar fashion, God offers his kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy (Romans 14:17) as incomparable treasure at a price we can afford! We can't pay the full price for the life which God gives us; but when we exchange our life for the life which God offers, we receive a treasure beyond compare.

Obtaining the greatest possible treasure

The pearl of great price also tells us a similar lesson. Pearls in the ancient world came to represent the supremely valuable. Jesus remarked that one should not cast pearls before swine (Matthew 7:6). Why would a merchant sell everything for a peerless pearl? No doubt because he was attracted to what he thought was the greatest treasure he could possess. Discovering God's kingdom is like stumbling across hidden treasure or finding the one pearl of great price.

When we discover the kingdom of God we receive the greatest possible treasure - the Lord himself. Selling all that we have to obtain this incomparable treasure could mean many things - our friends, job, our "style of life", what we do with our free time. Treasure has a special connection to the heart, the place of desire and longing, the place of will and focus. The thing we most set our heart on is our highest treasure. In this parable what does the treasure of the kingdom refer to? It certainly refers to the kingdom of God in all its aspects. But in a special way, the Lord himself is the treasure we seek for. If the Almighty is your gold and your precious silver, then you will delight yourself in the Almighty (Job 22:22-23). Is the Lord the treasure and delight of your heart?

Stewardship Reflections

Acts 20:35

"In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Mass Intentions



Saturday

5:00 P.M. In Loving Memory of Beverly Allen, req. by Dottie Mello

Sunday

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

11:00 A.M. God's continue blessings for Carina Hernandez, Melanie, Alex, Kari and Dave Elani, req. by Melanie Holland

Tuesday

8:00 A.M. God's blessings for Julian and Warren Emerson, req. by Melanie Holland

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. In Memory of Audrey and James Frazier, req. by Melanie Holland

Thursday

8:00 A.M. In Memory of Edmund & Marion Martin, req. by John & Jeff

Friday

8:00 A.M. In Memory of Warrena Catherine Emerson, req. by Melanie Holland

Today's Readings

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12
Second Reading: Romans 8:28-30
Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52 or 13:44-46

Next Weeks Readings

First Reading: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-19
Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9



SPECIAL NOTICE!

Please Keep In Your Prayers

All sick and shut-in parishioners of SFX

*Come Go With Faith Builders on
Crab Feast/Casino Trip*

On Saturday, August 5, 2017, buses leave from St. Francis Xavier Church, 9:00 a.m. and return 10:30 p.m. (not responsible for lateness). Tickets are \$110.00.



All Organizations, Ministries and Parishioners

It is imperative that all clothing, equipment, food and any other items be removed from the undercroft and the small meeting room by the end of July. Anything left will be tossed. This is the last and final announcement on this subject. We are trying to clean out the undercroft. The red partitions are not there to store things behind. All of the boxes hidden behind them will be tossed. So please take any of your belongings with you. We need the space to add additional cabinets.



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

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.	7/31/2017	Matthew 13:31-35
Tues.	8/01/2017	Matthew 13:36-43
Wed.	8/02/2017	Matthew 13:44-46
Thurs.	8/03/2017	Matthew 13:47-53
Fri.	8/04/2017	Matthew 13:54-58
Sat.	8/05/2017	Matthew 14:1-12

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 Cleaning Crew:

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



SPECIAL NOTICES

The Oblate Sisters of Providence will host their annual Homecoming at Our Lady of Mount Providence Convent, 701 Gun Road, Baltimore, MD on Sunday, August 6, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. All students of all former Oblate schools and programs are invited. The cost of dinner is \$10.00, lots of Baskets Raffles and Silent Auction items, if you are a SFA graduate of 1967, please contact, Sister Helene Therese, OSP 410-536-5687.

Church Picnic

The new date is Saturday, August 5th at the O'Dwyer Retreat House, 15523 York Road, Sparks Maryland, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All adults age 18 yrs and plus \$10.00-children age 6 yrs through 17 yrs. \$8.00-children age 5 and younger-free. Pool time 12 noon to 6:00 p.m., food time 12 noon to 4:00 p.m. The parish picnic is a wonderful opportunity to gather as a parish community, prior to summer vacation. For additional information, contact WY Chambers on 410-961-6198. Rain date: Sunday, August 27, 2017, 11:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m.



Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary Court #32

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

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, many of your children have not been added to your family census, and mail is coming back to me because you have not bothered to change your mailing address or phone number. Please call the office or submit changed information via email or U.S. mail.

CDA Ct. SFX #2257 Annual Shrimp Feast

Come and join the CDA Ct. SFX#2257 at their Annual Shrimp Feast on Friday, August 18, 2017 from 7:00 pm.- Midnight at the Columbus Gardens, 4301 Klosterman Ave., Baltimore, MD 21236 (off the 8400 blk Belair Road). Tickets \$45.00 and can be purchased from any CDA member. Food, Dancing and Games.



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, 2017 \$50.00

Special Notices

St. Francis Xavier New Website

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

Shopping Trip

Join us on Saturday, August 19, 2017 for shopping fun at The Mills at Jersey Garden Outlet Mall in Elizabeth, NJ. We are leaving St. Francis church at 8:00 a.m. and returning to Baltimore at 8:00 p.m.

There are over 200 stores including Coach, Michael Kors, Dress Barn, Sketchers, Burlington, Old Navy and many more for deeply discounted prices. There's a 20-screen AMC theatre and several mouth-watering restaurants. Tickets are only \$55.00 per person.

Contact Lady Rosalind Johnson at 410-979-9461 or any court member for tickets. Tickets are going fast! You don't want to miss it! Thank you!



Circle Club Winners for July 2017

President-Lillian Smith #58-\$500.00
Vice President-Theodora Butler #114-\$100.00
Treasurer-Yvonne Campbell #86-\$100.00
Secretary-Celestia Drake #85-\$100.00

Bonus

1st Bonus-Arnetta Boyd #47-\$50.00
2nd Bonus- Mary English #6-\$25.00
3rd Bonus-Mary English #46-\$25.00

Growing in FAITH™

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

August 2017

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

One Minute Meditations

St. Rose of Lima

Born in colonial Peru, Rose worked constantly to help her poverty-stricken family. From early on, she wanted to become a nun and practiced heavy penances. When her parents tried to make her marry, she marred her face with pepper and cut her hair to deter suitors. She became a lay Dominican, despite opposition. Concerned about the living conditions of Native Americans and slaves, she cared for homeless children, the elderly, and the sick in her home.

Be meek, not weak.

Meekness can be mistaken for weakness, but nothing could be further from the truth. Being "meek of heart" means being in control of your emotions rather than letting them control you. Today, pray for the courage to be meek of heart.

"If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions"
(Matthew 6:14).



Love can make us saints

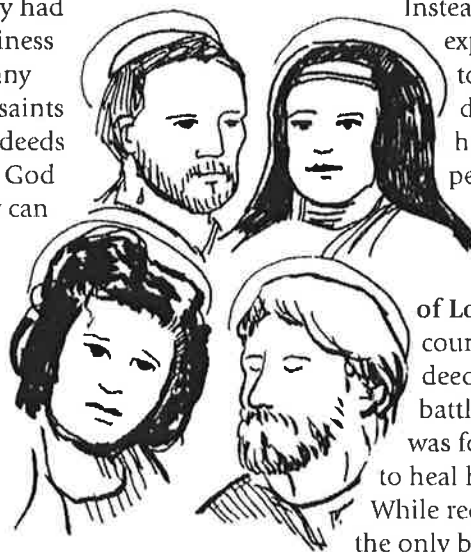
It is very Catholic to admire the saints and imagine that they had characteristics of holiness that we don't. Yet many people who became saints didn't perform great deeds but had great love of God and neighbor. If they can do it, we can, too.

St. Augustine was a playboy. He was into partying, paganism, and an immoral lifestyle. Through the prayers of his mother and the guidance of St. Ambrose, Augustine came to adore the God he discovered in Scripture. His love for God made him a new man.

