



## ***Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church***

***The First African-American Catholic Community in the United States***

***1501 East Oliver Street, Baltimore, MD 21213***

***410-727-3103 Fax: 410-625-9587***

***HAPPY NEW YEAR 2017***

Dear beloved members of SFXCC,

I wish you and yours a wonderful New Year of the Lord 2017.

I thank you for your faithful witness to the message of Christ here in St. Francis Xavier Church by your commitment and support to the ministries of our historic church throughout the year 2016.

The Year 2016 was not easy but God made it easy for us here in SFXCC through you as instruments to support our various projects / ministries: Renovations, restoration of our buildings / properties, paying bills, helping the poor through your support. I could not thank you enough but God in his abundant blessing will reward you richly.

As I always count on you, please do not leave me alone this year in this ministry of Christ. I ask you to prayerfully consider making a special new year pledge as we begin 2017 so we may continue to remain together in this historic holy place of worship.

I love and appreciate you for your continuous support and I pray for God's promises to be fulfilled in your lives as we work together in the years to come beginning this 2017. "I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus." (Phil. 1:3ff)

On behalf of the staff, council members, team workers of historic St. Francis Xavier, I wish you a very Happy and wonderful New Year 2017.

Faithfully in Christ,

Fr. Xavier Edet, SSJ

Pastor

## REFLECTION

### "He was called Jesus"

What is the significance of a name? For the Jewish people the giving of a name had great importance. When a name was given it represented what that person should be in the future. An unknown name meant that someone could not be completely known. To not acknowledge someone's name meant both denial of the person, destruction of their personality, and change in their destiny. A person's name expressed the reality of his or her being at its deepest level. A Jewish male child was named at the time of circumcision, eight days after birth. This rite was instituted by God as an outward sign to single out those who belonged to the chosen people (Genesis 17:10-12). It was a sign of the covenant that God made with Abraham and his posterity.

**Jesus - the eternal Son of God who was born of a woman to become our Savior**

In fulfillment of this precept, Mary's newborn child is given the name Jesus on the eighth day according to the Jewish custom. Joseph and Mary gave the name Jesus because that is the name given by God's messenger before Jesus was conceived in Mary's womb (Luke 1:31, Matthew 1:21). This name signifies Jesus' identity and his mission. The literal Hebrew means the Lord saves. Since God alone can forgive sins and free us from death, it is God who, in Jesus his eternal Son became a man to offer up his life as the atoning sacrifice to save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). The son that Mary bore is both God and man - the "Word who was God" (John 1:1) and who "became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). That is why Mary is not only called the mother of the Christ (the Greek word for Messiah in Hebrew) but also the mother of God or Theotokos in Greek, which literally means "God bearer."

**Jesus - the name above every other name**

In the birth and naming of this child we see the wondrous design and plan of God in giving us a Savior who would bring us grace (the gift of God's favor), mercy, and freedom from the power of sin and the fear of death. The name Jesus signifies that the very name of God is present in the person of his Son who became man for our salvation.

### 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.

#### Sunday

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

11:00 A.M.

#### Tuesday

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

#### Wednesday

10:00 A.M.

#### Thursday

8:00 A.M. In Loving Memory of Edmund and Marian Martin, req. by John Rutkowski and Jeff Martin

#### Friday

8:00 A.M.

### Today's Readings

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

### Next Weeks Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Gospel: Matthews 2:1-12



## 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.	1/2/2017	John 1:19-28
Tues.	1/3/2017	John 1:29-34
Wed.	1/4/2017	John 1:35-42
Thurs.	1/5/2017	John 1:43-51
Fri.	1/6/2017	Mark 1:7-11 or Luke 3:23-38
Sat.	1/7/2017	John 2:1-11

### Martin Luther King Mass Celebration Harrisburg, PA

Please save the date! The Mass Choir has been invited to sing at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Harrisburg, PA on January 15, 2017, for Black History. It's approximately an 8 hour trip. All choir members are encouraged to join us. If you're interested in joining us, please contact Wy Chambers, Gospel Choir @ 410-961-6198. More detailed information to follow in the upcoming bulletins regarding the rehearsal days and times! May God continue to bless all of you with a healthy Happy New Year!

