

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

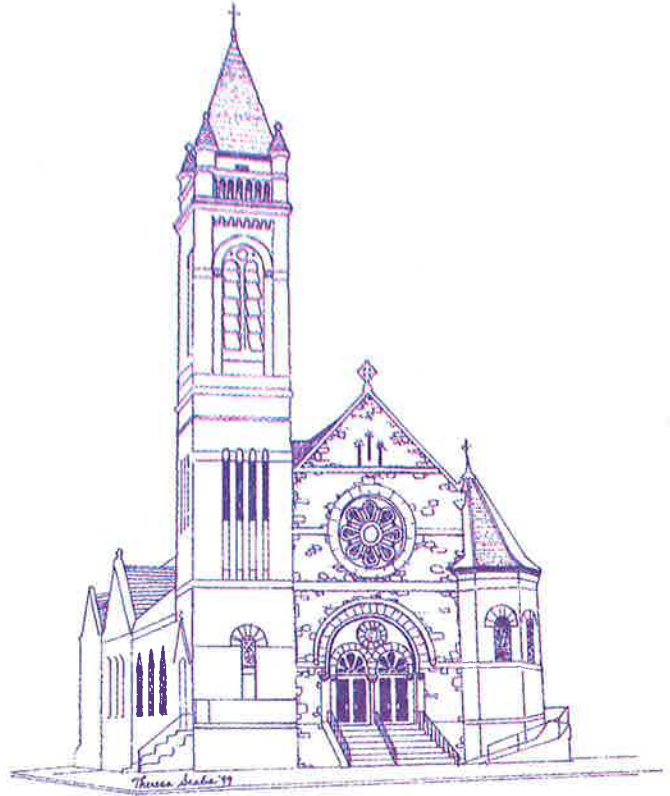
Funerals

*Please notify the rectory before making
arrangements with funeral homes.*

*Rev. Xavier Edet, S.S.J.,
Pastor*

Religious Education (410) 837-0656
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

"They fell down and worshiped Jesus"

If Jesus truly is who he claims to be, the eternal Son of God and Savior of the world, then why is he not recognized by everyone who hears his word and sees his works? John the Evangelist states that when Jesus came into the world the world knew him not and his own people received him not (John 1:10-11). Jesus was born in obscurity. Only the lowly shepherds recognized him at his birth. Some wise men also found their way to Bethlehem to pay homage to the newborn King of Israel. These men were not Israelites, but foreigners. They likely had read and discussed the Messianic prophecies and were anxious to see when this Messianic King would appear. God led them by means of an extraordinary star across the desert to the little town of Bethlehem where Jesus was born.

John Chrysostom (347-407), in his homily on this passage from Matthew 2, explains the significance of the star of Bethlehem:

"Note how fitting was the order of events: the wise men saw the star, were received by the Jews and their king; they heard prophecy to explain what had appeared; the angel instructed them; and then they journeyed from Jerusalem to Bethlehem by the guidance of the star. From all this we learn that this was not an ordinary star, for no other star has this capacity to guide, not merely to move but to beckon, to "go before them," drawing and guiding them along their way. The star remained after bringing them to the place, in order that the child might also be seen. For there is nothing conspicuous about the place. The inn was ordinary. The mother was not celebrated or notable. The star was needed to manifest and illumine the lowly place, until they had reached their destination at the manger." [The Gospel of Matthew, Homily 7:3]

In their thirst for knowledge of God, the wise men from the East willingly left everything, their home and country, in pursuit of that quest. In their diligent search they were led to the source of true knowledge - to Jesus Christ, the Light and Wisdom of God. When they found the newborn King they humbly worshiped him and gave him gifts fitting for a king.

The Lord of the universe who revealed the star of Bethlehem to the Gentiles of the East so they could come and worship Jesus, the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6) and King of Kings (Revelations 19:16), gives each one of us the same light of revelation to recognize and accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Faith is an entirely free gift that God makes to us.

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 all deceased members of the NHEMLW, req. by the New Horizons

Sunday

8:00 A.M. God's healing mercy for Brianna Williams, req. by the Thomas family

11:00 A.M. People of the Parish

Tuesday

8:00 A.M. Healing mercy for Josephine McCoy, req. by Josephine McCoy

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. Happy Birthday to all members of Court # 323 KPC, celebrating birthdays this month, req. by Grand Lady Rene Terry

Thursday

8:00 A.M. Happy repose for the souls of all the deceased members of my family, req. By Darleen Thomas

Friday

8:00 A.M. God's continued blessings for all of our priest, req. by Darleen Thomas

Today's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

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

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Next Weeks Reading

First Reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Gospel: John 1:29-34



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.	1/9/2017	Matthew 3:13-17
Tues.	1/10/2017	Mark 1:21-28
Wed.	1/11/2017	Mark 1:29-39
Thurs.	1/12/2017	Mark 1:40-45
Fri.	1/13/2017	Mark 2:1-12
Sat.	1/14/2017	Mark 2:13-17

Martin Luther King Mass Celebration Harrisburg, PA

Happy New Year! The invitation to join the Mass Choir to sing at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Harrisburg, PA on Sunday, January 15, 2017 for Black History is still open. There will be a rehearsal held this Thursday, January 11th at 7:30 pm. It's approximately an 8 hour trip. Please contact Wy Chambers, Gospel Choir ASAP on 410-961-6198 or email Wchambers1@verizon.net.



Calendar dates for 2017 has been completed

SPECIAL NOTICES

It's that Time Again! Mother Mary Lange 2017 Award Banquet! February 10, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

I have tickets for the Mother Lange Dinner, please reserve your seat with your money to support our awardees.:

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

The ticket cost is \$60.00 pp. Please reserve your tickets now. We have a limited amount of seats.

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.

December Financial

Income:: \$36,188.00

Expenses: \$41,597.73

Deficit: 5409.73

Outstanding expenses included:
Extraordinary repairs- (roofs)
Painting of church
Worship expense
Equipment expense
Administrative Expenses
Operating Expense

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 6 more people to get the trip off. Please think about joining us so that we do not have to cancel. So many people will be disappointed.



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 135th 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.

Sunday School Classes will resume this Sunday January 8, 2017

SFX Sunday School will host an Open House in Sunday January 29, 2017 at 9:30 am. Join us to hear about our Religious Education Program and how much parent involvement is necessary for your child's faith formation. Come to meet the catechists, tour the classrooms, meet other parents ask questions and find out what your child is learning.

Joshyn Alexander

SPECIAL NOTICE!

Please Keep In Your Prayer

- *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 one time 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 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.



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



STEP UP TO THE NEW YEAR BY MAKING A ONE TIME DONATION TO HELP DEFRAY THE COST OF RENOVATIONS AND REPAIRS FOR OUR CHURCH AND RECTORY.

Repairs Needed: Concrete Repairs, Plumbing repairs, Flooding of the basement in the undercroft, Painting, Electrical repairs, etc. I am sure that St Francis Xavier means as much to you as it does to all of us. It is our home away from home. Let's treat it this way. It is God's house and we want him to be proud of the way that we care for it. Any donation will be appreciated.

COME CELEBRATE AND CHEER!!

AT THE MEN AND WOMEN OF NEW HORIZONS

ANNUAL TAILGATE PARTY

Date: Sunday, February 5, 2017

Time: 5:00 pm-until

Place: St Francis Xavier Undercroft

1501 E. Oliver Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21213

Donations; \$25.00

Big Screen TV's, Free Food, Setups, Beer, Games Prizes & More
BYOB

Proceeds to Benefit New Horizons Scholarship Fund



AFC DIVISION CHAMPS VS NFL DIVISION CHAMPS

