

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

"Unless I see - I will not believe"

Do you know the joy of the resurrection? The Risen Lord Jesus revealed the glory of his resurrection to his disciples gradually and over a period of time. Even after the apostles saw the empty tomb and heard the reports of Jesus' appearance to the women, they were still weak in faith and fearful of being arrested by the Jewish authorities. When Jesus appeared to them he offered proofs of his resurrection by showing them the wounds of his passion, his pierced hands and side. He calmed their fears and brought them peace, the peace which reconciles sinners and makes us friends of God.

Live and proclaim the Gospel of mercy in the power of the Holy Spirit

Jesus did something which only love and trust can do. He commissioned his weak and timid apostles to bring the good news of the Gospel to the ends of the earth. This sending out of the disciples is parallel to the sending out of Jesus by his heavenly Father. Jesus fulfilled his mission through his perfect love and obedience to the will of his Father. He called his first disciples and he now calls each one of us to do the same. Just as he gave his first disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit, so he breathes on each of us the same Holy Spirit who equips us with new life, power, joy, and courage to live each day as followers of the Risen Lord.

The last apostle to meet the resurrected Lord was the first to go with him to Jerusalem at Passover time. The apostle Thomas was a natural pessimist. When Jesus proposed that they visit Lazarus after receiving news of his illness, Thomas said to the disciples: "Let us also go, that we may die with him" (John 11:16). While Thomas deeply loved the Lord, he lacked the courage to stand with Jesus in his passion and crucifixion. After Jesus' death, Thomas made the mistake of withdrawing from the other apostles. He sought loneliness rather than fellowship in his time of trial and adversity. He doubted the women who saw the resurrected Jesus and he doubted his own fellow apostles.

Through the gift of faith we recognize the Risen Lord and receive new life

When Thomas finally had the courage to rejoin the other apostles, the Lord Jesus made his presence known to him and reassured him that he had indeed overcome death and risen again. When Thomas recognized his Master, he believed and exclaimed that Jesus was truly Lord and truly God!

Stewardship Reflections

Luke 16:11

"If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?"

Mass Intentions



Saturday

5:00 P. M. God's Healing Mercies for Michael Allen, req. by Martha Lewis Dorsey

Sunday

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

11:00 A.M. (1) Happy Repose of the Soul of Napoleon Sykes, req. by the Family

(2) In Memory of Deleese Ryce on 2nd Anniversary of her death, req. by her daughter and granddaughter

Tuesday

8:00 A.M. God's continue blessings for Dottie Mello, req. by the office staff.

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. In Memory of Ethel and Grady Hill, req. by Joyce Turnispseed

Thursday

8:00 A.M. God's healing mercy for Jean Edmonds and her sister, req. by Darleen Thomas

Friday

8:00 A.M. Happy repose for all of the souls in the Burley, Smoot and Thomas families. Req. by Darleen Thomas

Today's Readings

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Next Weeks Readings

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-23

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-21

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35



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.	4/24/2017	John 3:1-8
Tues.	4/25/2017	Mark 16:15-20
Wed.	4/26/2017	John 3:16-21
Thurs.	4/27/2017	John 3:31-36
Fri.	4/28/2017	John 6:1-15
Sat.	4/29/2017	John 6:16-21

Prayer Walk

Prayer Walk with Bishop Madden to pray for Peace in Baltimore City.

Date: Thursday, April 27th, 2017

Venue: St. Benedict Church, 2612 Wilkens Ave, Balto. MD 21223

Time: 5:30 p.m.

A Special Thank You!

A special thanks to the parishioners that made donations to the SFX Atlantic City Trip. We would also like to thank those that patronized the trip. Any funds from the trip comes back to the church. Thanks Again, Bessie Roberts and Polly Hargrove.

SPECIAL NOTICES

Ladies Sodality of Blessed Virgin Mary Annual Fashion Show

Ladies Sodality of Blessed Virgin Mary presents their Annual Fashion Parade "Spring in Bloom" on Sunday, May 21, 2017 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church undercroft, tickets are \$15.00. Please see any Sodality member for tickets or information. Thank you for your continued support.

Religious Education

May the resurrection of Jesus bring joy into your family and give you renewed hope during this Easter season.

Sunday School classes will be held today, Sunday, April 23, and the following Sundays: April 30, May 7, and May 28. Please make sure that your children are present for these remaining few weeks at 9:30 a.m.

CRS Rice Bowls were distributed to all Sunday School children. The children's Lenten sacrifices to CRS will honor Jesus' call to serve our neighbors who have less than we do. Please have the children return their Rice Bowls on Sunday, April 23.

Dawson Safe Haven Center

The Director of the Dawson Safe Haven Center which is located at 1401 E. Preston Street, Baltimore, MD 21213 is hosting a Free Summer Camp for the Oliver Community.

Special Notices

Archbishop Annual Appeal 2017

If you missed the opportunity to pledge over commitment weekend, you can still make a gift either through the mail or online at www.archbalt.org/appeal. Forms are available in the back of the church. Remember, that the Archdiocese Appeal is not just another special collection; rather, it is the one time during the year that all Catholics are asked to join together as one to make a significant pledge to support the work of the Archdiocese. The contribution serves the needs of parishes, schools, and the people throughout the Archdiocese.

Mother Mary Lange Guild Recommitment Ceremony

You are invited to the Recommitment Ceremony

Sponsored by Mother Mary Lange Guild

When: Saturday, April 29, 2017

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Presider: Rev. Kenneth Gaddy, C.S.S.R.

Asst. Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish

Where: Our Lady of Mount Providence Chapel

701 Gun Road, Balto. MD 21227 (410) 242-8500

This is not a Mass!



