

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 am the resurrection and the life"

If a true "friend loves at all times" (Proverbs 17:17), why did Jesus delay in coming to Lazarus' home when he knew that his friend was gravely ill? Jesus certainly loved Lazarus and his two sisters and he often stayed in their home at Bethany. But to the surprise of his friends and disciples, Jesus did not go right away to Bethany when he was called. Jesus explained that Lazarus' sickness would bring glory to God. The glory which Jesus had in mind, however, was connected with suffering and the cross. He saw the cross as his supreme glory and the way to glory in the kingdom of God. For Jesus there was no other way to glory except through the cross.

Jesus also knew that it was dangerous for him to travel anywhere near Jerusalem at this time, since the religious authorities in Jerusalem were plotting his destruction. Jesus, however, was willing to pay the price to help his friend. For Jesus to come to Jerusalem at Passover time was an act of courage. The explanation which Jesus gave to his disciples was simple and challenging at the same time. "Are there not twelve hours in the day?" In so many words he said: "There are enough hours in the day to do what one must do." A day can neither be rushed nor extended. Its period is fixed.

Courage to act in the light of God's truth

In God's economy we each have our "day" whether it be short or long. While time is limited, there is enough for us to accomplish what God intends. God gives each of us our allotted portion in life. We can either waste it or use it to the utmost for God's glory. Jesus did not let circumstances or pressure dictate what he would do. Nor did he permit others to dictate his actions or timetable. He took action of his own initiative and in his good time. Don't we often try to get God to do things in our way and on our timetable?

Both the Romans and the Jews divided the day into twelve equal hours from sunrise to sunset. The day's work and travel, however, ceased when the daylight was gone. If someone wanted to get their day's work done, he had to do it before it got dark. Jesus made a spiritual analogy with our relationship with God. While the light of Christ is with us, we must live and walk in the truth and grace of his light. There's a right time to make peace with God, and that time is now. When darkness comes, then judgment follows for those who refuse God and spurn his love.

Stewardship Reflections

Matthew 25:29

"For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."

Mass Intentions



Saturday

5:00 P.M. Happy repose for the soul of Donald Johnson, req. by Darleen Thomas

Sunday

8:00 A.M. Happy Repose of the soul of Napoleon Sykes, req. by the Family

11:00 A.M. People of the Parish

Tuesday

8:00 A.M. End Violence and hatred in our City, State, County, req. by John Rutkowski and Jeff Martin

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. Happy Birthday to all members of Court #323 celebrating Birthdays in April, req. by Grand Lady Renee Terry

Thursday

8:00 A.M. All the sick and shut ins who cannot share in the Holy Mass

Friday

8:00 A.M. Happy repose for the soul of my grandmother Rosie Lee Smoot, req. by Darleen Thomas

Today's Readings

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

Gospel: John 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20, 33b-45

Next Weeks Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54



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.	4/03/2017	John 8:1-11
Tues.	4/04/2017	John 8:21-30
Wed.	4/05/2017	John 8:31-42
Thurs.	4/06/2017	John 8:51-59
Fri.	4/07/2017	John 10:31-42
Sat.	4/08/2017	John 11:45-56

Holy Week/Easter Activities



- April 3, 2017 - Joint Penance Service of St. Ann's, St. Francis Xavier and St. Wenceslaus
Venue: St. Francis Xavier Church
Time: 7:00 p.m.
- April 9, 2017 – Palm Sunday – 2 Masses at 8:00 a.m. and 11: a.m.
Palm will be distributed at all Masses
- April 13, 2017 – Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper – Washing of the feet
Time: 7:00 p.m.
- April 14, 2017 – Good Friday
Passion Service at 3:00 p.m.
Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m.
- April 15, 2017 – Easter Vigil, Event starts at 7:00 p.m.
- April 16, 2017 – Easter Sunday, 2 Masses at 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

SPECIAL NOTICES

Stations of the Cross Devotions



Will be celebrated each Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. during the Lenten Season. Parishioners are encouraged to make the Stations of the Cross as part of their Lenten Devotions. Many graces are given for those who walk the final hours of Jesus' life on earth. Confessions during Lent will be held on Friday evening from 6:00 pm-7:00 pm. and also after Stations of the Cross. The Stations of the Cross will be led by the different organizations in the Church.

