

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

Watch and be ready - the day of the Lord's coming draws near

Why did Jesus compare "the coming of the Son of Man" with the "days of Noah" (Matthew 24:37)? Scripture describes both events as a day of judgment and the separation of the just from the unjust. It is a time when the Lord of heaven and earth gathers to himself those who are his own. Separation is an inevitable consequence of the fundamental choices people have made - whether for God or against God. The fundamental choices we make can either lead us towards God and his will for us or they can lead us in a direction that is opposed to God or contrary to his wisdom and plan for our lives and well-being.

The days of Noah

The Book of Genesis describes why God chose to separate Noah and his family who were faithful to God from those who had utterly rejected God and corrupted the earth with violence and evil:

"The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5), "with corruption and violence spreading everywhere" (Genesis 6:11-12).

Why did so many perish when the Day of Judgment came? They were caught completely unaware and unprepared for the disaster that swept them away. The Lord Jesus warned his disciples and he issues the same warning to us today - be alert and be prepared to meet the Lord today and every day - and when he comes again to judge the living and the dead.

The ark of refuge

Just as God provided a safe haven and place of refuge for Noah and his family in the ark which spared them from destruction (Genesis 7), the Lord provides for us today a place of refuge in the ark of his people - the body of Christ - who listen to his word and obey his voice. God made a covenant of peace with Noah and his descendants (Genesis 9:8-17). Noah's ark was a prophetic sign and beacon of hope which prefigured the new covenant of everlasting peace which the Lord Jesus would accomplish through his atoning death on the cross, resurrection, and outpouring of the Holy Spirit on his disciples.

Jesus came to fulfill all the promises of God, including the covenant of peace which God made with Noah.

Stewardship Reflections

1 Peter 4:10

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God

Mass Intentions



Saturday

5:00 p.p. Happy repose for all of the deceased members of the Branham family, req. by Gracie Ferguson

Sunday

8:00 A.M. In memory of Katherine Brown and all deceased members of the sodality., req. by Ladies Sodality

11:00 A.M. People of the Parish

Tuesday

8:00 A.M. God's continued blessings on Regina Mello, req. by Dottie Mello

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. God's continued blessings on Mildred Lane, req. by Dottie Mello

Thursday

8:00 A.M. (1) Healing mercy for Rosalyn Jackson, and Lucretia Coates, req. by Dottie Mello

(2) For God's grace and mercy on my daughter's Jessica A. Johnson 34th Birthday, many blessings, req. by Her Family

Friday

8:00 A.M. God's continued blessings for my son and all the members of my family, req. by Darleen Thomas

Today's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5
Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14
Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

Next Weeks Reading

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10
Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9
Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12



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.	11/28/2016	Matthew 8:5-11
Tues.	11/29/2016	Luke 10:21-24
Wed.	11/30/2016	Matthew 4:18-22
Thurs.	12/01/2016	Matthew 7:21, 24-27
Fri.	12/02/2016	Matthew 9:27-31
Sat.	12/03/2016	Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a 6-8

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: HistoricFrancisXavier.org

Father Norvel, SSJ has written a Book

Fr. Norvel, SSJ-has written a book entitled "A Halleluiah Song-Memoirs of a Black Catholic Priest from Jim Crow South. If you are interested in ordering a copy the cost is \$15.00 plus shipping See the office.

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. 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.



Prayer Walk

Bishop Madden invites you to join him for a Prayer Walk on Tues. Nov. 29th at St. Cecilia Church, located at 3301 Windsor Ave. Baltimore. Time is 5:30 pm beginning with refreshments.



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 begins this Sunday. 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.



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

Sunday Nov. 27th First Sunday of Advent/Thanksgiving weekend

Sunday December 4th we encourage all families to participate at our annual

Homecoming

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

Saturday, December 24th Christmas's Mass

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 Your Prayers

All sick and shut-in parishioners of SFX

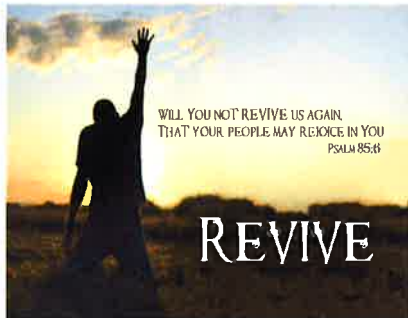
Mark your calendar:

Revival December 1, 2, 3 @ 6:30 p.m. each day.

