

# 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.*

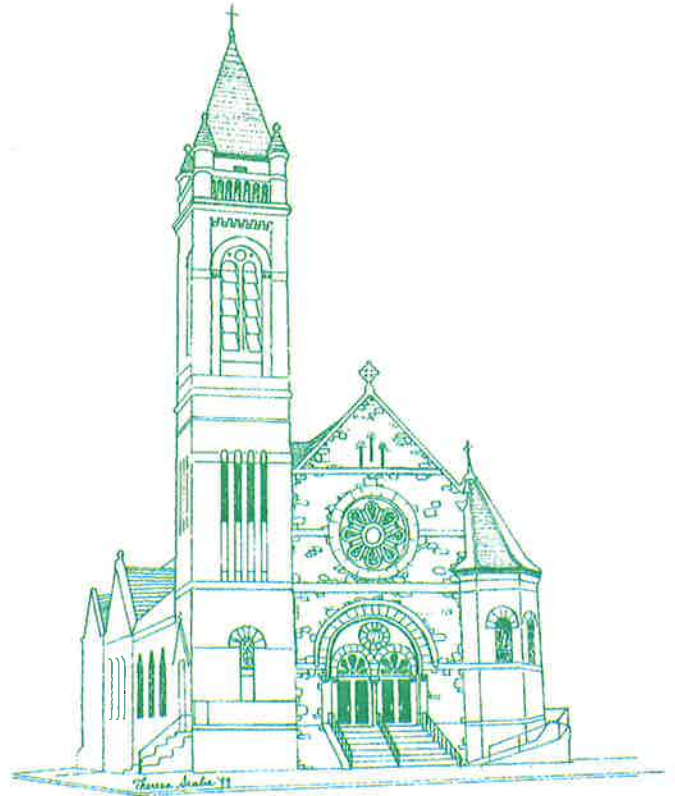
*Rev. Xavier Edet, S.S.J.,*

**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

### Watch expectantly today - your Master is coming!

What do you do when someone you love very dearly and miss very much has been gone a very long time but promises to return soon? Do you ignore their absence, or do you anticipate their return and send them messages to let them know how much you long to be with them again? Jesus' parable about the long-expected return of the Master to his household brings this point home.

*Parable of the watchful servants waiting for the master's return*  
Wealthy landowners often left their estates in the hands of their trustworthy servants and stewards. This gave them freedom to travel, trade, and expand their business ventures. They expected loyalty and hard work from their servants and rewarded them accordingly. Dutiful servants would eagerly anticipate their master's return by keeping the house and estate in good order. Jesus doesn't tell us in his parable whether the servants were ready to receive the unexpected return of their master. Were these servants excited or anxious about their master's return? The watchful servants, no doubt, looked forward to the future because they knew their master would be pleased and would reward them for their vigilance and hard work. Disaster and reprisal, however, awaited those who were unprepared because of carelessness or laziness.

### Watching with hopeful expectation and vigilance for Christ's return

When we expect some very important event to happen, we often wait for it with excited anticipation. The Lord Jesus expects us to watch in great anticipation for the most important event of all - his return in glory at the end of this present age! The Old Testament prophets foretold the coming of the Lord when he shall judge between the nations and decide for many people's (Isaiah 2:5). The Advent season reminds us that we are living in the end times. The end times begin with the first coming of Christ (when the Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us - John 1:14) and it culminates in Christ's second coming on the Day of Judgment and vindication for his people. Jesus spoke of his return in glory at the close of the ages as an indisputable fact and predetermined act which he will perform as the Judge and Ruler of all peoples, nations, and individuals who ever lived on the earth. .

### Stewardship Reflections

Luke 21:1-4

And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury. And He saw a poor widow putting in two small copper coins. And He said, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all of them;

## Mass Intentions



### Saturday

5:00 P.M. Happy repose of the soul of Fr. John, req. by SFX Parishioners

### Sunday

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

11:00 A.M. Happy 37<sup>th</sup> Birthday for Tiffany Scott Graves req. by Allen & Graves families

### Tuesday

8:00 A.M. In Memory of Grady & Ethel Hill, req. by Joyce Tunispseed

### Wednesday

10:00 A.M. All the deceased members of the Walters Family, req. by the John Rutkowski

### Thursday

8:00 A.M. God's grace and mercy for the Family of Mattie Brown as they grieved her passing, req. by Darleen Thomas

