

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

"They shall obtain joy and gladness"

Why did Jesus praise John the Baptist as the greatest person born of a woman and then in the same breath say that those who enter God's kingdom will be greater than John (Matthew 11:11)? John is the last and greatest of the prophets of the old covenant. He fulfilled the essential task of all the prophets - to be fingers pointing to Jesus Christ, God's Anointed Son and Messiah. John prepared the way for the Messiah and he pointed others to Jesus the Messiah at the River Jordan when he exclaimed, Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29)

John saw from a distant what Jesus would accomplish through his death on the cross - our redemption from bondage to sin and death and our adoption as sons and daughters of God and citizens of the kingdom of heaven. When King Herod tried to silence John by throwing him into prison, John sent his disciples to Jesus after John had heard the reports about Jesus performing signs and wonders and speaking to people about the coming of God's kingdom. John wanted his disciples to hear and see firsthand what Jesus was doing to bring the kingdom of God to those who were receptive and ready to receive his message.

Jesus the Messiah performs the signs of God's kingdom power Jesus confirmed for John that the miracles and healings which he performed were in direct fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies announced by Isaiah some 700 years previously. Isaiah had prophesied that when the Messiah would come to save his people he would "open the eyes of the blind and the ears of the deaf, the lame would leap and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy" (Isaiah 35:5). Jesus' miracles are a demonstration of the power of God's kingdom at work in the midst of his people. When God acts to save his people he turns their sorrow and weeping into joy and singing, and their fear and weakness into strength and hope.

The greatness of John's life and witness of the Messiah
When Jesus had answered the disciples of John; he in turn asked them a question. "Why did you go out in the wilderness to see John the Baptist?" "Did you go because you were hungry for the word of the Lord?" Jesus said that John was more than a spokesman for God. John was the faithful witness and friend of the bridegroom who pointed others to the coming of the Messiah in their midst. Jesus contrasted John with the image of a reed shaken by the wind.

Stewardship Reflections

Matthews 10:8

"Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give."

Mass Intentions



Saturday

5:00 P.M. (1) Happy Birthday to Doris Leach on occasion of her 90th Birthday, req. by her daughter and Family

(2) 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. Happy Birthday to Timothy Smith as he celebrates his 18th birthday., req. by his family

11:00 A.M. People of the Parish

Tuesday

8:00 A.M. Happy birthday to my granddaughter as she celebrates her 18th birthday, req. by Darleen Thomas

Wednesday

10:00 A.M. Loving Memory of my husband Joseph Mello and Anthony J. Mello

Thursday

8:00 A.M. In Loving Memory of our devoted father Grady. C. Hill on his 93rd Birthday, req. by Joyce H. Turnispseed and Family

Friday

8:00 A.M. God's continued blessings on our city and our new city officials, req. by Darleen Thomas

Today's Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:22-11

Next Weeks Reading

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24



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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.	12/12/2016	Luke 1:39-47
Tues.	12/13/2016	Matthew 21:28-32
Wed.	12/14/2016	Luke 7:186-23
Thurs.	12/15/2016	Luke 7:24-30
Fri.	12/16/2016	John 5:33-36
Sat.	12/17/2016	Matthew 1:1-17

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- 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.

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, 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 20th 7: 00 pm Reconciliation Service. We encourage all families to attend

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.

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.

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.

A Special Thank You

To all of the committees and volunteers that made our revival and homecoming a huge success. May God continue to bless each of you.



Thank You!

SPECIAL NOTICE!

Please Keep Your Prayers

All sick and shut-in parishioners of SFX

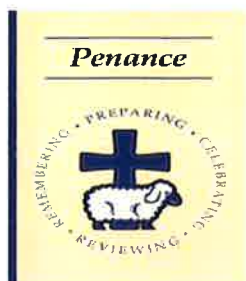
We are in the process of converting to a new database. If any of your information is showing up incorrectly on the birthday or anniversary list, please inform the office.

The circle club drawing will be on the third Sunday due to Christmas falling on the 4th Sunday, please get your cards in as soon as you receive them.

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 20th is the date for Penance Service . St Francis will be the host at 6:30p.m.



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:

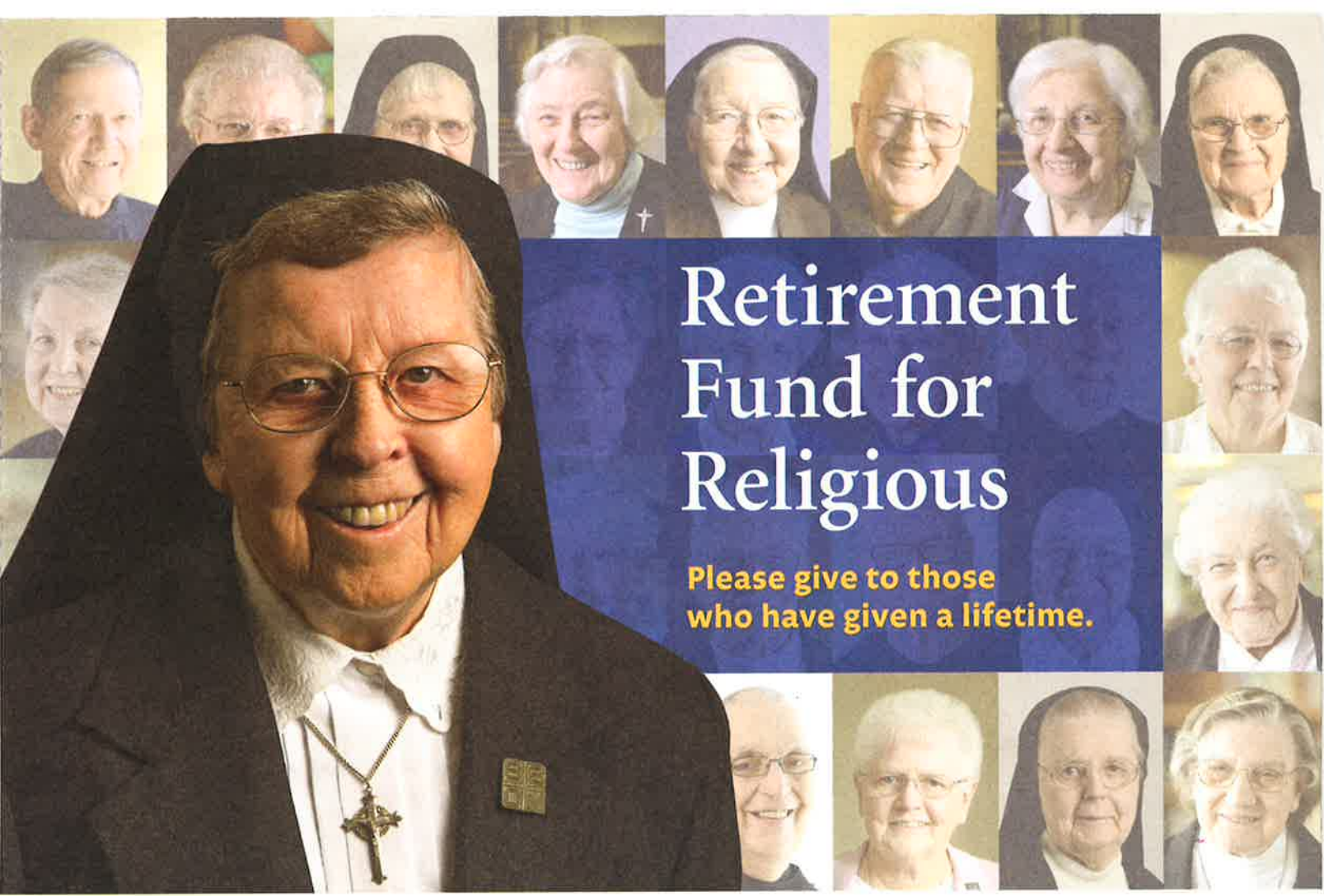
Name _____

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.



Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

“Be faithful to your prayer life and have a sense of humor,” says Sister Rita Polchin (*foreground*), a member of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, Pennsylvania. “That’s my advice for a long, happy life.” And, at age 87, she ought to know. Throughout nearly 70 years of religious life, this philosophy has served her well, especially as she ministered in Catholic schools. “One year I had a class of 54 students,” she recalls with a smile, “but they were all good!”

Like Sister Rita, the senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests shown here—and some 33,000 more across the nation—have offered their lives in service and prayer. They have educated the young, cared for the sick, and spoken for the oppressed. Many, including Sister Rita, continue to serve. Others need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide nursing care, medications, and other necessities. Please be generous.

Roughly 95 percent of donations aid senior religious.

www.retiredreligious.org

To give at your parish: Make your check payable to your parish. (Write RFR on the memo line.)

To donate by mail: Make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious. Please do not mail cash.

Please check with your employer about matching gifts.

Amount: \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

E-mail address (for e-newsletters) _____

(Arch)diocese _____

National Religious Retirement Office
 3211 Fourth Street NE
 Washington DC 20017-1194
 Telephone (202) 541-3215
 Fax (202) 541-3053

Printed on recycled paper, 30% post-consumer recycled fiber.

CASINO MAGIC *Connecticut*

"...Feelin' lucky? Here's a tour with plenty of gaming action!"



Featuring Lodging at Foxwoods Great Cedar Hotel

3 DAYS - 2 NIGHTS

MARCH 23 - 25, 2017

300 PP - Cruise Club

\$ 325⁰⁰ per person
double occupancy

408⁰⁰ - Single Room

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- * 2 Nights lodging at Great Cedar Hotel
- * 2 Breakfasts (w/casino vouchers)
- * 2 Dinners (w/casino vouchers)
- * Foxwoods Casino Bonus - \$20 Slot Play & \$35 Food Vouchers
- * Visit to Mohegan Sun Casino
- * Visit to Foxwood Tower Casino
- * Olde Mistick Village
- * Souvenir gift
- * Luggage handling
- * All taxes and meal gratuities
- * Motorcoach transportation

Cancellation insurance available upon request

FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Darlene Thomas

1501 E. Oliver St.

Baltimore, MD 21213

(410) 727-3103