Theme: "I Shall Return to My Father's House"

International Revivalist: Deacon Larry Oney, Director; Hope and Purpose Ministry Deacon Larry D. Oney is an ordained Catholic Deacon for the Archdiocese of New Orleans and president of Hope and Purpose Ministries, Deacon Oney is known for his anointed and powerful preaching.

Please note, our church family will be celebrating the feast of our patron saint St. Francis Xavier on December 3rd. In addition, this year Homecoming Celebration will take place on Sunday December 4th.



Homecoming December 4, 2016

The Homecoming Committee is seeking volunteers to help with the homecoming meals on Sunday December 4th. We are also in need of donations (monetary and food items). If interested, please contact; Lynette Richardson (410-802-3888), Gwen Williams (410-961-0727), Carmella Brown (410-327-6140).

*Thank you in advance,
The Homecoming Committee*

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.

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.


December 2016

Historic St. Francis Xavier Church

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

One Minute Meditations

St. Francis Xavier



St. Francis Xavier was born to a Spanish noble family. He taught in Paris where he met St. Ignatius of Loyola and joined the new Society of Jesus. In 1541, he was sent as a missionary to India and Japan. He tirelessly served the poor with joy. Although he yearned to spread the Gospel in China, he died en route but wasn't bitter or disappointed. He is called the "Apostle of Japan" and "Apostle of the Indies."

Living in the present

Sometimes, we get so bogged down by worries about the future or regrets of the past, we forget to live in the present. Instead of worrying about what you can't control, entrust those worries to God knowing that he will help you through them all. Trust that his grace is enough.

"Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has visited and brought redemption to his people"

(Luke 1:68).



Who was that baby in the manger?

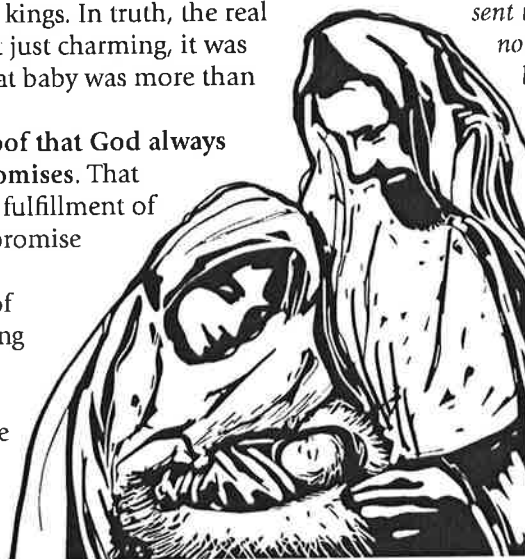
At this time of year, we tell a charming tale of a long ago journey on a donkey, a baby born in a cave, and a visit by kings. In truth, the real event was not just charming, it was awesome. That baby was more than a child ...

He was proof that God always keeps his promises. That baby was the fulfillment of an amazing promise made to generations of faithful assuring a savior to heal the rift created by the sin of our first parents. God spoke his word *"(a)nd the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son*

from the Father" (John 1:14). God always keeps his word. Trust him.

He was love in the flesh. *"For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him"* (John 3:17). Out of love for us, Jesus willingly took on the indignity of a human body and its frailty to share our nature. Love him back.

He is God. *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"* (John 1:1). God came to free us from sin and open the way to everlasting life. Follow him.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics celebrate Christ's birth on December 25th?

The Gospels do not identify a specific date for Jesus' birth. December 25 was chosen for several reasons, including that the date was close to the winter solstice.

The early Church attempted to replace existing pagan celebrations with Christian ones. Under



the Emperor Aurelian, December 25 was celebrated as the "birth of the unconquered sun." As Christianity became more widely practiced, the pagan celebration was replaced by Christmas to celebrate Christ's birth — the real "unconquered" light of the world.

