



# 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*

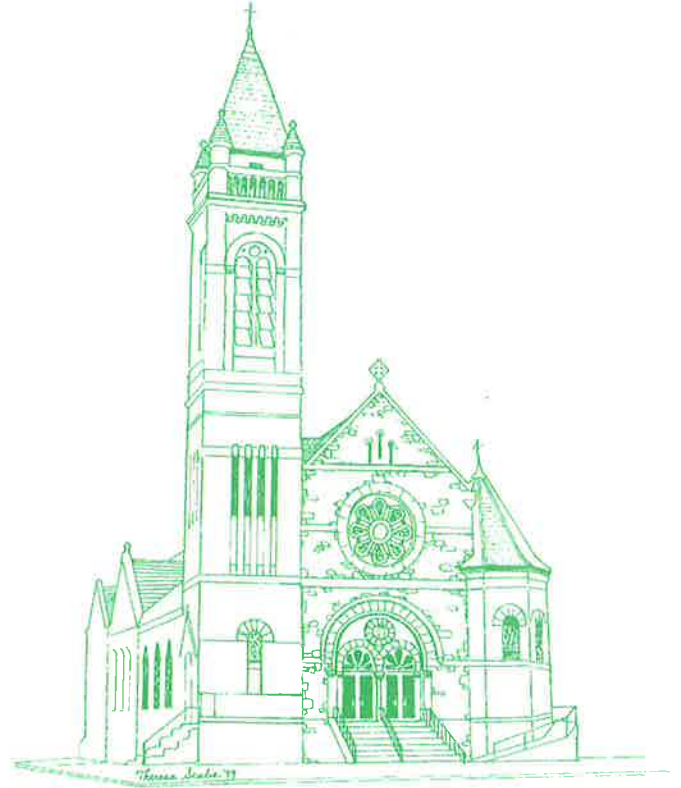
*Holiday, Mass and Novena will be at 8:00 AM only*

### 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*

## 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"

**SVD-SFX Head Start Center (410) 685-7288**

## 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>**

**Look up, your redemption is drawing near"**

**Gospel Reading:** *Luke 21:25-28,34-36*

25 "And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth distress of nations in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, 26 men fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27 And then they will see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 Now when these things begin to take place, look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

34 "But take heed to yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a snare; 35 for it will come upon all who dwell upon the face of the whole earth. 36 But watch at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of man."

**Old Testament Reading:** *Jeremiah 33:14-16*

14 "Behold the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring forth for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'"

**Meditation:** How good are you at reading signs, especially signs which God sends our way? The people of Jesus' time expected that the coming of the Messiah would be accompanied by extraordinary signs and wonders. Jesus' first coming was clouded in mystery and surprising wonderment: Even though he was the rightful heir to the throne of King David, he was born in obscurity in a cave at Bethlehem, near the place where David had watched over his father's sheep some 1000 years before.

**Stewardship Reflection**

**Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.**

**Mass Intentions**



**Saturday**

5:00 P.M. *Loving memory for Joseph Mello and son Anthony J. Mello, req. by loving wife Dottie*

**Sunday**

8:00 A.M. *Healing mercy for Vanda Chambers, req. by Darleen Thomas*

11:00 A.M. *People of the Parish*

**Tuesday**

8:00 A.M. *Happy Birthday to all members of KPC, Court #323 celebrating birthdays this month*

**Wednesday**

10:00 A.M. *Happy repose of the soul of Robert Burley, req. by the family*

**Thursday**

8:00 A.M. *In loving memory of James Edward Boyd, req. by his wife and daughter*

**Friday**

8:00 A.M. *In loving memory of Charles and Julia English, req. by the family*

**Today's Readings**

*First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16*

*Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2*

*Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36*

*First Reading: Genesis 3:9-15, 20*

*Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12*

*Gospel Luke 1:26-38*

## 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 3, 2018	Matthew 8:5-11
Tuesday	December 4, 2018	Luke 10:21-24
Wednesday	December 5, 2018	Matthew 15: 29-37
Thursday	December 6, 2018	Matthew 7: 21, 24-27
Friday	December 7, 2018	Matthew 9:27-31
Saturday	December 8, 2018	Luke 1: 26-28

