

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



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"

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

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

Listen to my beloved Son

Are you prepared to see the glory of the Lord and to share in his glory as well? God made a promise to Abraham that he would make him a channel of great blessing not only to his own family and future descendants but to all the families of the earth as well (Genesis 12:3)! The condition for the fulfillment of this promise was simple and straightforward - "Go from your family and country to the land that I will show you" (Genesis 12:1). Abraham not only believed in God's promise, he promptly obeyed and did as the Lord commanded him. God chose Abraham as his instrument of blessing - that through him and his descendants would come the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ who would reveal the glory and blessing of God's kingdom and bring salvation for all who would call upon his name.

The Lord Jesus is the fulfillment of all the promises made to Abraham and to his spiritual descendants. In all that Jesus did and said he sought to please his Father in heaven and to bring him glory. Like Abraham, he was ready to part with anything that might stand in the way of doing the will of God. He knew that the success of his mission would depend on his willingness to embrace his Father's will no matter what it might cost him personally. Jesus on three occasions told his disciples that he would undergo suffering and death on a cross to fulfill the mission the Father gave him. As the time draws near for Jesus' ultimate sacrifice on the cross, he takes three of his beloved disciples to the top of a high mountain. Just as Moses and Elijah were led to the mountain of God to discern their ultimate call and mission, so Jesus now appears with Moses and Elijah on the highest mountain overlooking the summit of the promised land. Matthew's Gospel tells us that Jesus was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light (Matthew 17:2).

Why did Jesus appear in dazzling light with Moses and Elijah? The book of Exodus tells us that when Moses had met with God on Mount Sinai the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God (Exodus 34:29). Paul the Apostle wrote that the Israelites could not look at Moses' face because of its brightness (2 Corinthians 3:7). After Elijah, the greatest of the prophets, had destroyed all the priests and idols of Baal in the land, he took refuge on the mountain of God at Sinai. There God showed Elijah his glory in great thunder, whirlwind, and fire, and then spoke with him in a still quiet voice.

Stewardship Reflections

Romans 14:12

"So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God."

Mass Intentions



Saturday

5:00 P.M. Healing mercies for Thelma Fly, req. by Sandy Parrish

Sunday

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

11:00 A.M. Happy Repose of the Soul of my nephew Jamar Kelly on 1st Anniversary of his death, req. by Martha Lewis Dorsey & Family

Tuesday

8:00 A.M. For more Vocations for Priest and Religious Sisters for our Archdiocese, req. by John Rutkowski and Jeff Martin

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. Happy Repose of the Soul of Dorothy J. Butler, req. by the Butler Family

Thursday

8:00 A.M. Happy Repose of the Souls of my nephews Ronald Lewis Jr. and Edwin Matthew, req. by Martha Lewis Dorsey & Family

Friday

8:00 A.M. Continued good health and blessings for Jeff Martin and John Rutkowski, req. by John Rutkowski

Today's Readings

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a
 Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8-10
 Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Next Weeks Readings

First Reading: Exodus 17:3-7
 Second Reading: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
 Gospel: John 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42



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. | 3/13/2017 | Luke 6:36-38 |
| Tues. | 3/14/2017 | Matthew 23:1-12 |
| Wed. | 3/15/2017 | Matthew 20:17-28 |
| Thurs. | 3/16/2017 | Luke 16:19-31 |
| Fri. | 3/17/2017 | Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46 |
| Sat. | 3/18/2017 | Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 |

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 ticket is \$35.00 with a \$25.00 rebate. Please see either Bessie Roberts or Polly Hargrove for tickets.

The Lent Journey

During these forty days of Lent you will have the opportunity for reflection, repentance, and renewal as you walk with Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem and from there, to Calvary's Cross. A Lent calendar was inserted in the bulletin last week. Use it to record your journey from Ash Wednesday to the Celebration of Easter.



Please come out for Stations of the Cross.
It is a journey to remember.

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, CSSR. Tickets are \$12.00 and can be purchased from any CDA member.



A Special Thank You

The family of Euler Chavis (Velva Foster) sends a heartfelt thank-you for all of the expressions of sympathy.

February Financials

Income: \$30,969.50

Expenses: \$31,719.12

Deficit- \$746.20

Prayer Walk

Please join Bishop Madden in a prayer walk for peace in Baltimore City.

Venue: St. Peter Claver Church
1546 N. Fremont Ave.

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Date: Tuesday March 14, 2017

Special Notices

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

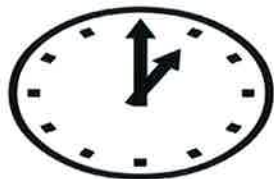
Come join the Sodality of Blessed Virgin Mary on their weekend Retreat, April 21-23, 2017. For first time retreatants and/or young adult up to 30 yrs. of age the cost for the weekend is \$185.00. For retreatants that have been on retreat before at Loyola on the Potomac (A Jesuit Retreat House) the cost 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.

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.

SPRING FORWARD

Did you remember to set your clock, one hour forward!



Special Notices

Church Regulations Regarding Fast and Abstinence

Abstinence from meat (beast or fowl) is to be observed by all Catholics fourteen years old and older on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent. Fasting means limiting oneself to one full meal on a given fast day. Catholics who are eighteen years of age but not yet fifty-nine are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On fast days, two additional smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength. However, the two smaller meals together may not equal one full meal. Moreover, eating solid foods between meals on fast days is not permitted.

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, March 17, 2017-New Horizon of Men and Women
- Friday, March 24, 2017-CDA #2257 of SFX
- Friday, March 31, 2017-Mass Choir
- Friday, April 7, 2017-Lectors, Eucharistic and Hospitality Ministers
- Good Friday -April 14, 2017- Youth Ministry

SPECIAL NOTICE!

Please Keep In Your Prayers

- *All sick and shut-in parishioners of SFX*
- *Thelma Fly*
- *Lucretia Coates*
- *Mabel Smith*
- *Doris Russell*
- *Donald Johnson*
- *Bernadette Morgan*
- *Dorothy Coleman*

The names listed are just a few, if you know of others, please notify the church office.



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.

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*



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.



Fellow Parishioners,

In keeping with a tradition started by Mrs. Barbara Williams, we are requesting a donation of either candy or money for Easter Sunday. Your donation will support a fun filled Easter Sunday for our children. In addition to providing a bag of treats, our children will have an egg hunt, games, face painting, and a special visitor – so bring your cameras. Committee members will be available after each mass to receive your donation.

Thanks,

*Wy, Joyce, Kim, Regine, Irma, Donna, Stacy,
Kenyatta, Cina, Sissy, Valerie, Howard*