

REFLECTION

John points to the coming of Christ and his kingdom

What kind of Messiah did God promise to send to his people and how would he bring God's kingdom to them? The prophet Isaiah foresaw the day when God would raise up a Messianic King long after King David's throne had been overthrown and vacant for centuries. God promised that he would raise up a new king from the stump of Jesse, the father of King David (Isaiah 11:1). This messianic king would rule forever because the Spirit of God would rest upon him and remain with him (Isaiah 11:2).

Isaiah's prophecy of the Messiah
Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would be equipped with the gifts of the Spirit - with wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and fear of the Lord (Isaiah 11:2 - for an explanation of the gifts see this helpful [article](#)). This king would establish the kingdom of God, not by force of human will and military power, but by offering his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sin of the world. Through his death on the cross, Jesus, the true Messiah King, would defeat Satan, overcome death, and win pardon and reconciliation for sinners. God's plan of redemption included not only the Jewish people but all the nations of the earth as well. Through his death and resurrection Jesus makes us citizens of heaven and friends of God. The Lord Jesus wants us to live in joyful hope and confident expectation that he will come again to fully establish his kingdom of righteousness and peace.

John the Baptist's prophecy of the Messiah
Why did John the Baptist prophesy that the Messiah would come and "baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire" (Matthew 3:11)? Fire in biblical times was often associated with God's presence and with his action in the lives of his people. God sometimes manifested his presence by use of fire, such as the burning bush which was not consumed when God spoke to Moses (Exodus 3:2). The image of fire was also used to symbolize God's glory (Ezekiel 1:4, 13), his protective presence (2 Kings 6:17), his holiness (Deuteronomy 4:24), righteous judgment (Zechariah 13:9), and his wrath against sin (Isaiah 66:15-16).

Stewardship Reflections

Matthew 19:21

Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."



Mass Intentions

Saturday

5:00 P.M. Happy Repose of the Soul of my brother Donald Lewis on the occasion of his 63rd Birthday, req. by Martha Lewis Dorsey & Family

Sunday

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

11:00 A.M. In Memory of my daughter JoAnn M. Johnson on 16th Anniversary of her death tomorrow, may she rest in peace, req. by her Family

Tuesday

8:00 A.M. God's Blessings on Roslyn Jackson and Joyce Bridgeforth, req. by Aunt Dottie

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. God's continued blessings for all of the sick and deceased members of our parish

Thursday

8:00 A.M. Happy belated birthday to Sr. Magdala Marie Gilbert, req. by Darleen Thomas

Friday

8:00 A.M. Healing mercy for Carlita Kearney, req. by Darleen Thomas

Today's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10
Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9
Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

Next Weeks Reading

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a
Second Reading: James 5:7-10
Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11



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.	12/05/2016	Luke 5:17-26
Tues.	12/06/2016	Matthew 18:12-14
Wed.	12/07/2016	Matthew 11:28-30
Thurs.	12/08/2016	Luke 1:26-38
Fri.	12/09/2016	Matthew 11:16-19
Sat.	12/10/2016	Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

Calendar dates for 2017

The sheets to request the use of meeting space for 2017 are located in each ministries and organization mailbox. Remember it is first come and the timely return of the forms that give you 1st preference. It is not base on what you always had.

St. Francis Xavier New Website

St. Francis has a new website you can go there to retrieve the weekly bulletin. The website is: "HistoricFrancis Xavier.org"

Remember Jesus is the reason for the Season



SPECIAL NOTICES

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

*It is with great pleasure that we announce the nominees for the Mother Mary Lange Banquet: Leadership- Joslyn Brown Alexander
Service: Michael Allen
Youth: Candre Henry
Please support our recipients; the ticket price is \$60.00 pp.*

Bake Sale

Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary's Annual Bake Sale, Sunday, December 18th, 2016 after all Masses in the undercroft.