Ready, Set, Shoot... The Parish Council is looking for photographers to take pictures of church events.

Please contact Lynette Richardson at 4410-802-3888 or Paula Fuller 443-801-1181.

Special Notices

St. Francis Xavier New Website

St. Francis has a new website you can go there to retrieve the weekly bulletin. The website is: www.historicfrancisxavier.org. Please utilize the new website for your bulletin.

St. Vincent De Paul Church

The Resource Exchange is a program of the Social Action Committee at St. Vincent de Paul Church. We place homeless persons in apartments in cooperation with Health Care for the Homeless. We are always looking for gently used small furniture pieces and household items. The complete list is on our website at stvchurch.org.

For more information contact Pat Frascati at 410-663-5542 or 410-917-2214 or

Frascati00@comcast.net

Archdiocese of Baltimore Mobile App

The Archdiocese of Baltimore has developed a mobile version of its website and an App for Apple and Android device users, to make it easier for Catholics to stay connected to their local church, including parishes and schools, while on the go. For more information, visit www.archbalt.org Or download the app from the app store.

23rd Annual Mass

The Archdiocese for Military Services will host the 23rd Annual Memorial Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 4th Street and Michigan Ave, NE, Washington D.C. 20017-1566 on Sunday, May 21, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. This special liturgy honors the men and women of the Armed Forces. Principal Celebrant and Homilist: The most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, J.C.D., Archbishop for the Military Services. Parking is limited. Military personnel are encouraged to be in uniform.

SPECIAL NOTICE!

Please Keep In Your Prayers

All sick and shut-in parishioners of SFX

- Thelma Fly
- Lorraine Bell
- Dorothy Bennett
- Marian Quickley Johnson
- Lucretia Coates
- Mabel Smith
- Doris Russell
- Bernadette Morgan
- Dorothy Coleman
- Helen Singleton
- Chris Pasley
- Michael Allen
- Candace Coates
- Cecilia Johnson

The names listed are just a few; if you know of others, please notify the church office.



Religious Education

Children's Envelopes- Envelopes have been distributed to all Sunday School children. Start your child on a lifetime path of stewardship practice by using their envelopes weekly.

Thank You

Joslyn Alexander, Director Religious Education



Step Up to the New Year!!

We are inviting all parishioners to step up to the New Year by making a onetime donation to support the continued renovations and repairs of our church and

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.



PROCLAIMING LIBERTY TO CAPTIVES

Statement on human trafficking from the Catholic Bishops of Maryland

April 3, 2017 - The evil of human trafficking is an international, national and local scourge, and a grave violation of the dignity and freedom of all its victims. Human trafficking includes both labor and sex trafficking, and rivals the global drug industry in its scope and profits, affecting the lives of countless victims from all over the world. The U.S. State Department estimates that an alarming 600,000 to 800,000 victims annually are trafficked across nations' borders worldwide, with 14,500 to 17,500 people trafficked into the United States each year.

Sadly, Maryland is not immune from this tragic reality. Our state is a prime location for local, national, and international trafficking due to the Interstate 95 corridor that connects multiple major cities in the region, the number of truck and rest stops along highways, and the ease of travel that the Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport allows to and from the state. In 2014, the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force's Victims Services Committee identified and provided services to 396 survivors of human trafficking.

As people of faith, this grave injustice cries out for a response. Yet perhaps the most distressing aspect of human trafficking is the cloak of silence gripping its victims. Human trafficking preys upon the vulnerable, such as those seeking to escape poverty and violence, runaways, and those who are hindered by language barriers and ignorance of the law. Often victims are not even aware they are being exploited. The Gospel calls us to break this yoke of modern-day slavery by raising awareness about the scope of this problem and doing all that we can as Catholics to recognize, set free, embrace and empower our brothers and sisters who are victims of human trafficking.

A significant amount of work is already being done by multiple entities to rescue and meet the needs of victims of trafficking, to dismantle trafficking networks, to hold perpetrators accountable for their actions, and to write laws to protect victims and prevent others from becoming victims. The Catholic bishops in Maryland pledge to devote the resources of the Church to support, unify, and expand these efforts wherever possible. As a first

step, we call upon our parishes, schools, social service agencies, hospitals, universities, and other institutions to initiate a comprehensive awareness campaign about human trafficking.

To assist in those efforts, the Catholic Church will sponsor regional trainings throughout the state beginning in the spring of 2017, at which we will bring together national, state, and local experts who will provide participants with effective tools for combating human trafficking in our local communities. We urge Catholics in Maryland to take advantage of these trainings in order to help shine a light on this issue.



As individuals, we may feel that the enormity of this crime against humanity cannot be eradicated by our own small efforts, yet even one life rescued due to our increased ability to recognize and assist a victim of trafficking is of utmost importance.



Our commitment to addressing this issue reflects the commitment of the world-wide Church and especially Pope Francis, who from the start of his papacy has spoken passionately about this "plague on the body of contemporary humanity." We join in his call to open our eyes to those who are suffering in our midst:

"I urgently appeal to all men and women of good will, and all those near or far, including the highest levels of civil institutions, who witness the scourge of contemporary slavery, not to become accomplices to this evil, not to turn away from the sufferings of our brothers and sisters, our fellow human beings, who are deprived of their freedom and dignity. Instead, may we have the courage to touch the suffering flesh of Christ, revealed in the faces of those countless persons whom he calls 'the least of these my brethren.'" (Mt 25:40, 45). - Message for the 2015 World Day of Peace.



*The Most Rev. William E. Lori
Archbishop of Baltimore*



*Cardinal Donald Wuerl
Archbishop of Washington*



*The Most Rev. W. Francis Malooly
Bishop of Wilmington*