

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

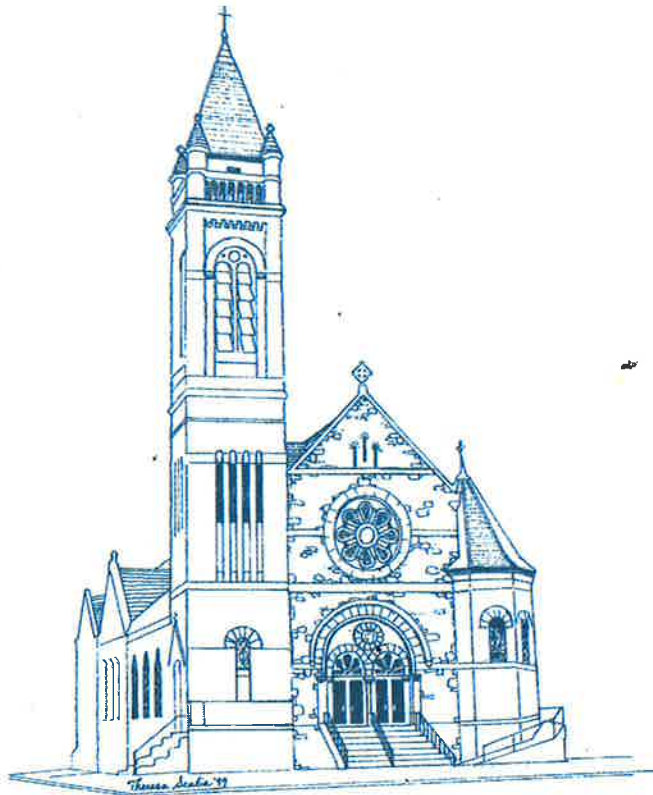
*Please notify the rectory before making
arrangements with funeral homes.*

*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

"I have called you friends"

What is the greatest act of love which one can give for the sake of another? Jesus defines friendship - the mutual bond of trust and affection which people choose to have for one another - as the willingness to give totally of oneself - even to the point of laying down one's life for a friend. How is such love possible or even desirable? God made us in love for love. That is our reason for being, our purpose for living, and our goal in dying.

God is the source and origin of love - divine and human. Scripture tells us that God is love (1 John 4:8) - and everything he does flows from his immense love for us. He loved us so much - far beyond what we could ever expect or deserve - that he was willing to pay any price to redeem us from our slavery to sin and death. That is why the Father sent us his beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave up his life as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. In this great exchange - the Father giving up his Son to death on the cross in order to give us abundant everlasting life and adopt us as his beloved sons and daughters in Christ (Romans 8:14-17).

God's love has been poured into our hearts

It is for this reason that we can take hold of a hope that does not fade and a joy that does not diminish because God has poured his love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us (Romans 5:5). God's love is not limited or subject to changing circumstances. It is an enduring love that has power to change and transform us to be like him - merciful, gracious, kind, forgiving, and steadfast in showing love not only for our friends, but for our enemies as well. God's love is boundless because he is the source of abundant life, perfect peace, and immeasurable joy for all who open their hearts to him. That is why Jesus came to give us abundant life through the gift and working of the Holy Spirit.

A new way of loving and serving one another

Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment - a new way of loving and serving one another. Jesus' love was wholly directed toward the good of others. He loved them for their sake and for their welfare. That is why he willingly laid down his own life for us to free us from sin, death, fear, and everything that could separate us from the love of God. Our love for God and our willingness to lay down our life for others is a response to the exceeding love God has given us in Christ.

Mass Intentions



Saturday

5:00 P. M. (1) Happy Repose of the soul of our dad Charlie Lewis on 20th Anniversary of his death, req. by Martha Lewis Dorsey & Family

(2) Xavier M. Church may God continue to heal him and keep him, req. by his brothers and sisters

Sunday

8:00 A.M. God's healing mercy for Danyelle Collins, req. by Irene Tackett

11:00 A.M. People of the Parish

Tuesday

8:00 A.M. In Memory of Dorothy and Frank Rutkowski, req. by John Rutkowski

Wednesday

10:00 A.M.

Thursday

8:00 A.M. For peace and the end of violence in our City and the US, req. by John Rutkowski

Friday

8:00 A.M.