The new Horizons of Men and Women will sponsor their annual Tailgate Party. It will be held on Super Bowl Sunday, February 5, 2016. From 5pm until, free setups and food, Tickets are \$25.00. See any member for tickets. Fun, Fun, Fun! Wear your favorite team's gear, we like them all. This is to support their Scholarship fund.



Special Notices

Junior CDA #2257 Annual Breakfast with Santa Workshop

Saturday, December 10th, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

(Breakfast served until 11:00 a.m.)

St. Francis Xavier Church undercroft

1501 E. Oliver St.

Donation: \$7.00 per person



ADVENT has begun. Please remember to pick up your ADVENT season folder for your special daily sacrificial offering. The folders are located in the back of the church.



Circle Club Winners for November 2016

President-Vera Gaines #91-\$1000.00

Vice President-Arnetta Boyd #47-\$100.00

Secretary-Patricia Williams #119-\$100.00

Treasurer-Darleen Thomas #108-\$100.00

Bonus

1st Bonus-Diane Lewis #64-\$50.00

2nd Bonus-Mary English #6-\$25.00

3rd Bonus-Pauline Hargrove #11-\$25.00

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.

Oblate Sisters of Providence-Applicants Needed for Maintenance Work

Applicants needed for Maintenance Work, Experience: Some experience in general maintenance or a willingness to learn on site.

Skills: General knowledge in the following:

Plumbing

Electricity

Janitorial Cleaning

Home Improvement

Yard Maintenance

Hours 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (Monday-Friday)

Lunch 11:30 p.m.-12:30 p.m. (meal provided)

Transportation and a driver's license is required.

Oblate Sisters of Providence

701 Gun Road

Baltimore, MD 21227

Contact: Sister Lorraine (410-242-7981) Please leave a message and your call will be returned.

Religious Education: Important Dates

Tuesday December 20th 7pm Reconciliation Service we encourage all families

Saturday, December 24th Christmas' Eve Mass at 5:00 p.m.

ADVENT is a season of waiting, expecting, and hoping... Beginning four Sundays prior to Christmas and ending on Christmas Eve. Advent helps us prepare for the coming, or "advent" of the Christ child. By lighting one candle each week of advent, we help ourselves get ready for the birth of Jesus. The candles have different meaning, each based upon the Bible. These meanings help us understand how special the birth of Jesus for us.

SPECIAL NOTICE!

Please Keep In Your Prayers

All sick and shut-in parishioners of SFX

Holy Day of Obligation

Thursday, December 8th, 2016 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, there will be only one Mass at 10:00 a.m.



The Angel Project

All gifts are due back today, December 4th, 2016. Please place your gift under the Angel Tree at the back of the Church.

Thank you for your participation and for always being there for our children.

Angel Tree Team:

Joyce Logan

Renee Terry

Suzonne Vickers

Mary Watties

Kim Grays

Janet Wiggins

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 XAVIER PARISHIONERS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER
OUR SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS!**

