

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.*

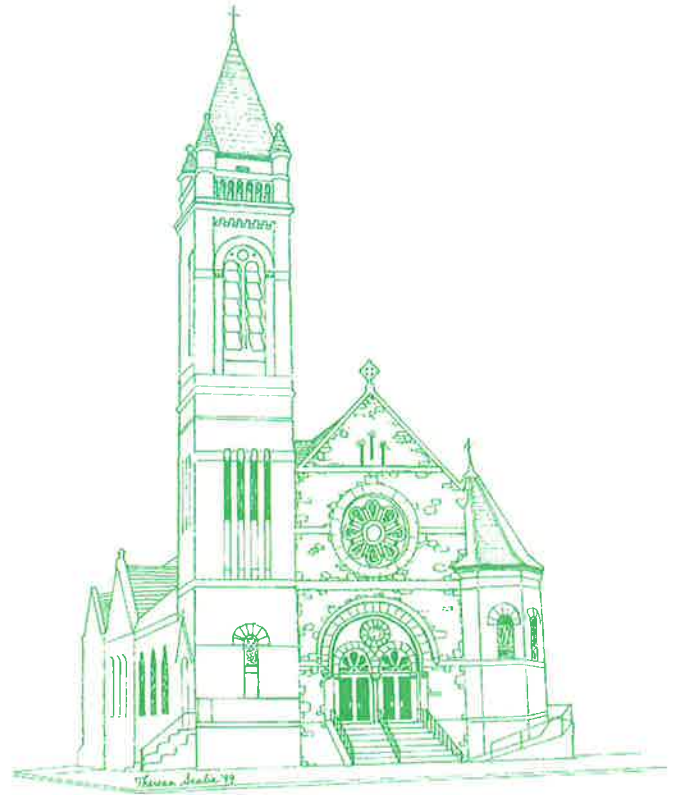
Rev. Xavier Edet, S.S.J.,

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

Meditation: Why did Jesus offer himself as "food and drink"? The Jews were scandalized and the disciples were divided when Jesus said "unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you have no life in you." What a hard saying, unless you understand who Jesus is and why he calls himself the bread of life. The miracle of the multiplication of the loaves (John 6:3-13), when Jesus said the blessing, broke and distributed the loaves through his disciples to feed the multitude, is a sign that prefigured the superabundance of the unique bread of the Eucharist, or Lord's Supper. The Gospel of John has no account of the Last Supper meal (just the foot washing ceremony and Jesus' farewell discourse). Instead, John quotes extensively from Jesus' teaching on the bread of life.

In the Old Covenant bread and wine were offered in a thanksgiving sacrifice as a sign of grateful acknowledgment to the Creator as the giver and sustainer of life.

Melchizedek, who was both a priest and king (Genesis 14:18; Hebrews 7:1-4), offered a sacrifice of bread and wine. His offering prefigured the offering made by Jesus, our high priest and king (Hebrews 7:26; 9:11; 10:12). The remembrance of the manna in the wilderness recalled to the people of Israel that they live - not by earthly bread alone - but by the bread of the Word of God (Deuteronomy 8:3).

Jesus made himself a perfect offering and sacrifice to God on our behalf

At the last supper when Jesus blessed the cup of wine, he gave it to his disciples saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:28). Jesus was pointing to the sacrifice he was about to make on the cross, when he would shed his blood for us - thus pouring himself out and giving himself to us - as an atoning sacrifice for our sins and the sins of the world. His death on the cross fulfilled the sacrifice of the paschal (passover) lamb whose blood spared the Israelites from death in Egypt.

Paul the Apostle tells us that "Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed" (1 Corinthians 5:7). Paul echoes the words of John the Baptist who called Jesus the "Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" (John 1:29). Jesus made himself an offering and sacrifice, a gift that was truly pleasing to the Father. He "offered himself without blemish to God" (Hebrews 9:14) and "gave himself as a sacrifice to God" (Ephesians 5:2).

Stewardship Reflections

1 Corinthians 4:7

For who regards you as superior? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

Mass Intentions



Saturday

5:00 P.M. In memory of Gregory Neoby, req. by Mother & Family

Sunday

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

11:00 A.M. Blessings on all the sick Ladies Sodality members, req. by Dottie Mello

Tuesday

8:00 A.M. Healing mercy for Alice Lewis and Charles Lewis, Jr., req. by Dottie Mello

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. (1). Healing mercy and blessing for Nina Harper and Roslyn Jackson, req. by Dottie Mello

(2) Happy repose of the soul of Beatrice Gaddy on the occasion of her birthday, req. by Martha Lewis-Dorsey & family

Thursday

8:00 A.M.

Friday

8:00 A.M.



Today's Readings

First Reading: Proverbs 9:1-6

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:15-20

Gospel: John 6:51-50

Next Week's Readings

First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32

Gospel: John 6:60-69



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
Monday	August 20, 2018	Matthew 19:16-22
Tuesday	August 21, 2018	Matthew 19:23-30
Wednesday	August 22, 2018	Matthew 20:1-16
Thursday	August 23, 2018	Matthew 22:1-14
Friday	August 24, 2018	John 1:45-51
Saturday	August 25, 2018	Matthew 23:1-12

Important Announcement



Please mark your calendar for a meeting. Members of Bereavement Ministry and intended members:

Venue: Undercroft

Date: Saturday, August 25th, 2018

Time: 10:00 a.m.