Today's Readings

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26, 34-35, 4-48

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-10

Gospel: John 15:9-17

Next Week's Readings

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26

Second Reading: 1 John 4:11-16

Gospel: John 17:11b-19



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.	May 7, 2018	John 15:26:11-15
Tues.	May 8, 2018	John 16:5-11
Wed.	May 9, 2018	John 16:1-15
Thurs.	May 10, 2018	John 16: 16-20
Fri.	May 11, 2018	John 16:20-23
Sat.	May 12, 2018	John 16:26-28

Special Announcements

No impromptu announcements. Please make sure that if you have any announcements they have been approved by Father Xavier first.

Circle Club Drawing for April

Circle Club drawing will be held on Sunday, May 6th, after 11:00 a.m. Mass.

SPECIAL NOTICES

Ascension Thursday

Mass for Ascension Thursday will be celebrated on Sunday, May 13th, 2018 – "Moher's Day"



Ladies of the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary Annual Fashion Show

Annual Fashion Show, Sunday May 20th, 2018 from 3-6 p.m. Theme: Steppin Out. Tickets are \$15.00 per person. We are in need of Models, if you are interested please contact Lorraine Bell (410) 889-9196. Shoes will be on display. If you would like to model yours, call Lorraine.



Special Notices

Religious Education

May

6th Class

13th No Class Mother's Day

20th Class

26th First Communion/Confirmation

rehearsal @ 10:00 a.m. – Noon

27th Class - First Communion /
Confirmation



Confirmation Retreat

Our confirmandi along with their sponsors and family members participated in a wonderful and meaningful retreat Sunday, April 22nd at the Oblate Sisters of Providence Motherhouse. We would like to thank Sr. Trinita, Sr. Marcia, Sr. Anthonia, Sr. Magdala Marie and Fr. Michael Thompson, S.S.J. for their support and encouragement that they gave to our candidates. We would also like to thank our adult parishioners who presented, shared their experiences as lifelong Catholics and spent the entire day with our confirmandi. This was truly a wonderful gift to our candidates.

The confirmandi, Randolph Smith, Fred Jones and I appreciate your continued support.

Joslyn Alexander

Special Notices

Special Thanks

The family of Ms. Mildred Lane would like to thank our pastor, Father Xavier Edet, S.S.J, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court #2257, the SFX Swingers, our musicians, readers and you, loved ones, for your prayers, support, and kind expressions of sympathy. A special thank you to the SFX Men's Choir who made a special visit to our mother and sang to her. Thank you to nurses, personal care technicians and dedicated personnel of the Hooper Hospice House in Forest Hill, Maryland, in addition to the Amedisys Hospice staff of Rosedale, Maryland for their outstanding care of our loved one.

Important Note, Envelope Users

When submitting one check for multiple envelopes, please include the amount on each envelope. In addition, please make sure that the amount you are recording on the outside of the envelope is the same as the funds that you are placing inside of the envelope. Both things are very important to ensure that your offering is accurately recorded. Please write or print legibly. Thank you for your attention to this matter. We are still receiving envelopes being returned because of change of address. Please call the office if you have moved or if you no longer want to receive your envelopes.

Time to Mary

In May we will honor Mary, the Mother of God (and ours, to). Trust her for her guidance and protection. "Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided."