### **Mother Mary Lange, OSP Awards Banquet**

*Let us remember that November is Black History Month. During this month we are asking each of you to nominate members in our parish that make a significant difference. Forms are available in the vestibule on the table in folders. There are three categories which includes: Leadership, Service, and Youth. Each application must be completed front and back. Please make sure you include examples of service and/or leadership that they have contributed to the church. All completed forms must be returned to the office no later than December 20, 2018. If you are nominating someone please make sure they will accept the nomination. The banquet will be held on Friday, February 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Martins West. The Banquet Tickets are \$60.00 per person.*

De

## 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

*2<sup>nd</sup>- Class/Homecoming*

*9<sup>th</sup> Class*

*16<sup>th</sup> Class*

*23<sup>rd</sup> Class*

*24<sup>th</sup> Christmas*

*25<sup>th</sup> Christmas*

#### Important Notice!

*Beginning Sunday November 25, 2018, all children and teenagers that are attending Mass, who are not sitting with their parents, are to sit in the front of the Church on the right-hand side. This allows for better engagement of the Mass.*

*Please do not allow any child/teenager to use the bathrooms in the undercroft during Mass without adult supervision. This is for the protection of the students and to eliminate the reported congregation of our children in the Undercroft during Mass.*

*Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.*

#### Circle Club Winner November

*President- Sandra Davis- #72-\$500.00*

*V. President- Augusta Pierce- #67- \$100.00*

*Treasurer- Ryan Massey- #44-\$100.00*

*Secretary- Gwen Thomas- #22- \$100.00*

*1<sup>st</sup> Bonus- Michael Butler- # 4- \$50.00*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Bonus- Sarah Johnson- # 43-\$25.00*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Bonus- Mary English- # 46- \$25.00*

# Special Notices

## Mass Schedule Events

*MONDAY, DEC. 17<sup>TH</sup> PENANCE SERVICE AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER AT 7:00 P.M.*

*CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE ...TBA*



*Shopping trip to Tanger and Rockvale Outlets on Saturday, December 15, 2018. Tickets are \$55.00 each. Includes transportation, bus drivers' tip and snacks on the bus. The buses will leave SFX at 8:00 a.m. and leave Rockvale at 5:00 p.m. not responsible for lateness on either end. See any Sodality member for tickets. Prefect Theresa Butler*



*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.*

## SPECIAL NOTICE!

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

### Special Thanks!

*Special thanks to my SFX Family for prayers and many expressions of Get Well, for Martha and James Dorsey doing their recovery, God Bless!*



### Reminder

*If you are interested in going on the Nordic Lodge trip hosted by SFX Circle Club. Deposits are due. This is a wonderful trip, please try to attend.*



*A Pastorate Event, Saturday December 15, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Cost \$5.00. Tickets will not be sold at the door. Ticket includes: Pancakes, sausages, eggs, fruit, coffee, tea, hot chocolate a juice. Arts and craft, coloring, meet Santa, and a gift. Breakfast served 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Representatives from Each of the churches are:*

*Denise Brown- St. Ann- 410-336-3253*

*Kim Grays- St. Francis Xavier- 443-604-0730*

*Antionette Shannon- St. Wenceslaus- 443-928-1650*

## 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.*

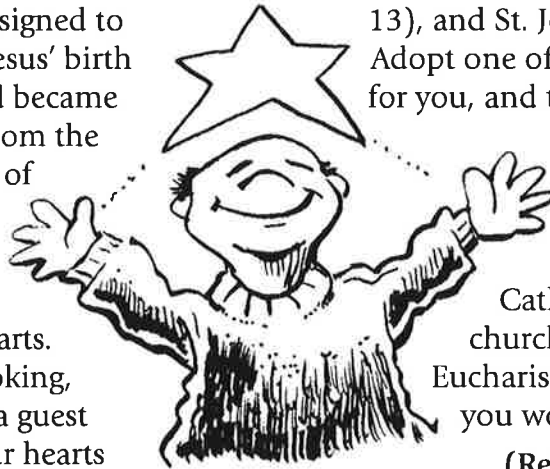


Historic St. Francis Xavier Church  
Rev. Xavier Edet, S.S.J., Pastor

## Make the most of Advent

The season of Advent is designed to help us prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas. Think of it: God became man, died for our sins, rose from the dead, and now reigns as King of all creation.

