

# 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.*

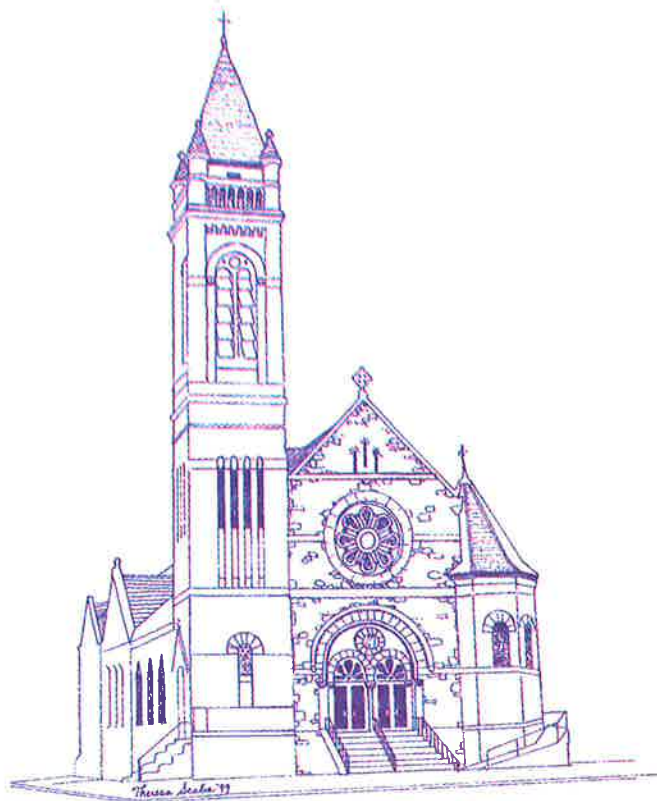
*Rev. Xavier Edet, S.S.J.,*

**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 - [www.HistoricFrancisXavier.org](http://www.HistoricFrancisXavier.org)

# REFLECTION

*"He will save his people from their sins"*

Do you hold on to the promises of God at all times, especially when you are faced with uncertainty or adversity? The prophet Isaiah spoke words of hope in a hopeless situation for Israel. When Ahaz, the apostate king of Judah and heir to the throne of David (735 B.C.) was surrounded by forces that threatened to destroy him and his people, God offered him a sign to reassure him that God would not abandon the promise he made to David and his descendants. King Ahaz, however, had lost hope in God and refused to ask for a sign of favor. God, nonetheless, gave a sign to assure his people that he would indeed give them a Savior who would rule with peace and righteousness (Isaiah 7:11ff). Like the prophet Isaiah we are called "in hope to believe against hope" (Romans 4:18) that God can and will fulfill all his promises.

**Mary was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit**  
Mary had to face an enormous challenge to her faith and trust in God and to the faith of her family and Joseph, the man she chose to marry. She was asked to assume a burden of tremendous responsibility. It had never been heard of before that a child could be born without a natural father. Mary was asked to accept this miraculous exception to the laws of nature. That required faith and trust in God and in his promises. Second, Mary was not yet married. Pregnancy outside of wedlock was not tolerated in those days. Mary was only espoused to Joseph, and such an engagement had to last for a whole year. She was asked to assume a great risk. She could have been rejected by Joseph, by her family, by all her own people. Mary knew that Joseph and her family would not understand without revelation from God. She nonetheless believed and trusted in God's promises.

**Joseph believed the angel's message "that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit"**  
Joseph, a just and God-fearing man, did not wish to embarrass or punish his espoused wife, Mary when he discovered that she was pregnant. To all appearances she had broken their solemn pledge to be faithful and chaste to one another. Joseph, no doubt took this troubling matter to God in prayer. He was not hasty to judge or to react with hurt and anger. God rewarded him not only with guidance and consolation, but with the divine assurance that he had indeed called Joseph to be the husband of Mary and to assume a mission that would require the utmost faith, confidence, and trust in Almighty God. Joseph believed in the divine message to take Mary as his wife and to accept the child in her womb as

**Stewardship Reflections** *Matthew 12:36*  
**"But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the Day of Judgment."**

## Mass Intentions

**Saturday**  
5:00 P.M. Healing mercies for Cecilia Johnson, req. by Her Family

**Sunday**  
8:00 A.M. People of the Parish  
  
11:00 A.M. (1) In Loving Memory of our dad Foster Burley on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of his death, req. by Darleen Thomas & Family  
(2) Healing mercies for Anita Wilson, req. by Mary Harmon

