

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.*

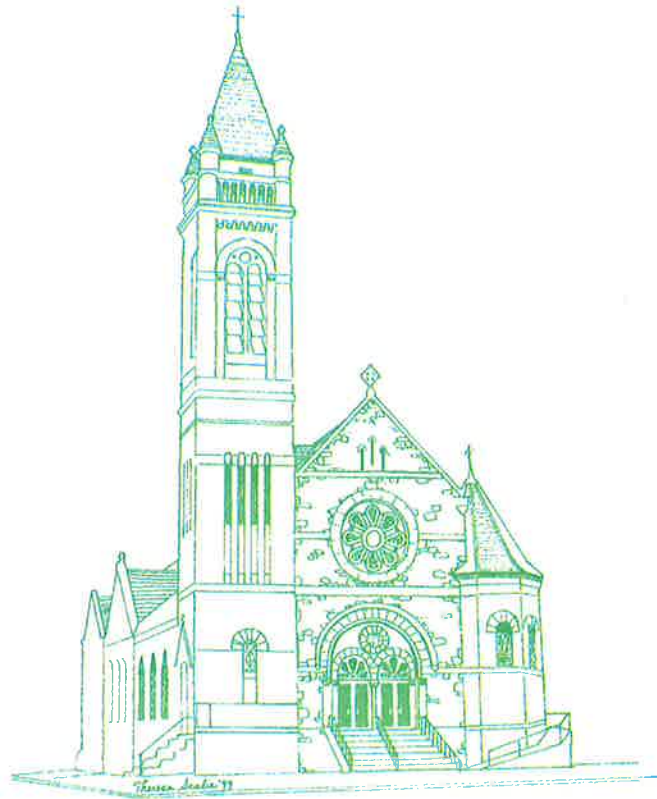
Rev. Xavier Edet, S.S.J.,

Pastor

Religious Education (410) 685-7288

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

Great are those who teach and obey the commandments

Why do people tend to view the "law of God" negatively rather than positively? Jesus' attitude towards the law of God can be summed up in the great prayer of Psalm 119: "Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day."

For the people of Israel the "law" could refer to the Ten Commandments or to the five Books of Moses, called the Pentateuch or Torah, which explain the commandments and ordinances of God for his people. The "law" also referred to the whole teaching or way of life which God gave to his people. The Jews in Jesus' time also used it as a description of the oral or scribal law. Needless to say, the scribes added many more things to the law than God intended. That is why Jesus often condemned the scribal law because it placed burdens on people which God had not intended.

The essence of God's law

Jesus made it very clear that the essence of God's law - his commandments and way of life, must be fulfilled. God's law is true and righteous because it flows from his love, goodness, and holiness. It is a law of grace, love, and freedom for us. That is why God commands us to love him above all else and to follow in the way of his Son, the Lord Jesus who taught us how to love by laying down our lives for one another.

Reverence and respect

Jesus taught reverence for God's law - reverence for God himself, reverence for the Lord's Day, reverence or respect for parents, respect for life, for property, for another person's good name, respect for oneself and for one's neighbor lest wrong or hurtful desires master and enslave us. Reverence and respect for God's commandments teach us the way of love - love of God and love of neighbor. What is impossible to humans is possible to God who gives generously of his gifts and the Holy Spirit to those who put their faith in him.

God gives us the grace, help, and strength to love as he loves, to forgive as he forgives, to think and judge as he judges, and to act as he acts with mercy, loving-kindness, and goodness. The Lord loves righteousness and hates wickedness. As his followers we must love his commandments and hate every form of sin and wrong-doing. If we want to live righteously as God desires for us, then we must know and understand the intention of God's commands for us, and decide in our heart to obey the Lord.

Stewardship Reflections

1 Corinthians 9:17

For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me.

Mass Intentions



Saturday

5:00 P.M. Healing mercy for Mary Shoats Wilson, req. by The Catholic Daughters

Sunday

8:00 A.M. In Memory of Rita Williams, mother and son Irvin Simms, req. by Margaret Simms

11:00 A.M. In Loving Memory of Mary Cooper on her Birthday, req. by the Family

Tuesday

8:00 A.M. Continued good health and God's blessing for Mary Anne Rutkowski and Family, req. by John Rutkowski

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. In Loving Memory of my husband Joseph Mello and son Anthony Mello, req. by Dorothy Mello

Thursday

8:00 A.M. God's Blessings on Doris Russell and Lucretia Coates, req. by the Office Staff

Friday

8:00 A.M. (1) In Loving Memory of Frank and Dorothy Rutkowski, req. by John Rutkowski

(2) Blessings on the sick in the family, req. by Aunt Dottie Mello

Today's Readings

First Reading: Sirach 15:15-20

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

Next Weeks Readings

First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48



SPECIAL NOTICE!

please Keep in Your Prayers

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

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.