Every Christmas is a chance to welcome Jesus as an honored guest into our hearts. Think of all the planning, cooking, and cleaning needed to have a guest over. In Advent we prepare our hearts to welcome the Savior. Below are some suggestions to make the most of your Advent:



13), and St. John of the Cross (December 14). Adopt one of them to be your patron to pray for you, and to protect and encourage you.

### Visit the Blessed Sacrament.

The Eucharist is Jesus Christ, present Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1374). All Catholic churches have a tabernacle where the Eucharist is stored. Speak with our Lord as you would a close friend.

### (Re)Discover the Mass. At Mass,

Heaven comes down to Earth. When we receive the Eucharist, Christ comes into our hearts and nourishes our souls. Aim to attend daily Mass once every week during the Christmas season.

### Prioritize prayer.

**Spend 15 minutes daily with God.** The best way to prepare to welcome the Savior at Christmas is to spend time with him. Set aside 15 minutes in your day for God and protect it. Perhaps read a chapter of Scripture, pray a decade of the Rosary, or just be still in his presence.

**Know the story.** Read through the accounts of Jesus' birth in Matthew 1:18-2:12 and/or Luke 2:1-20. Place yourself in the scene. Internalizing the Christmas story will give you a better appreciation of the season.

**Get to know the Advent saints.** One way to know God is to know his friends. There are several saints' feasts that occur this Advent, including: St. Nicholas, the Bishop of Myra (December 6), St. Juan Diego (December 9), St. Lucy (December

### Practice penance.

**Form an "Advent habit."** Advent is a great time to start a holy habit. Maybe it's replacing negative comments with positive ones, or getting up ten minutes earlier to pray. See if you can keep up your "Advent habits" through the Christmas season.

**Electronic fasting.** Create a space for God and the gifts he wants to give you. Consider limiting the amount of time spent on your electronic devices: no Facebook during the work day, no texting during dinner, or while someone is talking to you (unless it's an emergency), etc.

**Make a nightly examination of conscience.** This will help you spot any patterns of sin that

are preventing you from connecting with God. Remember to thank God for the good things about the day, too. Close prayer by choosing one sinful habit that you'd like to change and resolve to change it by the end of Advent.

**Experience God's mercy.** Just as we would clean and decorate the house for Christmas, we need to "clean and decorate" our souls by frequenting the sacrament of Confession. Make a heartfelt Confession to greet the Messiah this Christmas with a joyful heart.

### Give alms.

**Donate resources.** Another way to prepare for the Savior is to help his people. Parishes often have food and clothing drives. Don't forget the basics, like socks, toiletries, and soap. Prayerfully consider donating to your parish whatever you are able, or to charities like Catholic Relief Services (<https://www.crs.org>).

**Give your time.** This can be anything from volunteering to work at a soup kitchen, to getting a group of friends together and caroling at a nursing home, to making handmade cards for soldiers overseas. Every little bit counts.

**Welcome the lonely.** To Mother Teresa, feeling unloved was a greater poverty than being hungry (though eating enough is important, too). The holidays are especially difficult for those who are alone. Extend invitations for your holiday gatherings to people who might otherwise be alone or forgotten.

**Do acts of random kindness.** A little kindness goes a long way. Hold the door for people and smile at them. Don't be afraid to offer a hand when you see someone in need. Jesus said, "*Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me*" (Matthew 25:40).

**Practice patience.** In this season of waiting, practicing this virtue is a work of mercy and way of giving alms. Practicing patience includes: being polite even when you have to wait, assuming the best about someone until they prove otherwise, being firm yet gentle when correcting someone, and seeing things from the other's point of view. If

all else fails, we can recall how patient God is with our failings and never tires of forgiving us.