**Tuesday**  
8:00 A.M. God's continued blessings for all our Priests, req. by Rectory Staff

**Wednesday**  
10:00 A.M. Healing mercies for all the sick in the parish, req. by Rectory Staff

**Thursday**  
8:00 A.M. In Loving memory of my husband Joseph Mello and Anthony J. Mello, req. by Dottie Mello

**Friday**  
8:00 A.M. God's continued blessings for my son, req. by Darleen Thomas

## Today's Readings

**First Reading:** Isaiah 7:10-14  
**Second Reading:** Romans 1:1-7  
**Gospel:** Matthew 1:18-24

## Next Weeks Readings

**First Reading:** Isaiah 52:7-10  
**Second Reading:** Hebrews 1:1-6  
**Gospel:** John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14



## 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.	12/19/2016	Luke 1:5-25
Tues.	12/20/2016	Luke 1:26-38
Wed.	12/21/2016	Luke 1:39-45
Thurs.	12/22/2016	Luke 1:46-56
Fri.	12/23/2016	Luke 1:57-66
Sat.	12/24/2016	Luke 1:67-79

### Calendar dates for 2017

*All sheets for calendar dates should be in.*

### 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!*

*It is with great pleasure that we announce the awardees for the Mother Mary Lange Banquet:  
Leadership- Joshyn Brown Alexander  
Service: Michael Allen  
Youth: Candre Henry*

*Please support our recipients; the ticket cost is \$60.00 pp. Please reserve your tickets now. Your reservation depends on how many tables we will be assigned.*

*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.*



### *Christmas Holiday Mass Schedules*

*Christmas Eve Vigil- 5:00 P.m. (Families & Kids)  
Christmas Eve Midnight – 11:30 p.m. (Adults)  
Christmas Day - 10:00 a.m. (only)*

*New Year's Eve- 5:30 p.m.  
New Year's Day- 10:00 a.m.*



# Special Notices

## Advent

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.



## Religious Education: Important Dates

Tuesday December 20<sup>th</sup> 7: 00 pm Reconciliation Service. We encourage all families to attend.

Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

## November Finances:

Income: \$31,697.00

Expenses: 33,592.11

Deficit- \$1,895.11

Expenses this month included

Insurance

Salaries

BGE

Office Equipment Leasing

Office and church supplies

Candles

Books

Misc.

# 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.

## **Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!**

To everyone who generously donated their time, monetary gifts, food items, pictures, and other talents; We thank you! With your donations, the committee was able to send 125 snack baskets to the elders and sick and shut in. Special baskets were sent to our Priest who reside at the Manor and those sick family members who could not receive benefit of the snack baskets. Breakfast and Dinner was served to more than 350 family members and friends. We were also able to bless those at the Helping Up Mission.

A special word of thanks to the youth of our parish. The Ashanti, Squires and the Junior Catholic Daughters. You Rock!  
May God continue to Bless those that have blessed so many others with your generosity.

Sincerely,

The Home Coming Committee

## Angel Project

All Angel Project gifts should have been turned in by now. If you still have a gift outstanding, please see one of the Angel Project members to arrange a date to turn in your gift. Christmas is almost here and not having your precious gift will definitely be a disappointment to one of our children.

Thank you.

Joyce Logan

Renee Terry

Mary Watties

Janet Wiggins

Kim Grays

Suzonne Vickers

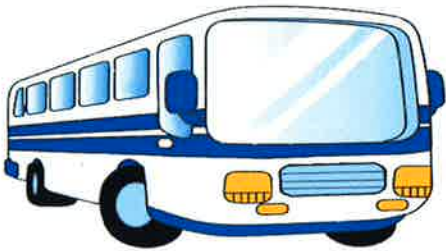
## SPECIAL NOTICE!

### **Please Keep In Your Prayers**

*All sick and shut-in parishioners of STX*

*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.*

*We are still accepting travelers for the Circle Club trip. Please share the information with friends and relatives; we need at least 10 more people to get the trip off.*



*Remember December 20<sup>th</sup> is the date for Penance Service. St Francis will be the host at 6:30p.m.*



*The Mother Lange Guild Board of Directors Cordially invite you to attend the Annual Liturgical Celebration commemorating the 135<sup>th</sup> 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*

## 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.*