St. Mary of Egypt lived a life of extreme sin. Openly a prostitute, it is reported that she traveled to the Holy

Land to ply her illicit trade to pilgrims. Instead, she had a spiritual experience while trying to enter a church and devoted the rest of her life to prayer and penance. She had a special love for Our Blessed Mother.

St. Ignatius of Loyola dreamed of courtly love and knightly deeds. Injured during a battle with the French, he was forced to convalesce to heal his shattered leg. While recuperating, he read the only books available - biographies of Jesus and the saints. Captivated by their holiness, Ignatius became attracted to a life of holy love. He later founded the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), a religious order that thrives today.



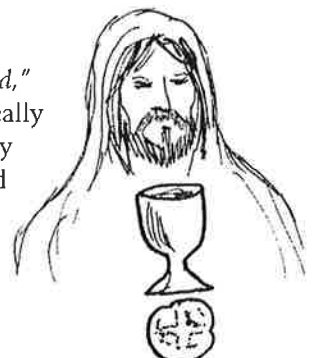
Why Do Catholics Do That?

What is transubstantiation?

During Mass, although the appearance doesn't change, the substance of the bread offered by the priest is changed into the substance of the Body of Christ. The same is true of the wine - its substance is changed into Christ's Blood.

Catholics believe that the words Christ said at the Last Supper, "This is my Body,

this is my blood," meant that really and physically the bread and wine became his Body and Blood. He decreed that it be so.

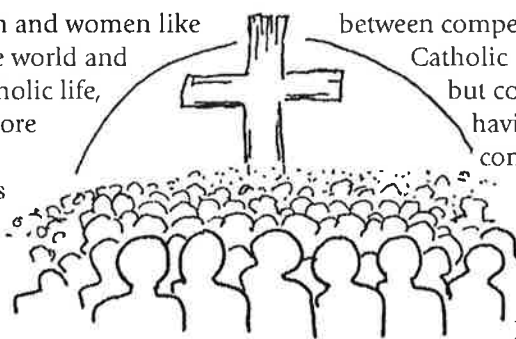


Live a Catholic life

Our history is rich with Catholic men and women like us who have carried their faith into the world and made a difference. When we live a Catholic life, we help shape a better society and a more peaceful world.

At home. Our Gospel values guide us to value our families and friends as gifts of God's love. This translates into spending time together, working to strengthen and build up our loved ones, and being for them instruments of love.

At work. As people of faith, we can be pressured to choose *That is the true Catholic way.*



between competing values in the workplace. Making Catholic choices means not just avoiding evil but consciously choosing good. It means having the courage to honor our Catholic consciences always.

In the world. "Everyone to whom much is given, of him will much be required" (Luke 12:48). Catholics – especially in the United States – are called to care for the poor, protect the vulnerable, welcome the stranger and treat all people with dignity.

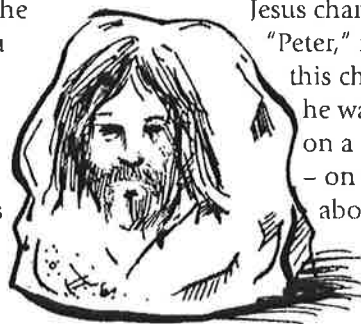
from Scripture

Matthew 16:13-20, The Rock for ages

The events in this passage lay the foundations for the Catholic Church. In it, Jesus asked his disciples who people said he was. Then he asked them, "Who do you say that I am?" It was a question about Jesus' identity, not his teaching or his popularity. At its heart, Catholicism centers around who Jesus is.

Simon Peter answered for the group and identified Jesus as the Son of God, the Messiah. Jesus pointed out that it was only by divine inspiration that Peter could know this. ("Blessed

are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father" Matthew 16:17.)