Schedule for the Stations of the Cross

- Friday, April 7, 2017-Lectors, Eucharistic and Hospitality Ministers
- Good Friday –April 14, 2017- Youth Ministry

Seven Sorrows of Mary

Please join CDA Court #2257 on Friday, April 7, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the church for the honoring of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows. There are two feasts in honor of the Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Friday before Palm Sunday and September 15th. Booklets will be provided.



Combined Ministries Say Thank You

The Extraordinary Ministries of Holy Communion the Ministers of Hospitality and the Lectors wish to thank all who attended our Retreat on March 11, 2017. We especially wish to thank Fr. Godwin Akpan, S.S.J. our Guest Speaker who gave a powerful message God is Calling. A special thank you also to Fr. Xavier, our Pastor, for your spiritual and untiring input to the planning and facilitating of our Retreat. Many, many thanks to our Rosary leaders and our Group Discussion Leaders, to Polly who led us in song, to Ann and Cecelia who worked the kitchen, to Kim, Shanise and Najae for helping with set-ups and preparations the night before and to Alan and Sam for being available no matter what we needed. To everyone, your attendance was tremendous, your support outstanding. God is Great-all time, and all time –God is Calling.

Special Notices

Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary's Retreat "Entering into the Father's Joy"

Come join the Sodality of Blessed Virgin Mary on their weekend Retreat, April 21-23, 2017. For first time retreatants and/or young adult up to 30 yrs. of age the cost for the weekend is \$185.00. For retreatants that have been on retreat before at Loyola on the Potomac (A Jesuit Retreat House) the cost is \$235. A deposit of \$115.00 is due now along with registration. Free Van Transportation will be provided by the Sodality of BVM. We will be leaving from SFX Church at 1:30 P.M. on Friday, April 21, 2017. Return on Sunday, April 23, 2017 after lunch at the Retreat house. If you are interested in attending, please contact: Lorraine Bell (410) 889-9196 or Martha Lewis Dorsey (410) 668-1258.

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!

Special Notices

Catholic Daughters Annual Lenten Prayer Luncheon

Come join the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court SFX#2257 for their Annual Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, April 8, 2017 at SFX undercroft from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Theme: "Finding Unity in Diversity", guest speaker Fr. Kenneth Gaddy, C.S.S.R. Tickets are \$12.00 and can be purchased from any CDA member.



Circle Club Winners for March 2017

Margaret Medley #20 President- \$500.00

Lillian Smith #58-Vice President -\$100.00

Eileen Kent #41-Secretary- \$100.00

Celestia Drake #85-Treasurer-\$100.00

Bonuses

Roland Pack #9 -1ST Bonus-\$50.00

Janice Hyatt #106-2nd Bonus-\$25.00

Sarah Johnson #43 -3rd Bonus-\$25.00

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.

Emmitsburg Pilgrimage

Join St. Ann and Wenceslaus Churches on our pilgrimage to Emmitsburg, MD to visit the National Shrines of Elizabeth Ann Seton and the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes on Saturday, April 22, 2017. Cost \$50.00. To guarantee yourself a seat on the bus a **Non-Refundable Deposit of \$10.00 per person is due now and a final payment of \$40.00 due NLT April 16th**. For more information contact- Alicia Champlin, 443-722-6652.

SPECIAL NOTICE!

Please Keep Your Prayers

All sick and shut-in parishioners of SFX

- Thelma Fly
- Lorraine Bell
- Marian Quickley Johnson
- Lucretia Coates
- Mabel Smith
- Doris Russell
- Bernadette Morgan
- Dorothy Coleman
- Helen Singleton

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 rectory. Your contribution will be for St. Francis Xavier only.

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.

FOOD PANTRY

1100 East Northern Parkway Baltimore, MD 21239

www.northsidebaptistbaltimore.org

Dr. Walter L. Parrish III, Pastor



Food Pantry

Serving Baltimore

First Tuesday's of Each Month

2 pm ⁷ → 5 pm

&

Emergencies by Appointment only

Contact: Sister Betty Smith

(410) 925-4890

Call first during poor weather conditions.

Required Food Pantry and Distribution; FDA Statement:

"In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Under the Food Stamp Act and USDA policy, discrimination is prohibited also on the basis of religion or po-

St Francis Xavier Good Friday Fish Fry

Keep the Date 4/14/17

Menu consists:

Fish

Corn Bread

Greens

Potato Salad

Desserts and drinks on sale

This is St Francis Xavier Fis Fry hosted by New Horizons of Men and Women

Tickets: \$12.00

Accepting pre orders, and will deliver within a 12 blocks radius for large order of 10 dinners or more.