### Friday

8:00 A.M. God's blessings for Jeff Martin, req. by John Rutkowski

## Today's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

## Next Weeks Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8



## 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.	December 4, 2017	Matthew 8:5-11
Tues.	December 5, 2017	Luke 10:21-24
Wed.	December 6, 2017	Matthew 15:29-37
Thurs.	December 7, 2017	Matthew 7:21, 24-27
Fri.	December 8, 2017	Luke 1:26-38
Sat.	December 9, 2017	Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

### **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 are catechists and assistants:



Valerie Grays	Natalie Hare
Wy Chambers	Stacey Samuels
Beryl Graham	Deborah Woods
Donna Booth	Mary Watties
Joyce Logan	Lynette Richardson
Howard Kane	Larry Woods
Randolph Smith	Janet Wiggins
Dr. Bianca Smith	Arnetta Boyd
Frederick Jones	Edna Aiden
Gwen Williams	Avis Butler
Renee Terry (Office Assistant)	
Joslyn Alexander- (Director)	
Sr. Magdala Marie Gilbert, OSP- (Director Emeritus)	

#### Circle Club Winners

President; Lillian Gladden and Sharon Butler- # 115 - \$500.00  
 Vice President- Alan Wiggins- #81- \$100.00  
 Secretary- Mary English- #46- \$100.00  
 Treasurer- Anthony Gaines-#77- 100.00  
 1<sup>st</sup> Bonus-Lillian Smith-#82- \$50.00  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Bonus- Darleen Thomas-#66- \$25.00  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Bonus- Annamaria Joyner- # 118-\$25.00

## *The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Patronal Feastday of the United States of America)*

*We celebrate the Immaculate Conception on Friday, December 8, 2017. There will be only one Mass at 10:00 a.m.*



### *Christmas Mass Schedule*

Wednesday, December 20, 2017-Combine Penance Service of St. Ann, St. Wenceslaus, SFX, hosted by SFX at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 24, 2017- One Mass during the day at 10:00 a.m.  
 Christmas Eve-5:00 p.m. Mass  
 Midnight Mass

Monday, December 25, 2017 -Christmas Day- 10:00 a.m. Mass

Sunday, December 31, 2017- One Mass during the day 10:00 a.m.

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

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





# Special Notices

## Religious Education

### Family Faith Formation

2017 Faith Formation Calendar

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

#### December

3rd

Class/Homecoming: First Sunday of Advent, Religious Education classes will be held that day in the undercroft at 9:30 a.m. We will have special activities for our Pre-K thru grade 4. Grades 5-8 and Confirmation class will be assisting in serving during our reception.

8<sup>th</sup> Immaculate Conception Holy Day of Obligation

10th Class

17th Class

24th Class 3 p.m. followed by Mass

31 NO CLASS

#### January

7 Class

14 Class

21 Class

28 Class-Open House

#### February

4 Class-African American History Program

11 Class

14 Ash Wednesday

18 Class

24 First Penance 10:00 a.m.

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

Confession grades 3-9

# Special Notices

## Sunday School

The Staff and Students of the Sunday School wish to thank all who participated in our raffle fundraiser. Congratulations to our winners. They are:

Antoinette Soares-winner of the Family Movie Basket

Celeste Butler-winner of the Car Emergency Kit and Lantern and

Mary Watties winner of the Stuffed Dancing Snoopy and Water Bottle.

Your generosity will help us to purchase a bus to transport our students to our Spring Field Trip.

### Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary Court #323

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.

The Knights of Peter Claver, Ladies Auxiliary, Court #323 are holding a contest. Guess the number of Jelly Beans in the jar for \$1.00. The closest guess will win the Angel Figurine (see the poster in the rear of Church). The jar will be displayed at all Masses. The winner will be announced on Sunday, December 17, 2017. See any member of the Auxiliary to submit your guess.



### Breakfast with Santa

Junior Catholic Daughters will host Annual Breakfast with Santa Workshop on Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 9:00 a.m. - 12 p.m. Breakfast served until 11:00 a.m. Please see any JCDA for tickets, or contact their Advisor Kim Grays (443) 604-0730. Cost of tickets is \$7.00.



### Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary Annual Christmas Shopping Trip

Sodality's Annual Christmas Shopping trip, is Saturday, December 16, 2017, at Reading, PA. Outlets and Rockvale outlets in Lancaster, PA. The cost will be \$50.00. Contact any Sodality member for tickets or Martha Lewis Dorsey for tickets (410- 668-1258). Tickets are still available.



### Calendar Requests fo 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.



### 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 office.

# Growing in FAITH™

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

December 2017

Historic St. Francis Xavier Church

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

## One Minute Meditations

### St. John of the Cross

Raised by his mother after his father's death, St. John

studied with the Jesuits in Spain. He entered the Carmelite Order in 1563. St. John led a much-needed reform of the Order, encouraging more prayer and simplicity. His reforms were not always popular. He was jailed in a tower for almost a year, yet some of his most beautiful spiritual writing came from this experience. He was a close friend of St. Teresa of Ávila.



**"I am with you always."**

Sometimes God can seem distant and silent. Yet, he promised to stay with us always (Matthew 28:20). The same God who came to Bethlehem 2,000 years ago still comes to us now to live in our churches and our hearts. Today, be mindful of God's loving presence. Ask him to help you grow closer to him.

*"Draw near to God and he will draw near to you" (James 4:8).*



## A holy Advent leads to a joyful Christmas

During Advent, we wait for the gift of pure love. Taking time each day this season to create moments of watchful silence and thoughtful preparation will lead to real joy at Christmas.

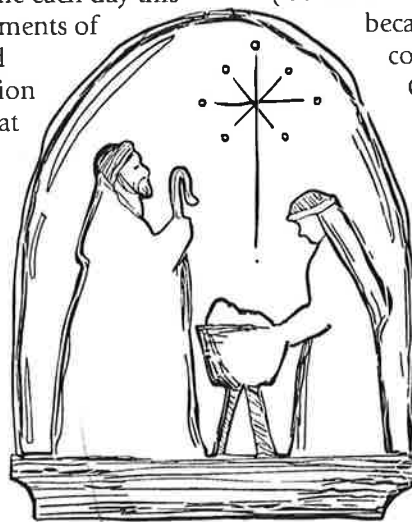
**Watchful silence.** *"For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him" (Psalm 62:5).* God does not shout. He speaks quietly and softly, in a *"still small voice"* (1 Kings 19:11-12). It isn't always heard in the rush of daily life but in the silence of our hearts. During Advent, slow down, quiet down and listen for the still small voice of God.

**Prepare.** *"Continue steadfastly in prayer,*

*being watchful in it with thanksgiving" (Colossians 4:2).* We fall into sin

because our hearts are not continuously turned to God. When we confidently turn to him each day, he will give us the protection and strength we need to withstand the darkness of sin. God does not expect us to be perfect but he does want us to be a little better today than the day before. Regular Confession is indispensable.

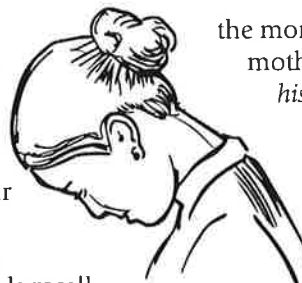
**Celebrate.** We were created to have a mutual, loving relationship with God. In fact, he loves us so much that he sent his Son to show us, tell us, and die for us. Celebrate our love story on Christmas with Mass and joy.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### Why do Catholics bow during the Nicene Creed?

When we proclaim our belief that God's Son was "born of the Virgin Mary and became man," we bow out of reverence for the mystery that made our salvation possible (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #461). These words recall



the moment when Mary became the mother of Jesus, who would, *"save his people from their sins"* (Matthew 1:21).

This is an amazing truth – out of love of us, God became man, died for our sins, and rose from the dead.

## Share the Christmas gift of love

At Christmas time, we are asked to reach into ourselves and bring out only what is kind, generous, and loving. To help, remember that Jesus came to us out of love and wants us to find ways to share his love with others. *"This is my commandment: love one another as I love you"* (John 15:12). Ultimately, Christmas is about love.

**Comfort those who suffer.** This time of year highlights financial struggles and hardships. Offer the gift of love by calling your parish office or Catholic Charities (800-919-9338) to learn how



you can help others in need.