Jesus changed Simon's name to "Peter," meaning "rock." By this change, Jesus signaled he was building his Church on a rock-solid foundation – on the confession of Peter about Jesus' divinity. This truth has been handed down through the ages, from the Apostles to the bishops to us. The Holy Spirit would lead Peter – and his successors, the popes – to speak and act in truth as the head of the Church.

Q & A How can Sacred Scripture be "truth" if not everything is correct?

The Bible is intended to convey truths about God. More than a book, it is a library of documents written by different authors in different times and places. These works have been compiled by the Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, according to specific criteria. Like any library, the Bible contains a variety of literary genres: poetry, history, biography, etc. Knowing this can determine how we read it. For example, a poem may not be meant to be as factually accurate as a biography.



Finally, there are various ways in which to interpret Scripture, and each highlights different aspects of the truth. The literal sense deals with what the author wrote. The allegorical sense highlights the symbolism of the people and events in the story. The moral sense tells us what we ought to do regarding God and our neighbor. The "future" sense concerns what will happen at the end of time. These different senses give us a fuller understanding of God and his plan for us.

Feasts & Celebrations

August 3 – St. Peter Julian Eymard (1868). Born in France, Peter was ordained a Marist in 1834 and was especially effective at preaching at Eucharistic devotions. He founded the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament and the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament to increase devotion to the Holy Eucharist.



August 6 – Transfiguration of the Lord. Tradition says that Mt. Tabor was the site of the Transfiguration during

which Christ appeared radiant in the company of Moses and Elijah, and a voice was heard to say, "This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him" (Matthew 17:5).

August 15 – Solemnity of the Assumption. Declared a dogma of faith in 1950 by Pope Pius XII, this Holy Day of Obligation celebrates Mary being taken up into Heaven body and soul at the end of her life. "A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars" (Revelation 12:1). Mass attendance on this day is required.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

Success Publishing & Media, LLC
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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)

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

Allen, Gregory	8/14	Hewlin, Marvin	8/04	Scott, Leonard	8/17
Alston, Ashlei	8/22	Hickon, Kenneth	8/28	Sharif, Hameed	8/14
Ambrose, Rosiland	8/10			Shiple, Joann	8/22
		Howard, Kenyetta	8/07	Singleton, Michael	8/04
Baysmore Jr., Robert	8/12	Hughes, Belinda	8/22	Smith, Ashley	8/09
Bell, Lewis A.	8/23	Jackson, Chanel	8/23	Stanley, Avis	8/21
Berry, Stephine	8/13	Jefferson, Jemal	8/12	Stevens, Reagan	8/15
Bonaparte, Andre	8/13	Jett, Octavia	8/27	Stevens, Samantha	8/29
Booth, Michael L.	8/19	Jett, Shakea K.	8/24	Stokes, Antonia	8/13
		Johnson, Cheri M.	8/05	Stokes, Maurice	8/05
Brooks, Angelica	8/12	Johnson, Kristen	8/03	Stovall, Niangue	8/29
Brown, Leonard	8/17	Johnson, Jonathan	8/19	Strawder, Monica	8/05
Brown, Loretta	8/09	Johnson, Mia P.	8/29	Tate, Marquis	8/23
Brown, Nicole	8/16	Johnson, Miah P.	8/29	Taylor, Jason	8/29
Bumbray, Kendra	8/10	Johnson, Norma	8/04	Taylor, Jordan	8/08
Burley, Christopher	8/11	Jones, Jennifer	8/16	Thames, Bernard	8/16
Butler, Harry N. Jr.	8/28	Jones, Joshua	8/31	Thames, Pearl	8/22
Butler, Morgan	8/09	Jones, Tierra	8/30	Thomas, Darleen	8/08
Butler, Quinn A.	8/11	Josey, Carlos	8/31	Thomas, Hazel	8/13
Chambers, Blanche	8/29	Joyner, Moses T.	8/23	Thompson, Thelma	8/06
Chambers, Marvin	8/22			Trafton, Da'nay	8/13
Chappell, Deborah	8/13	Kearney, Carlita	8/03	Uche, Hyacinth	8/24
Clark, Lawrence	8/30	Kearney, Jr. Lewis	8/20	Vaughn, Amber	8/07
Coleman, Ashley	8/31	Mack, Avon	8/08	Watson, Tracey	8/05
Coleman, Richard	8/09	Martin, Leonard	8/09	Wellons, Robert	8/08
Coleman, Shaniara	8/21	Mason, Jeremy	8/05	Welton, Karen	8/07
Colquitt, Vanessa	8/09			Wheeler, Joshua	8/27
Conway, Kevin	8/08	McLendon, Kennard	8/17	Williams, Dominique	8/24
Davis, Jacqueline	8/17	Miller, Agar	8/25	Williams, Gwen	8/18
Deshields, Ashley	8/01	Miles, Carolyn	8/03	Williams, Jeffrey	8/23
Dillion, Sylvia	8/07	Moore, Tera	8/03	Williams, Patricia	8/05
Distance, Dunbar	8/31	Morris, Cina	8/11	Williams, Peqqv	8/15
Douglas, Shanera	8/24	Nealy, Gregory	8/18		
Drummond, Dennyse C.	8/04	Nelson, James	8/25	Wininga, Rosine	8/27
Evans, Denise	8/09	Owens, Sonja	8/21		
		Pango, Anne Marie	8/27		
Gardner, Mario	8/19	Pango, Orsot	8/27		
Gaines, Teresa	8/09				
Gates, Lazonni	8/26	Plummer, Cierra	8/30		
Gibbs, Devin	8/23	Polite, Karen	8/03		
Gibbs, Kevin	8/23	Powell, Quintin	8/21		
Green, August	8/17	Quickley, Khali	8/20		
Green, Shannon	8/14	Richardson, Sachena	8/21		
Haney, Ashley	8/08	Robinson, Jennifer	8/09		
Harlee, Larry	8/29	Richardson, Sachena	8/21		
Harmon, Mary	8/03	Robinson, Jennifer	8/09		
Harper, Leslie	8/22	Ryan, Dorothy	8/23		
Harrison, Lugenia	8/24	Ryan, John J. III	8/15		
Haskins, Dantavius	8/21	Satchell, Cynthia	8/04		
Hazelton, Ericka	8/21				