SPECIAL NOTICES

Jesus Trip Sponsored by the Pastorate Committee

If you have signed up and have not made a deposit, please do so as soon as possible, as the trip is sold out. Contact Donna Booth at 443-743-4045, if you have any questions.



SFX Scholarship Applications

Scholarship applications for the 2018-2019 school year are in folders on the desk in the vestibule. Applications are for high school, elementary, middle and college. Requirements are spelled out for each one. In addition, there is a special \$300.00 book scholarship that will be available from Miles Fitzgerald family. You must apply for all. Please have all applications returned by August 30, 2018. Don't delay, get yours in today!!!

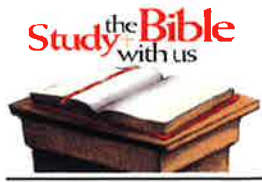
Apply Scholarship

Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mark your calendar, the Sodality's Annual Shopping trip on Saturday, December 15, 2018 to Tangier Outlets and Rockvale Outlets, PA. Ticket costs will be \$55.00. Tickets will go on sale in September. Money due by November 4, 2018. See any Sodality member for tickets.



Special Notices



Young Adult Bible Study

Time: Sunday 9:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m.

Place: School Building beginning September 23, 2018.

Upcoming Events

- *The New Horizons of Men and Women will be going to Savannah, Georgia on October 11th through the 15th. Members of the organizations who plan on traveling with us, needs to get all money in as soon as possible for us to get the group discount. The cost of the train is \$200.00 round trip. Hotel is not included in the cost. Once we get the hotel details will be made available.*
- *The Squires and Ashanti groups of the New Horizons of Men and Women are accepting new and gently used clothing along with canned goods which are donated to area shelters.*
- *Just a reminder: Baltimore City Community College is free to high school graduates. After earning an Associate Degree from BCCC, students can attend Coppin State University tuition-free to get their Bachelor's Degree.*
- *An event for parents and community members of St James and John Catholic School is scheduled for Sunday, August 19th from 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Church Undercroft. Light refreshments will be served.*

Host: Dr. Karmen Collins, Principal, St. James and John

Special Notices



Oliver Center

The second Tuesday of each month, The Oliver Center will be distributing free fresh fruit, vegetables and other food items. Please take advantage of this distribution of products. This was only made possible through a grant that was investigated and achieved through our very own St Vincent De Paul group.

Please inform family and friends, if it is not utilized, the market will cease to exist. Fresh vegetables, for your family and friends, no cost to you.

St. Vincent de Paul

The parishioners of St. Francis Xavier have been very supportive of St. Vincent de Paul Outreach programs. We have supported the Hungry Bowls program, sent kids to summer camp, provided BGE assistance, and Eviction Prevention service. St Francis Xavier is a viable part of the Oliver Community. The food program is another effort to give back.



SPECIAL NOTICE!

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

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Ms. Evelyn E. Hill, the aunt of Celestia Drake. Funeral arrangements are as follows:

On Sunday, August 19, 2018, friends may visit Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, 4905 York Rd, Baltimore, Md., from 1:00 p.m -5:00 p.m. On Monday, August 20, 2018, services for Mrs. Hill will be held at Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, where the family will receive friends from 10:00- 10:30 a.m. with services to follow.



We have also been informed of the passing of Ms. Mary Ballard, grandmother of Vernita Cooper (DeeDee). Arrangements are as follows:

Viewing and funeral will be held at Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, 4905 York Rd., Baltimore, Md. on Tuesday, August 21, 2018 – Viewing from 10:30-11:00 a.m. funeral to follow.

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.

Growing in FAITH™

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

September 2018

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

One Minute Meditations

St. John Chrysostom

St. John received his name "Chrysostom"

("golden-mouthed") for his eloquent homilies.

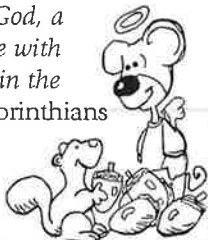
Born in Antioch around 349 A.D. and raised by a devoutly Christian mother, he wanted to be a monk, but was ordained a priest instead. He later became Bishop of Constantinople. His calls for reform of the wealthy and his criticism of the powerful and corrupt earned him exile. He was known for his personal holiness, faithful teaching of the Gospel, and generosity to the poor.



Take the long view

Our nature urges us toward satisfaction now, but we often learn the necessity of taking the long view. For example, saving means financial security later in life. Our faithfulness to God now will lead us to great reward later.

"For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (2 Corinthians 5:1).



Find joy in Church

Worship is God's idea. He intends our connection to him to be joyful and exhilarating. Yet, when our worship in church becomes routine, we can lose the sense of joy. Try these ideas to recapture the fun in faith and worship.

Mass is a celebration when Heaven and Earth meet. Approach each Mass as you would any great occasion. Dress your best. Imagine the other guests who will be there. Anticipate the food you will receive – food no one else can serve. Fast for an hour before to whet your appetite.