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

Addison, Clifton	5/22	Harper, Larie	5/02	Tate, Audrey	5/19
✓ Ambrose, Nisha T.	5/07	Harris, Wynton	5/10	Taylor, Jermaine A.	5/08
✓ Ambrose, Veronica	5/05	Hill, Terry	5/10	Taylor, Lewis E.	5/06
Ash, Michelle M.	5/03	Harris-Holmes, Theresa	5/21	Terry, Celeste M.	5/24
Bailey, Carrie	5/22	Howard, Brandy	5/05	Thames, Kayla	5/20
Baker, Robin A.	5/27	Hursey, Kendra M.	5/06	Thames, Samantha	5/11
Barca, El	5/15	✓ Jenkins, Deanna	5/17	Thomas, Amber	5/15
Barnes, Christopher	5/27	✓ Jenkins, Dominique	5/10	Thomas, Edward	5/18
Bell, Akilah	5/14	Johnson, Margaret	5/30	Thompson, Sr. Stephen	5/29
Bell, Lorraine	5/23	Jones, Quiana L.	5/04	✓ Tobias, Pauline Boston	5/16
Boyd, Kenneth	5/16	Jones, Virginia	5/15	Victor, Rosalind	5/03
Boyd, Keyonta L.	5/04	Jonese, Jr. Rodney	5/15	Wellons, Azella	5/26
Britton, Regina A.	5/15	Joyner, Annamaria	5/20	Whitley, Sinesta A.	5/08
Brown, Carolyn	5/21	Kane, Monica	5/25	Wiggins, Janet R.	5/06
Brown, Deborah	5/11	Kearney, Kenneth	5/04	Williams, Adrian	5/08
Butler, Avis	5/11	King, Kiara	5/26	Williams, Bernadine	5/01
Church, Martin G.	5/31	Lampkin, Michael	5/24	Williams, Debra	5/05
Conway, J. Frederick	5/03	Langley, Jacqueline	5/03	Williams, Vance	5/28
Cook, Casandra	5/23	Lessane, Mariah	5/03	Wininga, Sylvius	5/29
Cuffie, Louise N.	5/08	Marbury, Ashley	5/24	Wright, Tiffany T.	5/03
Custus, Hazel	5/13	Matthews, Florine	5/14		
Dance, Zoe	5/09	Merrick, Michelly	5/28		
Davis, Edward	5/23	Miller, Joseph	5/12		
Davis, Keith Jr.	5/06	Mims, Dario D.	5/18		
Drummond, Reginald	5/20	Mitchell, Theresa A.	5/25		
Dunston, Lindzee	5/13	Morgan, LaToya	5/28		
Evans, Morrow	5/03	Owens, Gia	5/08		
Feaster, Chiquita	5/14	Perkins, Brandy L.	5/05		
Feaster-Brockman, Norma	5/15	Plummer, Cyril	5/21		
Fly, Jr. Jonathan R.	5/16	Powell, Mary	5/10		
Ford, Roger L.	5/05	Price, Janele L.	5/09		
Forde, Andrea	5/20	Reed, Toryan	5/08		
Frazier, Duane	5/04	Reinsch, Portia	5/07		
Frederick, Sierra	5/14	Richardson, Jerrod	5/06		
Gaddy, Kirk P.	5/23	Richardson, Lynette	5/04		
Gladden, Lillian	5/23	Rollins, Horace	5/15		
Graham, Frederick Jr.	5/14	Samuels, Tamara	5/22		
Green, Lanatia	5/27	Samy, Maddy	5/01		
Green, Rodney	5/28	Singleterry, Jalen	5/24		
Greene, Thomas	5/30	Singleton, Lynnette	5/06		
Griffin, Robert	5/25	Sparks, Antonette	5/03		
Hagans, Rochelle	5/03	Sparks, Rolanda	5/08		
Hammond, Keith	5/15	Stokes, Horace	5/03		
Hargrett, Michael	5/30	Stovall, Caira	5/31		

**ST. FRANCIS XAVER PARISHIONERS CELEBRATING WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
DURING THE MONTH OF MAY OUR SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS!**

Clifton and Cheryl Addison	5/13
Charles and Joan Bouie	5/28
Reginald and Sheree' Chambers	5/17
Joseph and Louise Cuffie	5/15
Duane and Carolyn Frazier	5/28
Tyrone and Lillian Gladden	5/23
Robert and Rochelle Hagans	5/14
Jonathan and Cecelia Johnson	5/29
Kenneth and Carlita Kearney	5/05
John and Rosezeller Martin	5/19
Gregory and Delena Mello	5/21
John and Teree Moore	5/16
John and Dorothy Ryan	5/24
Michael and Lynette Singleton	5/03
Timothy and Bianca Smith	5/23
Calvin Jr. and Jeanine Stovall	5/25
McKevit and Abena Walker	5/27
James and Gwen Williams	5/01