Oblate Sisters of Providence Annual Chicken Dinner

The Oblate Sisters of Providence will host the 10th Annual Chicken Dinner on Saturday, February 25th, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at St. Francis Academy Center, 501 E. Chase St. Baltimore, MD 21202. Tickets are \$10.00 Volunteers and donations are needed. Please contact Sister Helene Therese, OSP at (410) 536-5687 or Mr. Ralph Moore 443-255-5600. Proceeds are toward Motherhouse expenses.

Let's get Physical

Saturday February 25th will start our let's get physical program for seniors and those interested. The class will begin at 3:00pm and end at 4:00 pm. The class will be held in our Undercroft. The first class is no charge. Please come out and see if this is something you would be interested in.



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.

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.	2/13/2017	Mark 8:1-13
Tues.	2/14/2017	Mark 8:14-21
Wed.	2/15/2017	Mark 8:22-26
Thurs.	2/16/2017	Mark 8:27-33
Fri.	2/17/2017	Mark 8:34-9:1
Sat.	2/18/2017	Mark 9:2-13

Easter Monday Atlantic City Trip

SFX trip to Atlantic City is scheduled for Easter Monday, April 17, 2017. We will be going to Resorts Casino. The price of the tickets is \$35.00 with a \$25.00 rebate. Please see either Bessie Roberts or Polly Hargrove for tickets.

Holy Name Union

The Holy Name is offering \$1,000.00 scholarships for the 2017-2018 school years. Applications are on the table in the rear of the church and are due back on or before April 17, 2017. Please contact Mr. Cleveland Cosom at 443-802-6438. Thank You.



SPECIAL NOTICES

January Finances

Income: \$34,873.25

Expenses: \$34,841.00

Deficit: \$32.25

Some recurring expenses included but not limited to:

- BGE*
- Verizon*
- Home Depot- Maintenance*
- Roof work*
- Office supplies*
- Church supplies*
- Plumbing expense*
- Dish*
- Exterminator*



*St. Francis Xavier Conference
Annual Report Period 10/1/15-9/30/16
Direct Aid- Eviction Prevention- \$3000.00
Direct Aid- Utility Assistance- \$8000.00*

\$11,000.00

*Person receiving Direct Aid- 350
Eviction 89
Utility 261*

We appreciate all of the support from our parishioners that provided the funds for this assistance.

Upcoming events: Save the dates

- Empty Bowls- Our Signature fundraiser that provides critical services to the homeless, and poverty in our community. 3/25/17 at Timonium Fairgrounds*
- 38th Annual Archdiocesan Social Ministry Convocation 3/4/17 at Seton Keough High School. For additional info. Contact Gracie Ferguson 410-727-2103 ext. 4*

Special Notices

SFX Circle Club Foxwood Casino Trip

We are still accepting travelers for the Circle Club trip.

SFX SWINGERS

The Swingers are sponsoring their annual Bull and Oyster Roast on Sunday March 5, 2017 at Heritage Parkville Gardens, 7631 Harford Road (In Parkville Shopping Center) 3:00 pm. - 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$55.00 per person (includes bar) Music by DJ White. Please see any member of the Swingers for ticket information.



SFX SUNDAY SCHOOL

On behalf of Fr. Xavier Edet, S.S.J., the St. Fr Xavier Sunday School, thanks all parents, grandparents, and friends very much who attended our January 29th Open House. We had a wonderful turnout and we were so happy to meet with all of you. Our dedicated teachers are looking forward to your future visits and your continued support of the Religious Education Program. **THANK YOU!**

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. There will be a mandatory meeting for parents of children preparing to celebrate Confirmation Sunday, February 12th at 10:15 a.m., in the school building. This marks an important moment in your child's spiritual development and for your family.

On Sunday February 26th the St. Francis Xavier Sunday School students will present their annual Black History Month Program immediately following the 11:00 a.m. Mass in the undercroft. Please join us.

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.

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.

HEART OF MERCY HEALING MINISTRY FOR WOMEN

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd offer counseling services with a licensed therapist. Are you looking for help dealing with depression, anxiety, post-abortion healing, relationship issues, spiritual difficulties, improving your self-esteem or other issues that keep you from experiencing the fullness of life that Christ offers? If so, please contact Sr. Mary Frances, RGS at 410-245-0870.

Clare and Robert Moore Scholarship

The Clare and Robert Moore Scholarship Fund awards a yearly \$1,000 scholarship to an incoming first year student or to a current Notre Dame of Maryland University student who is interested in or currently majoring in English. The scholarship can be applied to tuition, room and board, books, or educational fees. An online application and full details may be referenced on the scholarship website: <http://crmoorscholarship.org>. Applications are appinfo@crmoorscholarship.org