Wy Chambers



### Calendar dates for 2017

All sheets for calendar dates should be in.

## SPECIAL NOTICES

### It's that Time Again! Mother Mary Lange 2017 Award Banquet!

It is with great pleasure that we announce the awardees for the Mother Mary Lange Banquet:

- **Leadership-:** Joslyn Brown Alexander
- **Service:** Michael Allen
- **Youth:** Candre Henry

Please support our recipients; the ticket cost is \$60.00 pp. Please reserve your tickets now. Your reservation depends on how many tables we will be assigned.

### Pastoral Council Meeting

Pastoral Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Council Members please note:: For any information contact Paula Fuller; Lynette Richardson; or any member.



### Important Notice:

Effective January 1, 2017, the rate to rent the Undercroft will be a total of \$500.00: \$100.00 to the Archdiocese for insurance and \$400.00 for the hall. If it is a weekend function an additional sum of \$50.00 will be charged for clean up. Even with the increase we are still one of the cheapest halls around.

## Special Notices

*The new Horizons of Men and Women will sponsor their annual Tailgate Party. It will be held on Super Bowl Sunday, February 5, 2017 - From 5: 00 pm until. Free setups and food. Tickets are \$25.00. See any member for tickets. Fun, Fun, Fun! Wear your favorite team's gear. This is to support their Scholarship fund.*



### SFX Circle Club Foxwood Casino Trip

*We are still accepting travelers for the Circle Club trip. Please share the information with friends and relatives; we need at least 10 more people to get the trip off.*



**Census Information Update** *We are in the process of converting to a new database. If any of your information is showing up incorrectly on the birthday or anniversary list, please inform the office.*

## Special Notices

### Campaign Update

*Please be vigilant in honoring your pledges for Embracing Our Mission and the Archbishop Appeal. Both can impact our church in a positive manner.*

### Mother Lange Guild Board of Directors

*The Mother Lange Guild Board of Directors Cordially invite you to attend the Annual Liturgical Celebration commemorating the 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of Servant of God Mother Mary Lange, OSP, on Saturday, January 28, 2017 at Two o'clock in the afternoon at Our Lady of Mount Providence Convent, 701 Gun Road, Baltimore MD. 21227.*



### 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](http://www.historicfrancisxavier.org).*

## SPECIAL NOTICE!

### **Please Keep In Your Prayers**

- *All sick and shut-in parishioners of SFX*



<http://dennismike.net>

## 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 Rectory Office, Monday 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.*

**ST. FRANCIS XAIVER PARISHIONERS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY  
OUR SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS!**