### Anticipate with joy

**Light the Advent wreath at dinner to build anticipation for Jesus' birth.** The wreath is an ancient sign of victory, in this case, Christ's victory over sin and death. The three purple candles stand for penance, sorrow, and hope. The rose candle stands for joy. One custom is to exchange the purple and rose candles for white candles during the Christmas season.

**Listen to Advent music.** Make a playlist of Advent music that helps you connect with the themes of the season: faith in God's promises, waiting with hope, and joyful expectation. Include hymns like, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel and traditional carols like, The Holly and the Ivy.

**Set out the Nativity Scene—slowly.** The custom of displaying the Nativity Scene was begun by St. Francis of Assisi to illustrate the simplicity of the Incarnation. On the first Sunday of Advent, set out the stable and the empty manger. As the weeks go by, add characters. Wait until Christmas morning to place Jesus in the manger.

**Celebrate Advent feast days.** Learn about how other cultures celebrate the Advent saints' feasts. Consider adopting a custom or do something special of your own. Remember, attendance at Mass is required for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on December 8.

**Build your Christmas around the Mass.** Finally, at Christmas Mass, after all that waiting and preparing, we are ready to receive the greatest Gift of all: Jesus Christ, truly present in the Eucharist, under the appearances of bread and wine. Sing joyfully in Mass and welcome the King of Kings into your hearts and homes!

**And lastly, keep your Advent behaviors going after Christmas.** The waiting is over, but don't lose the good habits you acquired over Advent. Cultivate the "Advent attitudes" of waiting and preparing joyfully for the Lord. Every Sunday is a mini "Christmas," when we greet the Messiah under the forms of bread and wine at Mass.

# Retirement Fund for Religious

“The best thing I did in ministry was to teach children the Gospel through plays,” says Sister Clare Vandecoevering, 88. “Oh, they were just delighted!” A member of the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon, she spent more than 50 years in the classroom, sharing her love of Jesus and bringing the Catholic faith to life.

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Perhaps there was a Sister Clare in your life. Perhaps a special woman or man religious shared with you love, faith, and a belief in all that you could become. Maybe you knew more than one. Today those sisters, brothers, and religious order priests may be elderly, and their religious communities may struggle to meet retirement needs.

Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious supports necessities—such as medications and nursing care—and helps ensure the next generation of Sister Clares can continue in ministry. Please give generously.

[retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org)

Almost 94 percent of donations directly aid senior religious.



Meet them at [retiredreligious.org/2018photos](http://retiredreligious.org/2018photos).

**To give at your parish:** Make your check payable to your parish. (Write RFR on the memo line.)

**Amount:**  \$1,000  \$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  \$25  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (for e-newsletters) \_\_\_\_\_

(Arch)diocese \_\_\_\_\_

**To donate by mail:** Make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious. Please do not mail cash.

**Please check with your employer about matching gifts.**

**National Religious Retirement Office**

3211 Fourth Street NE  
Washington DC 20017-1194  
Telephone (202) 541-3215  
Fax (202) 541-3053



Printed on recycled paper,  
30% post-consumer fiber.



## What's in the Movie Basket?

- Throw
- Footies
- Popcorn
- Candy
- Hot Chocolate
- Soda
- Sparkling Cider
- Mugs
- Movie Tickets
- Tostitos
- salsa
- Black Panther movie

Raffles:

1 for \$2.00

3 for \$5.00

Breakfast  
with  
SANTA



**A PASTORATE EVENT**

**SATURDAY**

**DECEMBER 15, 2018**

**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Cost: \$5.00**

**(Tickets will not be sold at the door)**

**Ticket includes:**

**Pancakes, Sausage, Eggs, Fruit | Coffee, Tea,  
Hot Chocolate and Juice | Arts and Crafts |  
Coloring | Meet Santa | Gift**

**(Breakfast served 9:00 am – 10:30 am)**

**St. Francis Xavier Church Hall  
1501 E. Oliver Street  
(Parking on lot and street)**

**Severe weather makeup date: December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Denise Brown – St. Anne Church - 410-336-3253  
Kim Grays – St. Francis Xavier Church - 443-604-0730  
Antoinette Shannon – St. Wenceslaus Church - 443-928-1650**