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

May 6, 2018

Rhonda Acree	Hilda Langley
Avonda Barnes	Charles Lewis Jr.
Dorothy Bennett	Mildred Mattison
Nina Bonaparte	Dorothy Mello
Garland Burley	Stephanie Washington-Merritt
Harry Butler	Shelia Hurtt-Moore
Xavier Church	Bernardette Morgan
Dorothy Coleman	Yvonne Newby
Candace Coates	Marlene Patterson
Lucretia Coates	Nadine Pulliam
Esther Davis	Frances Sears
John Davis	Helen Singleton
Thelma Fly	Antoinette Soares
Bernard Fuller	Mabel Smirth
Velva Foster	Vickie Smith
Thomas Grays	Wanda Smith
Rochelle Hagans	Andrew Tackett
Frances Hance	Barbara Williams
Bertha Johnson	Peggy Williams
Cornelia Johnson	
Marian Quickley Johnson	

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

May 2018

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

One Minute Meditations

St. Joseph the Worker

As Jesus' father on Earth, protector of the Holy

Family, and the spouse of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph was

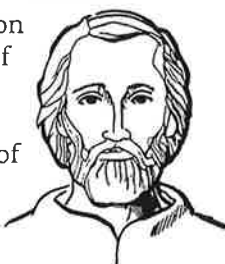
an example of obedience. He was also a carpenter who used the work of his hands to serve his family and community.

Jesus, too, was a carpenter. He learned the trade from St. Joseph, working side-by-side in his carpentry shop. Jesus learned dedication, integrity, and the dignity of work from the example of his earthly father.

Turn to Mary

This month, we honor Mary, the Mother of God (and ours, too). Trust her for guidance and protection: "Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided."

"I command you: be strong and steadfast! Do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord, your God, is with you wherever you go"
(Joshua 1:9)



"Lord, grant me serenity."

Stress can result from feeling powerless in difficulties, yet change isn't always up to us. Knowing when to step back and surrender can actually bring peace. When faced with what we cannot change, try these tips for increasing feelings of serenity and peace.

"My peace I give you" (John 14:27). Remember, Jesus does not want us to be troubled by worldly concerns. When you feel yourself starting to worry or stew about a difficult situation (or person), act out your belief that your prayer for resolution will be answered. Substitute positive, cheerful thoughts for negative ones. God is in control.

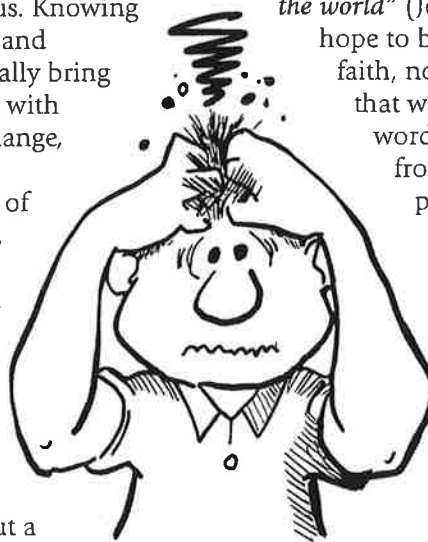
"Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it

again: Rejoice!" (Philippians 4:4).

"... Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). While we hope to be strong witnesses of our faith, not everyone will see us that way. Sometimes sharp words or critical comments from others can disturb our peace. Feedback can be helpful, but if anyone gets to you for more than day or two, consult a fellow Christian whom you trust for a better perspective.

"I can do all things in him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). Take every opportunity

to appreciate your place in God's kingdom. Relish the tasks you have been given, for a job well done brings satisfaction and increased contentment.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do we ask the saints to pray for us?

The saints' prayers for us are called "intercessory prayers." Asking the saints to pray for us is "good and pleasing to God" and is encouraged in Scripture: *"I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered"* (1 Timothy 2:1).



Intercessory prayer is powerful: by it, the saints help us on earth and we help those in Purgatory. Our prayers are joined to the prayers of Christ, who "never ceases to intercede for us" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2741).

Three ways to share God's love

Christians know that our most important task is to share God's love with others. Finding ways to communicate love in a fallen world can be tricky, however. Try these strategies:

"And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kindly to everyone, an apt teacher, forbearing," (2 Timothy 2:24). Does someone have a need you can meet? Can others benefit from your knowledge or talents? Show love by cheerfully jumping to help those around you.