Adiele, Andy	1/06	Holcombe, Ronald L.	1/11	Singleterry, Jeryl	1/29
Adiele, Brian	1/26	Howard, Marlene	1/28	Singleton, Marcus	1/03
Allen, Joyce	1/04	Howard, Sherry	1/01	Smith, Bianca B.	1/07
Alston, Justin T.	1/25	Hughes, Tyrone	1/17	Strawder, Verna L.	1/15
Alston, Latea	1/19	Jefferson, Latarsha	1/17	Tackett, Irene B.	1/29
Ayres, Marvin L.	1/02	Jenkins, Chalisse	1/01	Terrell, Kimberly	1/14
Bailey-Culmer, Kim	1/13	Johnson, Darlene	1/31	Thomas, Valerie	1/25
Baker, Lydia T.	1/08	Johnson, Donald	1/26	Thompson, Carlos Moulden A.	1/23
Bell, Ronald	1/18	Johnson, Elizabeth	1/23	Tunson, Scott	1/25
Bennett, Dorothy T.	1/14	Johnson, Naisha	1/26	Uche, Cynthia	1/14
Bevans, Ericka	1/14	Jones, Florence	1/26	Walker, Broderick	1/08
Booth, Michael A.	1/04	Jones, Shantel	1/27	Whitaker, Gabrielle D.	1/26
Brooks, Alana D.	1/20	Kane, Cynthia	1/07	Whiters, Terrance	1/27
Brown, Cameron K.	1/09	Kane-Knight, Nadine	1/06	Whittington, Robert	1/08
Brown, Francine M.	1/04	King, Alice A.	1/06	Wiggins, Alan D.	1/07
Brown, Kobe J.	1/25	Lang, Sherry	1/26	Wylie, Darryl	1/23
Burton, Irving O.	1/14	Latham, Myles A.	1/22		
Burton, Keesha L.	1/05	Latham, Orlando R.	1/15		
Cawthorne, Eleanor	1/31	Lee, Mary Elizabeth	1/04		
Chambers, James M.	1/16	Lewis-Dorsey, Martha	1/24		
Cooper, Michael Jr.	1/11	Lewis, Nakita	1/17		
Cornish, Carl C.	1/04	Logan, Joyce L. T.	1/18		
Cunningham, Brielle	1/16	Lowman, Catherine	1/01		
Dance, Jocelyn	1/05	Mack, Avon	1/09		
Davis, Erika	1/10	Mackall, Taker A.	1/17		
Davis, Mekia	1/06	Martin, Melanie Louise	1/19		
Drummond, Natasha	1/26	Matthews, Edward G.	1/17		
Ferguson, Walter	1/22	Matthews, Russell	1/29		
Fly, Tyrik	1/30	Mattison, Mildred	1/25		
Frank, Hassaan	1/25	McGuire, Patricia	1/31		
Franklin, Jr. Eric	1/18	Mello, Dorothy M.	1/23		
Franklin, Sheeaa	1/25	Mello, Henry Jr.	1/19		
Franklin, Sherrie	1/07	Moore, Shamicka	1/02		
Fuller, Paula	1/09	Morris, Chanel L.	1/10		
Gaddy, Crystalyn M.	1/17	Pango-Davis, Cindy K.	1/12		
Garrett, Stanya	1/22	Pango, Nelly	1/01		
Guyton, Sakai	1/22	Parker, Mary A.	1/16		
Hagans, Robert G.	1/21	Pasley, Christopher	1/18		
Hance, Elizabeth	1/05	Perrin Jr. Mark	1/15		
Hanson, Damien G.	1/06	Price, Latoya M.	1/16		
Hare, Daniel T. N.	1/30	Rogers, Crystal S.	1/09		
Harris, Aajah	1/14	Rogers, Dontay	1/07		
Harris, Carlos	1/07	Rogers-Robinson, Sandra D.	1/15		
Harrison, Michael B.	1/18	Roles, Jerome B.	1/29		
Hill, Ricky	1/19	Sacthell, Dana	1/03		



**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISHIONERS CELEBRATING A WEDDING ANNIVERSARY  
DURING JANUARY, OUR SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS!**

Keith and Regina Hammond	1/25	Bernard and Gertrude Shorter	1/24
Cornel and Rosalind Johnson	1/07	Carl and Kathy Washington	1/06
Leonard and Melanie Martin	1/28	Sylvius and Rosine Wininga	1/04
Theodore and Ellen McCallum	1/28		
Jesus M. and Margaret Monges	1/01		



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

**January 1, 2017**

Rhonda Acree  
Dorothy Bennett  
Avonda Barnes  
Nina Bonaparte  
Katrina Joyner-Briscoe  
Alfred Brown Sr.  
Hattie Brown  
Garland Burley  
Harry Butler  
Vanda Chambers  
Xavier Church  
Dorothy Coleman  
Lucretia Coates  
Esther Davis  
John Davis  
Kimberly Davis  
Thelma Fly  
Karen Grays  
Thomas Grays  
Rochelle Hagans  
Frances Hance  
Teresa Hewlin  
Bertha Johnson  
Betty Johnson  
Cornelia Johnson

Donald Johnson  
Mildred Lane  
Hilda Langley  
Margaret Lewis  
Mildred Mattison  
Florine Matthews  
Julia Matthews  
James McLinden,SSJ  
Stephanie Washington-Merritt  
Shelia Hurtt-Moore  
Bernardette Morgan  
Yvonne Newby  
Mary Parker  
Marlene Patterson  
Nadine Pulliam  
Frances Sears  
Mary Wilson Shoats  
Helen Singleton  
Vickie Smith  
Wanda Smith  
Andrew Tackett  
Paul Thaniel  
Ann Walkier  
Peggy Williams

