

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 favor of God was upon him"

Do you know the favor of the Lord? After Jesus' birth, Mary fulfills the Jewish rite of purification after childbirth. Since she could not afford the customary offering of a lamb, she gives instead two pigeons as an offering of the poor. This rite, along with circumcision and the redemption of the first-born point to the fact that children are gifts from God. Jesus was born in an ordinary home where there were no luxuries. Like all godly parents, Mary and Joseph raised their son in the fear and wisdom of God. He, in turn, was obedient to them and grew in wisdom and grace. The Lord's favor is with those who listen to his word with trust and obedience. Do you know the joy of submission to God? And do you seek to pass on the faith and to help the young grow in wisdom and maturity?

The Holy Spirit reveals the presence of the Savior of the world
What is the significance of Simeon's encounter with the baby Jesus and his mother in the temple? Simeon was a just and devout man who was very much in tune with the Holy Spirit. He believed that the Lord would return to his temple and renew his chosen people. The Holy Spirit also revealed to him that the Messiah and King of Israel would also bring salvation to the Gentile nations. When Joseph and Mary presented the baby Jesus in the temple, Simeon immediately recognized this humble child of Bethlehem as the fulfillment of all the messianic prophecies, hopes, and prayers. Inspired by the Holy Spirit he prophesied that Jesus was to be "a revealing light to the Gentiles". The Holy Spirit reveals the presence of the Lord to those who are receptive and eager to receive him. Do you recognize the indwelling presence of the Lord with you?

The 'new temple' of God's presence in the world
Jesus is the new temple (John 1:14; 2:19-22). In the Old Testament God manifested his presence in the "pillar of cloud" by day and the "pillar of fire" by night as he led them through the wilderness. God's glory visibly came to dwell over the ark and the tabernacle (Exodus 40:34-38). When the first temple was built in Jerusalem God's glory came to rest there (1 Kings 8). After the first temple was destroyed, Ezekiel saw God's glory leave it (Ezekiel 10). But God promised one day to fill it with even greater glory (Haggai 2:1-9; Zechariah 8-9). That promise is fulfilled when the "King of Glory" himself comes to his temple (Psalm 24:7-10; Malachi 3:1). Through Jesus' coming in the flesh and through his saving death, resurrection, and ascension we are made living temples of his Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16-17). Ask the Lord to renew your faith in the indwelling presence of his Spirit within you. And give him thanks and praise for coming to make his home with you.

Mass Intentions



Saturday

5:00 P.M. In Memory of Lady Laurentia Strawder and all the deceased members of KPC, Court #323, req. by Dottie Mello

Sunday

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

11:00 A.M. (1) In Loving Memory of Napoleon Sykes, a phenomenal husband, dad and Pop-Pop, req. by Brenda & Children
(2) Grace, Mercy and Blessings on Barbara Thomas, req. by Dottie Mello

Tuesday

8:00 A.M. Healing mercy for Jeanne Edmonds and Bernie Fuller req. by NHM&W.

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. Praying for a New Year filled with peace and love, req. by Darleen Thomas

Thursday

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

Friday

8:00 A.M. God's continued blessings on all of our priests, req. by Darleen Thomas

Today's Readings

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6:21:1-3
Second Reading: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
Gospel: Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Next Weeks Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6
Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12



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 1, 2018	Luke 2:16-21
Tues.	January 2, 2018	John 1:19-28
Wed.	January 3, 2018	John 1:29-34
Thurs.	January 4, 2018	John 1:35-42
Fri.	January 5, 2018	John 1:43-51
Sat.	January 6, 2018	Mark 1:7-11 or Luke 3:23-38



Stewardship Reflections Luke 12:33

"Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys.

New Year Mass Schedule

New Year's Eve- 6:00 p.m.

Monday, January 1, 2018-New Year's Day, 10:00 a.m. Mass

Advent Begins With Mercy

The four weeks before Christmas encompass the Advent season, one of preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ.

This year, Advent Season giving time, talent, and resources via spiritual and corporal works of mercy offers a way for Catholics to serve while preparing for the Feast of the Nativity of the Lord. Remember the less fortunate. Provide food, hats gloves, coats, and Special prayers.

CDA Court #2257 's Education Committee

Please join the CDA Court #2257 Education Committee as we travel to Washington, D.C. to tour the new Museum of the Bible on Saturday, April 7, 2018. The cost of the trip is \$30.00. The payment can be made in 2 installments of \$15.00 each. The 1st is due on January 15, 2018. Please contact Marsha Powell @443-467-2841.

Special Notices

Religious Education

Family Faith Formation

2017 Faith Formation Calendar

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

31 st NO CLASS

January

7th Class

14th Class

21th Class

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.

Confession grades 3-9

Suggested Advent Activities

1. Collect new cards and stamps to give to the Women Detention Center to send cards to their families.
2. Step up to activities in your parish.
3. When shopping pick up extra canned goods to donate to homeless families.
4. Return your Angel Tree gifts now.
5. Prepare holiday treat stockings and drop them off to nursing homes, or shelters.
6. Last, but not least pray for others and to give God his Glory.
7. Donate gently used coats to the homeless.

Special Notices

SFX Circle of Recognition

This month we give recognition to all of our parishioners that give of their time and talents to sing in our choirs, the musicians and the dancers.

Evelyn Bowman- Director

Sonya Johnson- Director

Kenyatta Hardison -Director

Alice Deshazo- Organist

Robert Rucks- Piano

April Robinson- Piano

Kirk Gaddy- Drummer

Christina Wright-

Sunrise Choir

Praise Ensemble

Gospel Choir

Children's Choir

Men's Choir

Mass Choir

The Heavenly Praise Dancer

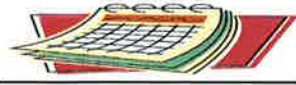


SPECIAL NOTICE!

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

Calendar Requests for 2018

All organizations and ministries: Forms are in your mailbox to request Calendar dates. Please send in your request as not to cause conflict. List all dates of activities that require use of the undercroft and church.



Mother Languge Awards Banquet 2018

It is time to celebrate those parishioners that continue to make a positive difference in our parish. Please use the month of December to nominate parishioners that are outstanding in the areas of Leadership, Service and Youth.

The forms for each of the categories are located in the vestibule of the church. Please complete the form in its entirety. It must be back in the office no later than December 31, 2017 because the forms have to be in the archdiocese by January 4, 2018. The Banquet will be held on Friday, February 9, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. The cost per person is \$60.00. No reservation accepted without payment.



CDA Court #2257 Education Committee

The CDA Court #2257's 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.

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.