"The ill-tempered stir up strife, but the patient settle



disputes" (Proverbs 15:18). It's hard to show love for others if we are fighting with them. When tempted to get involved in a spat, ask if winning will strengthen a relationship, lead to a better outcome, and if the issue is meaningful or important. If not, try to compromise or walk away.

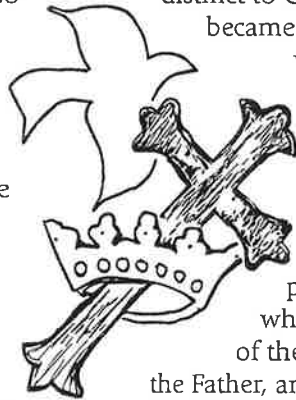
"Bless the Lord, my soul; and do not forget all his gifts" (Psalm 103:2). When we are constantly aware of God's love, our natural response is to offer up our voices to praise him.

from Scripture

Matthew 28:16-20, The Holy Trinity

Jesus appeared to the Apostles on the mountain top in Galilee, so they could receive their final instructions. They were to go forth, baptize, and make disciples, and to teach what they had been taught. These are our instructions, too. Once we meet Jesus and experience his love for us, we can't keep him to ourselves. We must share him.

Jesus also revealed to the Apostles, and to the crowd gathered with them, that God is a Trinity —Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — three Divine Persons united in love. The



belief that God is three, yet one, is distinct to Christianity. When we became members of the Church, we were baptized in the name of the Trinity.

The Trinity is a mystery we may not fully understand, but we can still live in its love and power. We proclaim our faith in it whenever we make the Sign of the Cross: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Our ultimate goal is to follow Christ into the eternal life of the Trinity.

Q & A Why are Christians asked to evangelize?

Before Jesus ascended to Heaven, he instructed his disciples, *"Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature"* (Mark 16:15).



The Gospel, or "good news," to which Jesus referred is his

Resurrection and victory over death. God became man and died for our sins, then rose from the dead. Thanks to Jesus, we have hope for a new life on Earth and eternal life in Heaven if we follow him. *"There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved"* (Acts 4:12).

Think of it another way: If you discovered a way to eliminate hunger in the world or found a medicine to cure all diseases, you would want to share what you know with everyone who will listen. Jesus' death and Resurrection offers something more amazing: eternal life. Once we have heard and believed the Good News, we can't keep it to ourselves. We must tell everyone about it.

Feasts & Celebrations

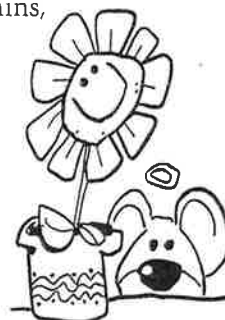
May 3 – Saints Philip and James (1st Century). St. Philip was born in Bethsaida and followed John the Baptist before he followed Christ. After the Ascension, St. Philip preached in Asia Minor, where he was martyred. St. James, son of Alphaeus, was also one of the twelve apostles. He is often confused with St. James, Brother of the Lord, who helped St. Peter in leading the early Church.

May 10 – Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord (1st Century). This solemnity marks the completion of Jesus' mission of salvation and his

triumphant entry into Heaven.

Note: In many dioceses, observance of Ascension has been moved to the following Sunday.

May 18 – St. Felix of Cantalice (1587). Born to poor, pious parents in Italy, St. Felix was called "Brother Deogratias" because he was always thanking God. As a young man, he joined the Capuchins, who sent him to Rome to be the friary's official beggar. He was also friends with Saints Philip Neri and Charles Borromeo.



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)

SPECIAL NOTICE!

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

Employment Opportunity

Needed! Choir Director! St. Ann's Church is seeking an experienced Director of Music for their Gospel Choir. If you are interested, please contact the Church Office @410-235-8169 or email St. Ann's Church @STANN528@comcast.net.



SIGHT AND SOUND

SFX Circle Club is hosting a day trip to Sight and Sound Millennium Theatre to see the production of "Jesus" on Saturday, June 30th, 2018. Deposit of \$50.00 is due now, with final payment due May 13th. No exceptions, the trip must be paid 45 days before departure. The cost of the total trip is \$165.00. Weekend rates are higher. Accepting deposits now. Darleen Thomas 410-727-3103. Please encourage family and friends to join us.



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.