Addison, Cheryl	12/20	Grays, Valerie A.	12/06	Martin, Maria Sabrina	12/13
Addison, William	12/28	Griffin, Troy	12/27	Matthews, Cecilia	12/14
Aiden, Edna K.	12/21	Hagans, Angela R.	12/10	Matthews, Julia	12/10
Ash, Joan	12/28	Haney, Patricia	12/11	McCallum, Ellen	12/17
Ayres, Sabrina M.	12/21	Harper, Lucille	12/05	McMorris, Ethan J.	12/16
Barnes, Harold E.	12/28	Harris, Natasha	12/27	Morgan, Philip H.	12/25
Berry, Rochelle	12/14	Harris, Shelia M.	12/06	Morris, Charles S.	12/03
Bert, Sr. Henry F.	12/31	Harris, Wynton	12/04	Myers, Karen	12/15
Bevans, Irma	12/24	Hazelton, Jerome	12/17	Newby, Yvonne	12/27
Blackstone, Maria	12/09	Hazelton, Latacha	12/17	Obiazor, Charles	12/05
Bonaparte, Josuah	12/02	Henry, Lois C.	12/19	Pack, Kevin	12/17
Booth, Gail	12/22	Hill, Bryant	12/29	Patterson, Erica	12/28
Bostic, Erica S.	12/11	Hill, Morgan	12/29	Pierce, Thomas Clifton	12/07
Branch, Brenda	12/25	Holzendorf, Morro	12/26	Pinder, Shanea	12/21
Briscoe, Katrina	12/08	Howard, Christopher	12/01	Ragsdale, Delvin K.	12/01
Branch, Brenda	12/28	Howard, Nickkola	12/28	Robinson, Jeanne L.	12/25
Brown, Ernestine	12/24	Hurt Avent, Constance	12/29	Rollins, Janelle D.	12/15
Brown, Rochelle	12/28	Jackson, Chiquita C.	12/18	Rollins-Davis, Sandra	12/31
Brown, Roslyn	12/03	Jacobs, Martha E.	12/10	Russell, Charles	12/15
Butler, Brian P.	12/24	Johnson, Fred M.	12/24	Scott, Danielle	12/14
Butler, Kevin M.	12/07	Johnson, Ja'ber	12/03	Scott, Tiffany	12/03
Butler, Robert M.	12/11	Johnson, Jessica	12/01	Shorter, Gertrude	12/05
Cole, Jamal	12/20	Johnson, Langston	12/12	Smith, Timothy Darryl	12/11
Coleman, Dorothy	12/02	Johnson, Lauren	12/12	Stovall, Jr. Calvin F.	12/07
Coleman, Gary J.	12/13	Jones, Antoinette	12/30	Tangwa, Mariana	12/25
Coleman, Dorothy	12/14	Jones, Carroll W.	12/14	Taylor, Keyon	12/26
Coleman, Gary J.	12/17	Jones, Don	12/10	Taylor, Marilyn	12/04
Coleman, Tyrone R.	12/05	Kane, Margaret D.	12/01	Tennessee, Cashmere	12/20
Crosby, Dominic	12/15	Kane, Margaret L.	12/26	Thames, Karinthia D.	12/28
Dandridge, Russell E.	12/19	Kane, Marie	12/24	Thomas, Megeen	12/05
Davis, Ashley N.	12/24	Kane, Shawn R.	12/30	Thomas, Nikia	12/06
Davis, Esther	12/09	Kearney, Kristin M.	12/03	Thompson, Garry	12/18
Davis, Sean	12/26	Kellam, Celestine M.	12/17	Uche, Linda	12/01
Davis, Sierra	12/27	Lang, Alois H.	12/09	Uche, Priscila	12/13
Distance, Winnie L.	12/04	Leach, Doris I.	12/09	Vick, Russell	12/06
Douglas, Cynthia	12/16	Lewis, Gary	12/16	Washington, Kathy	12/27
Fair, Anissa	12/13	Lewis, Ronald	12/03	Wesson, Catherine	12/28
Floyd, Maurice	12/17	Lewis, Ronald	12/03	Williams, Antionette	12/06
Floyd, Renee	12/22	Mack, Antionette	12/03		
Forde, Marion M.	12/20	Mackall, Vanessa K.	12/14		

Happy
Birthday 

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

December 4 , 2016

Rhonda Acree
Dorothy Bennett
Avonda Barnes
Nina Bonaparte
Katrina Joyner-Briscoe
Alfred Brown Sr.
Hattie Brown
Garland Burley
Harry Butler
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
Helen Singleton
Vickie Smith
Wanda Smith
Andrew Tackett
Paul Thaniel
Ann Walkier
Peggy Williams

**ST. FRANCIS XAVIERS PARISHIONERS CELEBRATING WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
DURING DECEMBER, SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS!**

Troy & Katrina Briscoe	12/30
Alfred & Roslyn Brown	12/05
Samuel & Vivian Butler	12/28
Dennis & Margaret Kane	12/12
Williams & Denise Richards	12/30