'Tis the season to be jolly

Family dynamics can make holiday celebrations anything but jolly. Try these tips to make this your happiest holiday season:

Repeat, "It's not about me." Taking what others say or do personally makes you easy prey for someone trying for a reaction or looking for attention. Keep your power by choosing not to get offended.

Smile and nod. Arguing your point of view in heated discussions may feel momentarily satisfying but only serves to prolong tensions. Happy holidays come from smiling, nodding, and changing the subject.



Develop a bad memory. Reliving past hurts can make holidays miserable. Decide that this will be the year to forgive and forget.

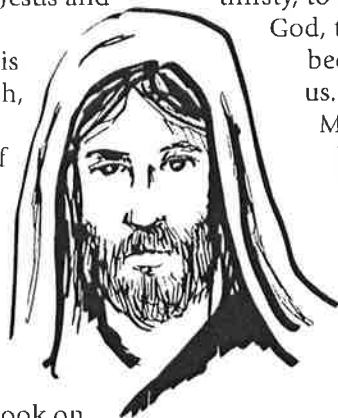
Get up. Stand up. The more we focus on irritations, the more they irritate. When feeling irked, take a break to fill your water glass, stretch your legs, or engage in a different conversation.

Have compassion. You can wish your family experience were different but trying to change others is pointless. Instead use compassion to find new ways of love during holiday gatherings.

from Scripture

John 1:1-18, Who Is Jesus?

On December 25 we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Just who is Jesus and what does he mean to us? John explained that Jesus is God's Word born into flesh, the Second Person of the Trinity. He is the source of life. Jesus enlightens us about God and his nature. To know Jesus is to know God because grace and truth come from God, through Christ to us.



At the same time Jesus took on our human nature. He lived as we live, experienced what we experience, and suffered what we suffer. He knows

what it's like to be hungry and thirsty, to be tired, to be tempted. God, the Son, understands us because he became like us.

Many who saw Jesus on Earth rejected him. They didn't recognize him as the Messiah. We each have to make a choice about Jesus. Do we choose Jesus as our Savior? Do we live our lives as if we are children of God? If our answers are "yes," then Jesus is the one to whom we turn for truth and grace.

Q & A Is the Immaculate Conception about Mary or Jesus?

The Immaculate Conception celebrates Mary's conception without Original Sin. It refers to our belief that Mary was



preserved from the stain of Original Sin at the moment of her conception in view of her role as Jesus' mother (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #491). On December 8,

1854, Pope Pius IX declared this truth infallibly.

Because she was not tainted by Original Sin, she could be completely filled with grace. In fact, at the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel calls her, "full of grace," (Luke 1:28). This grace enabled Mary to say "Yes" to the angel's invitation, and to continue saying "Yes" when faced with hardship and suffering, including standing at the foot of the Cross on Good Friday.

God did not preserve Mary from Original Sin simply because he favored her, but because she had been chosen from all eternity to be the mother of his Son. Her role as Jesus' mother was crucial to his mission of salvation. Her grace-filled "Yes" opened the way to Jesus' "Yes" on the Cross.

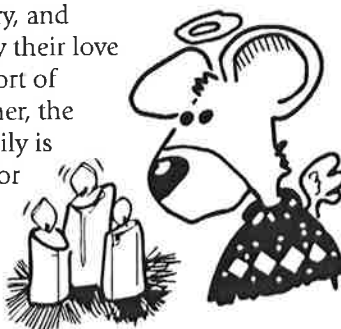
Feasts & Celebrations

Dec. 5 – St. Sabas (532). St. Sabas was born in (now) Turkey, and fled to a monastery to escape an abusive home. He became a hermit and moved to the desert. He attracted many followers, and formed a community. Though unwilling, he was ordained and eventually was named the superior of all hermits in Jerusalem. He died at the age of 93.