**St. Francis Xavier Eucharistic Community
Yours Prayers Are Requested For The Sick Of The Parish**

August 6, 2017

Rhonda Acree
Theresa Baker
Avonda Barnes
Lorraine Bell
Dorothy Bennett
Nina Bonaparte
Hattie Brown
Garland Burley
Harry Butler
Xavier Church
Dorothy Coleman
Candace Coates
Lucretia Coates
Esther Davis
John Davis
Kimberly Davis
Thelma Fly
Fr. Kenneth Gaddy, CSSR
Thomas Grays
Rochelle Hagans
Frances Hance
Bertha Johnson
Betty Johnson
Cornelia Johnson
Marian Quickley Johnson

Mildred Lane
Hilda Langley
Charles Lewis Jr.
Mildred Mattison
James McLinden, SSJ
Christopher Pasley
Stephanie Washington-Merritt
Shelia Hurtt-Moore
Bernardette Morgan
Yvonne Newby
Mary Parker
Marlene Patterson
Nadine Pulliam
Doris Russell
Frances Sears
Helen Singleton
Antoinette Soares
Mabel Smirth
Vickie Smith
Wanda Smith
Andrew Tackett
Paul Thaniel
Ann Walker
Barbara Williams
Peggy Williams

DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST OUR SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS!

Guy and Joslyn Alexander	8/20	Jimmy and Penny Robinson	8/13
Kelvin and Frances Dennis	8/23	Leonard and Angela Scott	8/20
Leslie and Larie Harper	8/03		
Jemal and Latarsha Jefferson	8/10	Cephas and Elizabeth Thornton	8/31
Michael and Celestine Kellam	8/19	Hyacinth and Priscilla Uche	8/22
Alonzo and Vanessa Mackall	8/22		
John and Debbie Palmer	8/19		