

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

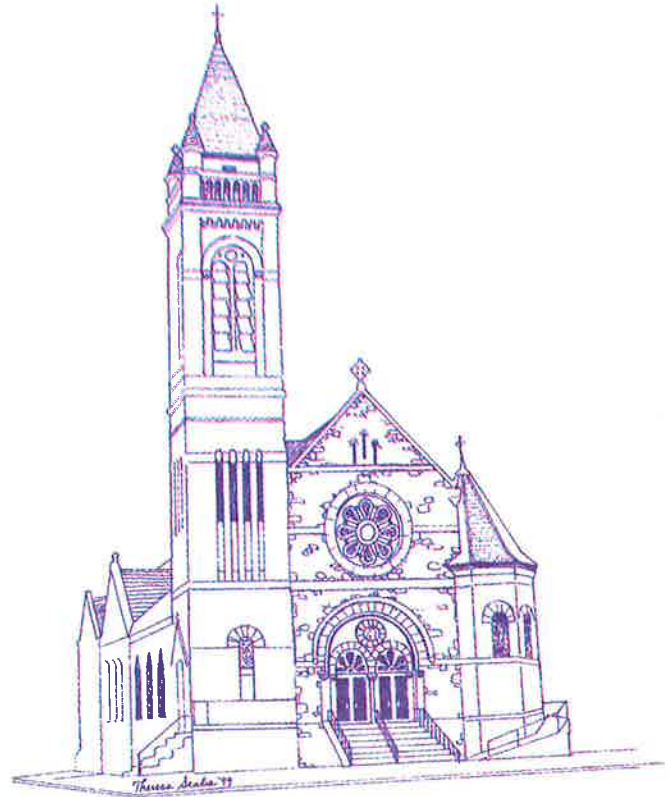
Funerals

*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

The shepherds glorified God for all they had seen

Have you read the news today - the "good news" of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and son of Mary who was born for us and for our salvation. The word gospel literally means good news! Jesus' birth in Bethlehem fulfilled the prophecy that the Messiah would descend from David and be born in David's city, Bethlehem (Isaiah 9:6-7, 11:1-2; Micah 5:2-4).

The first to hear the good news of the savior's birth were not the rulers and religious leaders of Israel who were robed in riches and power. The angels first came to those who were humble and ready to receive the newborn king who was born in poverty and was now lying in a manger made for animals. Just as God had chosen and anointed David, a lowly shepherd of Bethlehem to become the shepherd king of Israel, so Jesus likewise chose the path of humility and lowliness in coming to Israel as the good shepherd king who would lay down his life for their sake and salvation. After the angels had sung their hymn of glory in the presence of the shepherds, the shepherds made haste to adore the newborn king and sing their hymn of glory as well.

Many of the early church fathers have written hymns and homilies in praise of the Incarnation. John the Monk, an 8th century writer, in his Hymn of the Nativity, sings of the great exchange in the mystery and wonder of the Incarnation - God becoming man in order to bring man to heaven:

Heaven and earth are united today, for Christ is born! Today God has come upon earth, and humankind gone up to heaven. Today, for the sake of humankind, the invisible one is seen in the flesh. Therefore let us glorify him and cry aloud: glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace bestowed by your coming, Savior: glory to you! Today in Bethlehem, I hear the angels: glory to God in the highest! Glory to him whose good pleasure it was that there be peace on earth! The Virgin is now more spacious than the heavens. Light has shone on those in darkness, exalting the lowly who sing like the angels: Glory to God in the highest! Beholding him [Adam] who was in God's image and likeness fallen through transgression, Jesus bowed the heavens and came down, without change taking up his dwelling in a virgin womb, that he might refashion Adam fallen in corruption, and crying out: glory to your epiphany, my Savior and my God! [Stichera (hymn) of the Nativity of the Lord] Why was it necessary for the Word of God to become flesh?

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. Thank you God for your angel of mercy, req. by The Butler Family

Sunday

10:00 Merry Christmas and God's blessings to all our parishioners and their families., req. by Darleen Thomas

Tuesday

8:00 A.M. God's continued blessings for my family, req. by Jackie Hart

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. God's healing mercy for Vanda Chambers and Mary Wilson -Shoats

Thursday

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

Friday

8:00 A.M. Healing mercies for Dottie Mello and Darleen Thomas, Req. by Office Staff

Today's Readings

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

Next Weeks Readings

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27
Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7
Gospel: Luke 2:16-21



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.	12/26/2016	Matthew 10:17-22
Tues.	12/27/2016	John 20:1a, 2-8
Wed.	12/28/2016	Matthew 2:13-18
Thurs.	12/29/2016	Luke 2:22-35
Fri.	12/30/2016	Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
Sat.	12/31/2016	John 1:1-18

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: "HistoricFrancisXavier.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- Joslyn 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. Tickets are available now!!