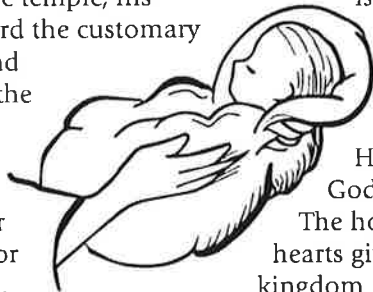
**Offer the gift of yourself.** The holidays can be sad for those who are alone. Spending time with someone else – especially when you don't have much to spare – is one of the most precious ways to show you care.

**Forgive.** There is no better time to offer forgiveness to someone who has wronged you or to ask it of someone you may have hurt. Forgiveness is a powerful form of love in action.

### from Scripture

### Luke 2:22-40, Look for the Lord

To the uninformed observer, Jesus' birth was unremarkable and his family was quite ordinary. When it came time to present Jesus in the temple, his parents couldn't afford the customary offering of a lamb and gave two pigeons as the offering of the poor instead. As faithful Jews, they did what was required by their faith to thank God for the gift of their child.



Yet, when Joseph and Mary presented their new baby in the temple, Simeon immediately recognized him as the Messiah. Inspired by the Holy

Spirit, he prophesied that Jesus was to be *"a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel"* (Luke 2:32).

Simeon was not alone in recognizing the Lord in the temple. Anna was also filled with the Holy Spirit. Her faith in God's promises gave her hope.

The hope God places in our hearts gives us a desire for the kingdom of Heaven. The Holy Spirit reveals the presence of the Lord to those who want to know him, to receive him, and to be happy with him forever.

### Q & A How can I reduce stress this Christmas?

Christmas celebrates the amazing fact that God's Son became one of us to win us eternal life. It's not always



easy to focus on the Good News while shopping, wrapping, baking, rushing, and entertaining. Try these tips for a more joyful Christmas holiday:

**Set limits.** Stick to your spending limits when buying gifts to avoid sticker shock after the holidays. Be choosy about which invitations to accept so that you aren't exhausted when Christmas arrives.

**Focus on prayer.** Whether it's praying a decade of the Rosary, reading Scripture, or spending time before the Blessed Sacrament in church, daily prayer is a necessity not a luxury.

**Prepare your heart.** Make an examination of conscience and go to Confession. Experience God's mercy as the priest absolves your sins.

**Make it last.** For Catholics, Christmas isn't just one day – the season lasts until January. Celebrate The Holy Family (December 31st), The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1st), The Epiphany (January 7th), and The Baptism of the Lord (January 8th).

### Feasts & Celebrations

**Dec. 8 – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (1854).** On this day, we commemorate that Mary was conceived in St. Anne's womb without original sin. In addition to attending Mass, praying a joyful Rosary is a wonderful way to celebrate.

**Dec. 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531).** The Blessed Mother appeared as a Native American maiden to St. Juan Diego, also Native American. She asked that the bishop of Mexico build a chapel for her, and had him carry roses to the bishop as a sign. When the

roses were emptied from his tilma (cape), it retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

**Dec. 16 – St. Adelaide (999).** A Burgundian princess, St. Adelaide had to escape from a murderous plot for the throne. She was rescued by the Holy Roman Emperor, King Otto of Germany. She married him and upon his death ruled for their young son, Otto II. As queen of Germany she was known for charitable works, including founding and restoring monasteries.



### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.  
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<http://www.growinginfaith.com>  
 (Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)



