

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

"They fell down and worshiped Jesus"

If Jesus truly is who he claims to be, the eternal Son of God and Savior of the world, then why is he not recognized by everyone who hears his word and sees his works? John the Evangelist states that when Jesus came into the world the world knew him not and his own people received him not (John 1:10-11). Jesus was born in obscurity. Only the lowly shepherds recognized him at his birth. Some wise men also found their way to Bethlehem to pay homage to the newborn King of Israel. These men were not Israelites, but foreigners. They likely had read and discussed the Messianic prophecies and were anxious to see when this Messianic King would appear. God led them by means of an extraordinary star across the desert to the little town of Bethlehem where Jesus was born.

John Chrysostom (347-407 AD), in his homily on this passage from Matthew 2, explains the significance of the star of Bethlehem:

"Note how fitting was the order of events: the wise men saw the star, were received by the Jews and their king; they heard prophecy to explain what had appeared; the angel instructed them; and then they journeyed from Jerusalem to Bethlehem by the guidance of the star. From all this we learn that this was not an ordinary star, for no other star has this capacity to guide, not merely to move but to beckon, to "go before them," drawing and guiding them along their way. The star remained after bringing them to the place, in order that the child might also be seen. For there is nothing conspicuous about the place. The inn was ordinary. The mother was not celebrated or notable. The star was needed to manifest and illumine the lowly place, until they had reached their destination at the manger." [The Gospel of Matthew, Homily 7:3]

In their thirst for knowledge of God, the wise men from the East willingly left everything, their home and country, in pursuit of that quest. In their diligent search they were led to the source of true knowledge - to Jesus Christ, the Light and Wisdom of God. When they found the newborn King they humbly worshiped him and gave him gifts fitting for a king.

The Lord of the universe who revealed the star of Bethlehem to the Gentiles of the East so they could come and worship Jesus, the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6) and King of Kings (Revelations 19:16), gives each one of us the same light of revelation to recognize and accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

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. Happy Repose of the Soul of Doris Russell, req. by Martha Lewis Dorsey & Family

Sunday

8:00 A.M. In celebrating of the 40th Wedding Anniversary of Cornell and Rosalind Johnson, req. by the Johnson Family

11:00 A.M. People of the Parish

Tuesday

8:00 A.M. Happy Repose of the Soul of Delores Powell, req. by Darleen Thomas

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. Healing mercies for Barbara Thomas and Jeanne Edmonds, req. by Darleen Thomas

Thursday

8:00 A.M. Peace in our city

Friday

8:00 A.M. Pray for a more understanding and thoughtful president

Today's Readings

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

Next Week's Readings

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:36-10, 19
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20
Gospel: John 1:35-42



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 8, 2018	Mark 1:7-11
Tues.	January 9, 2018	Mark 1:21-28
Wed.	January 10, 2018	Mark 1:29-39
Thurs.	January 11, 2018	Mark 1:40-45
Fri.	January 12, 2018	Mark 2:1-12
Sat.	January 13, 2018	Mark 2:13-17

Special Thanks

Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary of SFX would like thank parishioners and friends that help to make our Shopping Trip on December 16, 2017 a success.

Mother Mary Lange Honorees from SFX are:

Leadership:

Avis Butler

Service

Celestia Drake

Mary Watties

Youth

Kia Massey

Varia Alston

Please come out to support our honorees. Each honoree will have a table. Tickets are \$60.00 each. It will be held on Friday February 8, 2018, Martins West on Dogwood Road. No reservation accepted without payment.

SPECIAL NOTICES

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.

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.

Shouts Out to the Bereavement Committee:

Gracie Ferguson

Avis Butler

Sandra Davis

Celestia Drake

Mary English

When Needed:

Nadine Harris

Janet Wiggins

Venia Cheatham

Different organization members

Special Notices

Religious Education

Family Faith Formation

2018 Faith Formation Calendar

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

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

Reminder

The New Year provides an opportunity for you to update the church census records. There are still quite a few envelopes and other mail being returned because of incorrect address or name information. Please make sure that your correct contact information has been given to the office.

Special Notices

God's Plan

We never get to say we have completed our work on this earth until, of course, God takes us home. It is comforting to know that no matter what the New Year brings, we can go running to Mary to feel comforted and love, we don't need any special words, we just need to pray and ask for help. We call out Happy New Year when the clock strikes 12, but inside, deep down, we also quietly say yes to whatever our Father in heaven has in mind for us to accomplish for him this New Year.

St Wenceslaus a member of our Pastorate

Has an activity planned for Saturday January 27, 2018. To be held at St. Francis undercroft. It is a "Day at The Races". More details will be forthcoming.



Travelers:

Deposits are now being accepted for the trip to Williamsburg, Va. With the New Horizons on August 16th -20th. Deposits are to be given to Darleen Thomas or Jeanne Edmonds. The initial deposit is \$100.00.

SPECIAL NOTICE!

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

Parishioners that passed last week were Doris Russell and Delores Powell. In addition, several parishioners lost family members, please keep them in prayers.

So many of our parishioners are dealing with health issues, please remember them in your prayers. Barbara Thomas Lucretia Coates, Candice Coates, Mildred Lane, Jeanne Edmonds, Bernie Fuller, Bernadette Morgan, Sharon Butler, and Mabel Smith.



Remember to get your flu shot!!

Pastorate Meeting

The Pastorate meeting for St Wenceslaus, St. Ann and St. Francis Xavier will be held on Saturday January 20, 2018 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The meeting will be held at St. Francis.

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.