Dec. 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe (1531). The Blessed Mother appeared to St. Juan Diego, a Native American, and asked him to have the bishop of Mexico

build a chapel for her. She sent him with roses to the bishop as a sign. When St. Juan emptied the roses from his cloak, it retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

Dec. 30 – The Holy Family (1st century). On the feast of the Holy Family, we celebrate the family life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. By their love and support of one another, the Holy Family is a model for all Christian families.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

Success Publishing & Media, LLC
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<http://www.growinginfaith.com>

(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

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





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

October 30, 2016

Dear Circle Club Members and Friends:

You are invited to participate in a trip to Foxwoods Casino and Mohegan Sun Casino

- *Trip Date: March 22, 23, 24 (Wed, Thurs, Fri)*
- *We are using Whitestar Tours*

This package includes:

- *2 Nights Lodging at Great Cedar Hotel*
- *\$25.00 Food Credit*
- *\$20.00 Slot Play*
- *Shop at Tanger Outlets(Olde Mistick Village)*
- *Mohegan Sun Casino with Bonus*
- *Foxwoods Casino with Bonus*
- *Gift for allLuggage Handling*
- *All taxes and meal Gratuities*
- *Deluxe Motor coach Transportation*
- *Lodge at Great Ceasar Hotel, which sits atop one of the casino's liveliest game rooms. Shop in Olde Mistick Village and the new Tanger Outlets at Foxwoods. Spend an evening at the nearby Mohegan Sun for a different gaming experience.*

Trip Cost: \$300.00 Circle Club pp double Occupancy

325.00 Non Circle Club Members

Single Occupancy- \$419.00

Reservation deposit is \$50.00 due by Nov. 30, 2016

Balance due – February 15, 2017

St. Francis Xavier Church
Religious Education Program

November 14, 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to St. Francis Xavier Religious Education Program 2016-2017! Our mission in religious education is to collaborate with parents to form a new generation of Catholics who know and love Jesus Christ and live as his disciples in the community of the Catholic Church. We strive to offer a unified, solid, and engaging religious education program.

Our program consists of teaching the Catholic beliefs, prayers, sacred tradition, and most importantly, your child's faith and how it relates to their life. Throughout the year, we will be doing crafts, games, and activities to emphasize Bible stories and the Catholic Church. Parents will need to help their child study.

While our children and youth will receive important formation in the parish religious education program, the Church strongly encourages all parents to walk closely with their children as they grow in knowledge and practice of the Catholic faith. Information on religious education and sacramental preparation will be shared with students and parents via: emails, the parish bulletin, class communications, phone calls and letters from catechists and the Director of Religious Education.

Parents are encouraged to contact their child's catechist and/or the Director of Religious Education regarding the progress of their child in class. If there is a matter of serious concern, it will be brought to parental attention immediately. If you have any comments, questions or concerns, we ask that you bring them to the attention of your child's catechist and/or the Director of Religious Education.

The most important thing for any Catholic should be participating at Mass on Sunday, attending Mass is not optional. Attending Mass every Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation will be required for the reception of First Communion and Confirmation.

Attendance at religious education and sacramental preparation classes is very important for your child's spiritual and moral development. It is essential that your child attends class regularly and punctually in order to enter into a greater understanding and relationship with God. We ask that parents take great consideration in planning activities around scheduled class times. Absences should be limited to two per semester, unless health or family situations warrant otherwise.

If your child has three or more absences during the year, a determination will be made whether or not the child receives credit for the year. Punctuality is important, late arrivals are discouraged, as they are disruptive to class. Snacks are discouraged during class times due to disruptions, messiness, and food allergies.

In the event of inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances, classes may be cancelled. We will call and email as many parents as possible.

We will not have class on Sunday, November 27th Thanksgiving weekend. We encourage all families to participate at our annual Homecoming on Sunday December 4th, no class will be held that day.

Please feel free to contact me about any questions or concerns you may have. Any information that you can provide that can help us in better understanding your child and their needs is greatly appreciated. Feel free to come and visit our classrooms at any time. We love to have visitors. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Joslyn Alexander

Director of Religious Education

410 484-7937

jalexan108@aol.com