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.



Holiday Mass Schedules

New Year's Eve- 5:30 p.m.

New Year's Day- 10:00 a.m.

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.

Special Notices

Important Notice:

Effective January 1, 2017 the top prize for the circle club will be \$500.00. Due to the reduced participation we can no longer provide the higher payoff. The remaining prizes will stay the same.

The circle club winner for the month of December were :

President: Jacquelyn Hart- # 48- \$1000.00
V. President: Mary Matthews # 53- \$100.00
Secretary: Andrew Tackett- # 101-\$100.00
Treasurer: Jeanne Edmonds # 59- \$100.00
1st Bonus: Arnetta Boyd # 12-\$50.00
2nd Bonus : Rhona Pack #69- \$25.00
3rd Bonus: Mary Harmon # 55- \$25.00

The Martin Luther King Mass in Harrisburg is January 15, 2017, it will begin at 12:15 p.m. A 55 passenger bus has been ordered to accommodate the Mass Choir for 8 hours with Gunther Bus Company 9:30am-5:30 p.m. If you are interested in traveling with the Choir , please contact Wy Chambers.



Happy New Year!

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

SPECIAL NOTICE!

Please Keep In Your Prayers
All sick and shut-in parishioners of SPA

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.



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



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.

January 2017

Historic St. Francis Xavier Church

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

One Minute Meditations

St. Genevieve

St. Genevieve was born in Nanterre near Paris in 422.

She became a nun at the age of 15 and moved to Paris, where she became known for her piety. When Attila the Hun marched on Paris, Genevieve convinced the inhabitants to pray and fast. Attila retreated, leaving Paris untouched. Again, when King Childeric occupied Paris, she crossed enemy lines to bring food to prisoners and convinced the king to release them. She is the patroness of Paris.



Hope in God

Even the saints experienced times when their faith in God's goodness was tested, yet they never gave up hope; they knew that whatever happened, God's unchanging love would see them through. When you feel disheartened, pray for God's grace and hope in him.

"I have told you this that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world" (John 16:33).



Resolve to have perfect faith

Imagine having complete confidence that God was with you in all things. Think how differently you would respond to troubles, temptations, or hardships. Worry would be obsolete. That's perfect faith and it is possible. Here's how.

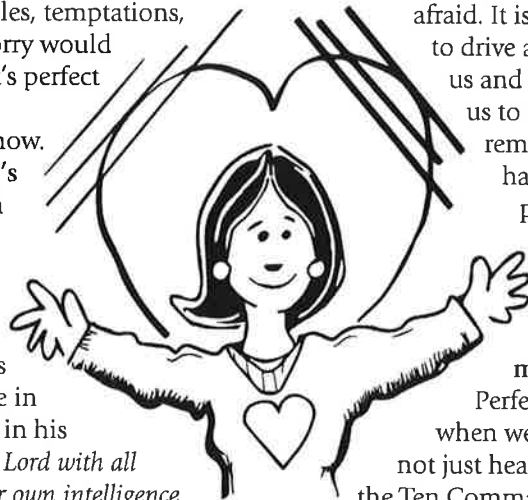
Believe in God's love. Perfect faith comes from believing that God loves you without limit or condition. God is love, so to believe in God is to believe in his love. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence do not rely"* (Proverbs 3:5). The key is to remember that God loves you and only wills your good.

Banish fear. *"There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear because fear*

has to do with punishment, and so one who fears is not yet perfect in love" (1 John 4:18). We were not created to be afraid. It is Satan who wishes to drive a wedge between us and God and tempts us to fear. When we remember that God has consistently proven himself to be faithful and dependable, only faith is left.

Practice makes perfect.

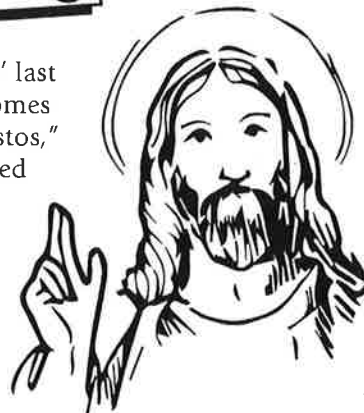
Perfect faith results when we live God's word, not just hear it. Adhering to the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes and the two Great Commandments (love God, love your neighbor), we notice God's hand in our lives and trust in him grows.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics call Jesus "Christ"?