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

Adegbola, Tosin	12/30	Hagans, Angela R.	12/10	McMorris, Ethan J.	12/16
Addison, Cheryl	12/20	Haney, Patricia	12/11	Morgan, Philip H.	12/25
Addison, William	12/28	Harper, Lucille	12/05	Morris, Charles S.	12/03
Aiden, Edna K.	12/21	Harris, Natasha	12/27	Myers, Karen	12/15
Ash, Joan	12/28	Harris, Shelia M.	12/06	Newby, Yvonne	12/27
Ayres, Sabrina M.	12/14	Harris, Wynton	12/04	Obiazor, Charles	12/05
Barnes, Harold E.	12/31	Hazelton, Jerome	12/17	Pack, Kevin	12/17
Berry, Rochelle	12/14	Hazelton, Latacha	12/17	Patterson, Erica	12/28
Bert, Sr. Henry F.	12/09	Henry, Lois C.	12/19	Pierce, Thomas Clifton	12/07
Bevans, Irma	12/02	Hill, Bryant	12/29	Pinder, Shanea	12/21
Blackstone, Maria	12/09	Hill, Morgan	12/29	Ragsdale, Delvin K.	12/01
Bonaparte, Josuah	12/11	Holzendorf, Morro	12/26	Robinson, Jeanne L.	12/25
Booth, Gail	12/25	Howard, Christopher	12/01	Rollins, Janelle D.	12/15
Bostic, Erica S.	12/08	Howard, Nickkola	12/28	Rollins-Davis, Sandra	12/31
Branch, Brenda	12/25	Hurt Avent, Constance	12/29	Russell, Charles	12/15
Briscoe, Katrina	12/24	Jackson, Chiquita C.	12/18	Scott, Danielle	12/14
Branch, Brenda	12/28	Jacobs, Martha E.	12/10	Scott, Tiffany	12/03
Brown, Ernestine	12/24	Johnson, Florence	12/30	Shorter, Gertrude	12/05
Brown, Rochelle	12/24	Johnson, Fred M.	12/24	Smith, Timothy Darryl	12/11
Brown, Roslyn	12/07	Johnson, Ja'ber	12/03	Stovall, Jr. Calvin F.	12/07
Butler, Brian P.	12/11	Johnson, Jessica	12/01	Tangwa, Mariana	12/25
Butler, Kevin M.	12/20	Johnson, Langston	12/12	Taylor, Keyon	12/26
Butler, Robert M.	12/02	Johnson, Lauren	12/12	Taylor, Marilyn	12/04
Cole, Jamal	12/13	Jones, Antoinette	12/30	Tennessee, Cashmere	12/20
Coleman, Dorothy	12/14	Jones, Carroll W.	12/14	Thames, Karinthia D.	12/28
Coleman, Gary J.	12/17	Jones, Don	12/10	Thomas, Megeen	12/05
Coleman, Tyrone R.	12/05	Kane, Margaret D.	12/01	Thomas, Nikia	12/06
Crosby, Dominic	12/15	Kane, Margaret L.	12/26	Thompson, Garry	12/18
Dandridge, Russell E.	12/19	Kane, Marie	12/24	Uche, Linda	12/01
Davis, Ashley N.	12/24	Kane, Shawn R.	12/30	Uche, Priscila	12/13
Davis, Esther	12/09	Kearney, Kristin M.	12/03	Vick, Russell	12/06
Davis, Sean	12/26	Kellam, Celestine M.	12/17	Washington, Kathy	12/27
Davis, Sierra	12/27	Lang, Alois H.	12/09	Wesson, Catherine	12/28
Distance, Winnie L.	12/04	Leach, Doris I.	12/09	Williams, Antionette	12/06
Douglas, Cynthia	12/16	Lewis, Gary	12/16		
Fair, Anissa	12/13	Lewis, Ronald	12/03		
Floyd, Maurice	12/17	Mack, Antionette	12/03		
Floyd, Renee	12/22	Mackall, Vanessa K.	12/14		
Forde, Marion M.	12/20	Martin, Maria Sabrina	12/13		
Grays, Valerie A.	12/06	Matthews, Cecilia	12/14		
Griffin, Troy	12/27	McCallum, Ellen	12/17		





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

**December 3, 2017**

Rhonda Acree  
Theresa Baker  
Avonda Barnes  
Dorothy Bennett  
Nina Bonaparte  
Garland Burley  
Harry Butler  
Xavier Church  
Dorothy Coleman  
Candace Coates  
Lucretia Coates  
Esther Davis  
John Davis  
Kimberly Davis  
Thelma Fly  
Thomas Grays  
Rochelle Hagans  
Frances Hance  
Janice Hargrove  
Bertha Johnson  
Cornelia Johnson  
Marian Quickley Johnson  
Alice King

Mildred Lane  
Hilda Langley  
Alice Lewis  
Charles Lewis Jr.  
Mildred Mattison  
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  
Barbara Williams  
Peggy Williams

**ST. FRANCIS XAVIERS PARISHIONERS CELEBRATING WEDDING ANNIVERSARY  
DURING DECEMBER, SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS!**

<b>Troy &amp; Katrina Briscoe</b>	<b>12/30</b>
<b>Alfred &amp; Roslyn Brown</b>	<b>12/05</b>
<b>Samuel &amp; Vivian Butler</b>	<b>12/28</b>
<b>Dennis &amp; Margaret Kane</b>	<b>12/12</b>
<b>Williams &amp; Denise Richards</b>	<b>12/30</b>