"And I commend enjoyment, for man has no good thing under the sun but to

eat and drink and enjoy himself ..." (Ecclesiastes 8:15). Greet your neighbors warmly. Laugh at the priest's jokes during the homily. Smile at the cute altar servers. Sing loudly and with vigor.

Volunteer for a parish ministry.

Working with others toward the common goal of serving Our Lord is rewarding and can be just plain fun. Laughing and joking with others on a team while using our talents to serve others builds up the Church.

Find out who needs you.

There are few better ways to feel loved than to joyfully give love first. Call the parish office to see if anyone needs a ride to Mass, help getting groceries, or just needs prayers.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholic Churches have stained glass windows?

In the days of the early Church, most church goers couldn't read, so the images were teaching tools. They told stories of Christ's life or of the saints. Today, these beautiful windows inspire us to reflect on our own faith.

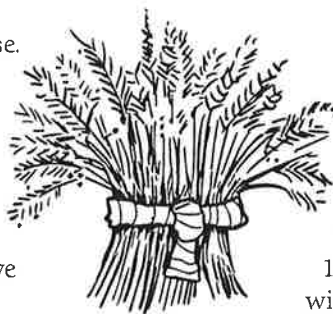


Stained glass windows also remind us that we are in no ordinary building. Here, "the truth and the harmony of the signs ... should show Christ to be present and active in this place" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1181).

Giving from a grateful heart

In Old Testament times, a faithful farmer gave the first of his harvest to the temple for God's use. He understood that it was through God's blessing that he had a harvest at all. We, too, can give to God from our grateful hearts.

Give God the first, best moments. Many of us rush through our day from the moment we open our eyes. We forget that it is by God's grace that we are even able to see a new day. Instead, give the first moments of the day to God in prayer.



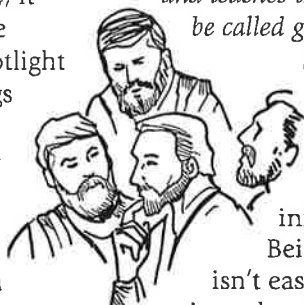
Pay God first. Most of us pay pressing bills first – housing, food, insurance – and give to the Church from what is left. Then we grumble when our parish fundraises to meet its needs. Yet all we have is through God's blessing in the first place. In fact, if we each give to the Sunday collection for God's use a first portion of our income – the Biblical 10%, for example – all our important needs will be met.

from Scripture

Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48, The discipline of discipleship

In this Gospel passage, the disciples hear of an unknown man who healed in Jesus' name. In their jealousy, it seemed the disciples were more concerned about losing the spotlight than in healing. Jesus put things into perspective. The man had the same goal as the disciples – to build up God's Kingdom. They gained a teammate, not an enemy.

Discipleship means making a change of heart and mind. Jesus was very clear: if we choose to follow him, we can't foster private sins, too. If, through those sins, we lead others into sin, our responsibility is doubled.



These are grim words, but the opposite is great news: *"Whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven"* (Matthew 5:19).

God rewards us for the good we do to and for others. Our example is powerfully influential.

Being a faithful disciple isn't easy. Rooting out personal sin and setting a good example is difficult, but we're not alone or without grace to do the job. No matter what we sacrifice, the reward is infinitely better.

Feasts & Celebrations

Sept. 3 – Pope St. Gregory the Great (604). St. Gregory resigned as chief prefect of Rome to become a monk and turned the family estate into the Abbey of St. Andrew. As Pope, he used his political skill to make peace with the invading Lombards, save Rome from famine, and restore order within the Church itself.

Sept. 8 -- The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (1st century). Tradition says Mary was born in Jerusalem after her mother, Anna, and her father, Joachim, had been married

more than twenty years without children. Mary's birth brought her parents joy, and we are joyful too – because Mary brings salvation to all of us with the birth of Jesus.

Sept. 23 – St. Padre Pio (1968). Born to farmers in southern Italy, Padre Pio was an inspiring confessor and counselor. He received the five wounds of Our Lord's Passion (stigmata) eight years after he became a Capuchin Friar. Despite intense personal and physical suffering, he remained dedicated to prayer.



Q & A What can we find in every Catholic church?

Each Catholic church is decorated differently, but some elements stay the same. Here are a few items you can find in every Catholic church.



Crucifix: One of the defining features of a Catholic church is the presence of a crucifix – a cross with Christ's body on it. The crucifix reminds us of Christ's saving sacrifice, made mysteriously present again at Mass, and of God's infinite love for us.

Baptismal fonts: Blessing ourselves with holy water recalls our own baptism, which washed us of Original Sin and made us members of the Church. In blessing ourselves, we renew our baptismal promise.

Statues of Saints: Having statues and images of the saints in church helps us recall their examples of heroic virtue and faithful love for God. In honoring them, we honor God who created them.

Tabernacle: Every Catholic church has a tabernacle – a box that contains the Eucharist (look for the red candle to show it is occupied). Here Jesus, really present in the Eucharist, waits for us to visit him.

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)