"Christ" is not Jesus' last name, but a title. It comes from the Greek "Christos," which means "Anointed One." Ancient Jews enthroned their kings in a ceremony by anointing them with oil. This anointing distinguished the king as being the



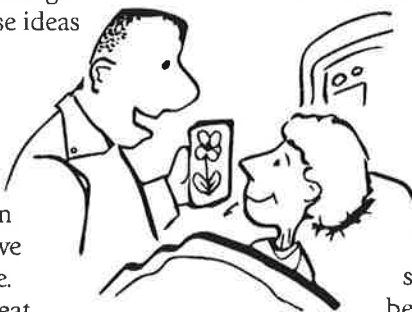
one chosen by God to deliver Israel from its enemies. So in calling Jesus "Christ," Christians affirm not only his Lordship over all creation, but also his mission as Savior and the promised Messiah of the Jews.

A kinder, gentler you

Kindness is contagious. A recent study found that witnessing an act of kindness produces good feelings and inspires imitation. In the new year, try these ideas to be kinder and inspire others to do the same.

Make connections. In days past, households weren't easily relocated, so neighbors were lifelong relations. That made solving disagreements necessary and important. What resulted was a supportive network to help when necessary. Make sure you are part of a supportive network of friends and family wherever you are.

Be interested, not interesting. Many of us treat



conversation like a competitive sport that gives points for the cleverest, loudest, and longest speaker. Interrupting, insisting, and entertaining are not conversing.

Instead, listening is a kindness that shows someone he is valued and understood.

Choose not to be offended. Being right is no compensation for broken friendships. If there is someone in your life who deliberately tries to offend you, walk away. Otherwise, look the other way when feeling slighted. Being kind is more rewarding than being right.

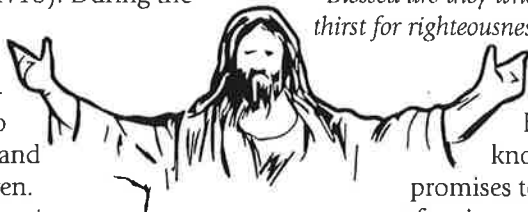
from Scripture

Matthew 5:1-12, paths to happiness

God wants us to be happy. When he created us, he put into our hearts the desire to be happy (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1718). During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave us the Beatitudes – guaranteed ways to obtain peace here and happiness in Heaven.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit ..." Recognize that we need God to compensate for our weakness. Depend upon his help.

"Blessed are they who mourn ..." God knows what you need even better than you do. Trust him to strengthen you and bring you comfort.



"Blessed are the meek ..." Jesus is meek and gentle. Imitate him and you will have everlasting peace.

"Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness ..." Peacefully accept whatever happens knowing that Jesus promises to give you courage to face it.

"Blessed are the merciful ..." Mercy is love in the face of sin and injury. If we show mercy, we are guaranteed mercy.

Perhaps the real secret to happiness is remembering that when we follow Jesus, there will always be a happy ending.

Q & A How do we make a good Confession?

Jesus knew that, even after Baptism, we would fall into sin, so he instituted the Sacrament of Confession. In confession,



we admit what we've done, apologize, and resolve not to do it again. In return, we receive absolution and the grace to fight against temptation. "His mercy is infinitely greater than our sins" (Pope Francis).

A good confession begins with a thorough examination of conscience. Using the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes as guides, reflect on instances when you have failed to love like Christ. Confess any mortal sins since your last confession and any venial (lighter) sins that you remember. For sin to be mortal, it must be serious, freely chosen, and committed knowing it was a sin.

After hearing your confession, the priest will ask you to make an Act of Contrition expressing sorrow for sins and a desire to change. He will give you absolution and assign you penance. Remember, God loves you dearly and he wants to forgive you; you need only ask for it.

Feasts & Celebrations

Jan. 1 – Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. Today, we honor Mary, but also Jesus as God. Today is a holy day of obligation. In their honor, attend Mass and pray a Rosary.

Jan. 7 – St. Raymond of Peñafort (1275). St. Raymond studied and taught canon (Church) law in Barcelona, and later joined the Dominican Order. He was called to Rome to work for Pope Gregory IX. He was appointed archbishop of Tarragona, Spain. He

retired after two years, only to be elected head of the Dominicans. He is the patron saint of lawyers.

Jan. 9 – Baptism of the Lord. Jesus began his public ministry by getting baptized by St. John the Baptist. Jesus was free of sin, but he allowed himself to be baptized in order to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). By his baptism, Jesus declared his willingness to fulfill God's saving plan. It is also at this time when God revealed Jesus as his "beloved Son" (Matthew 3:17).



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
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