

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 4, 2024



4600 REED ROAD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77051-2857
Parish Office: 713.738.2311; Fax: 713.738.3337
CCE Office: 713.731.2775; SVdP Food Pantry: 713.731.2716
Parish Hall: 713.731.2725
WEB Address: <http://www.sfxhouston.com>
E-MAIL: stfrancishou@sfxhouston.com
Parish Office Hours: Tues-Wed 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Fri 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; Closed on Mon & Thur
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/StFrancisXavierCatholicChurchHouston> YouTube: St. Francis Xavier Houston

MISSION STATEMENT

We, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ as expressed in the beliefs and traditions of the Holy Roman Catholic Church. Through a passion for righteousness and consciousness of duty to God, we uphold the faithful worship of God in our mission to our church family and the Sunnyside Community.

PASTOR:

Vy. Rev. Michael Thompson, SSJ

DEACONS:

Michael V. Jenkins

Darryl K. Drenon

Frank J. Laugermann (Retired)

PARISH SECRETARY

Shirley M. Foreman.....x113

DIR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Unella Baber.....x103

ADULT FORMATION (RCIA)

Deacon Michael V. Jenkins

SVdP FOOD PANTRY

Curtis Jones 713.731.2716

CONTRIBUTIONS/MEMBERSHIP

Agnes Thompson

HALL MANAGER

Hilton S. Williams 713.542.0120

PLANT MANAGER/MAINTENANCE

Curtis Jones

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Sat: Vigil 5:00 p.m.

Sun: 7:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday: 7:00 a.m.

First Friday: 7:00 a.m.

Holy Days: 7:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

CONFESSIONS

One (1) hour before Weekend Masses or by appointment

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

First Friday: 7:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

CHOIR REHEARSALS:

Adult Choirs

Wednesdays: 6:30p.m.

Thursdays: 7:00p.m.

Youth Choir

4th Saturdays: 12:00 Noon

CHOIR DIRECTORS:

Jerry Givens 281.772.9276

Daniel Guerrero 281.723.9948

Mikayla Peugh

BIBLE STUDY/ADULT CATHECHISM:

SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

VISITATION OF THE SICK

Communion for the sick and shut-in is available. Please call the parish office to make arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please call the parish office for information. Preparation classes are required for parents and godparents. Classes are held on the 1st and 2nd Thursdays of the month from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Call the Parish Office to register for the class.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Please contact a priest a minimum of six months prior to your proposed wedding date.

WELCOME VISITORS/NEWCOMERS

To register, call or come by the parish office or visit our website at: www.sfxhouston.com

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MASS INTENTIONS		
SAT.	02/03/2024	5:00PM
<i>Hal Tracy Bobino (D) – Family & Friends</i>		
SUN.	02/04/2024	7:30AM
<i>People of the Parish</i>		
SUN.	02/04/2024	10:00AM
<i>Odelia Lazard Vallery (L)</i>		
<i>In Thanksgiving</i>		
MON.	02/05/2024	7:00AM
<i>Wesley Wiltz (D)</i>		
<i>Anna Ruth Wiltz & Family</i>		
TUE.	02/06/2024	7:00AM
<i>Betty Goodwin (L) – The Goodwin Family</i>		
WED.	02/07/2024	7:00AM
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)</i>		
<i>Family & Friends</i>		
THUR	02/08/2024	7:00AM
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)</i>		
<i>Family & Friends</i>		
FRI	02/09/2024	7:00AM
<i>Terrance Valaire (L) – Wanda Johnson</i>		
SAT	02/10/2024	5:00PM
<i>Joseph & Earlene Duplechaine (D)</i>		
<i>The Duplechaine Family</i>		



Donald Abraham, Dcn
 Alfred Abram, Akacyia
 Addison, Azielee Addison,
 Kayne Addison, Nathan
 Addison IV, Mary Clara Barras, Savannah
 Blackwell, Hazel S. Brown, Augustina
 Buckman, Amber Byas, Julius Cadoree,
 Margaret Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Sterling
 Certenberg, Dalton Cooper Jr, Frank
 Davis Sr, Rev. Henry Davis SSJ, Marlene
 Davis, Lois Epps, Lawrence Frank,
 Anthony Gobert, Betty Goodwin, Beulah
 Hadrick, Mary Hamilton, Mason
 Harrison, Alvin J. Hebert, Donald
 Henderson, Floyd Henderson, Anthony
 Hicks, Crystal Jackson, Freddy Jackson,
 Natalie Johnson, Brooke Joseph, Shirley
 Ann Joseph, Kennedy Family Members,
 JoAnn LaSane, Elon Lawdins, Roy Lee,
 Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, Jimmie
 Mack, Eugene Mallery, Charles Martin,
 Shannon Martin, Diane Miles, Dorothy
 Milstead, Cookie Mooring, Vy. Rev.
 William L. Norvel SSJ, Carolyn Ollison,
 Angela Pena, Cynethia Pichon, Percy
 Pichon Sr, Robin Pichon-Mosley,
 Catherine Pierre, Mildred Pierre, Marcelle
 Prevost, Melody Ratcliff, Elise
 Richmond, John & Christine Roberts,
 Wilson Robertson, Oliver Rose, Brian
 Russell, Grace Russell, Vy. Rev. Michael
 K. Saah-Buckman SSJ, Robert Salazar,
 Steven Singleton, Joyce Smith, Joyce
 Stagg, Jeanette Steptoe, Mackenzie
 Swanks, Kennedi Swanks, Erma Taylor,
 Craig Temple, Melvin Thomas, Gemma
 Walcott, Agnes Williams, Patricia
 Williams, Jamee Wilson, Jamie Wilson,
 Rockale Wilson, Terrell Wilson, Janice
 Woods, and all the sick and shut-in in our
 parish family. **Call the Parish Office
 when you and/or a family member are
 ill, in the hospital, or having surgery.
 After 30 days, please call the office to
 remain on this list.**

**Lord, we pray for all our current
 military service members who put
 their own lives on the line every day to
 protect our families and our members.**
Army: Barbara Baber, Sade Beck, Wadie
 Troy Butler, Patrick Clay Jr, Kalah A. Guidry,
 Kerry Hubbard, Kory Hubbard, LaTroy King,
 Gary Christian Robertson, Anthony Lamar
 Smith II, Jordan T. McCorkle, Essence L.
 Casteel
Navy: Alvin Balthazar, Debreanna Brown,
 Jermaine Ceaser, Kevin Crockett, Courtney
 Harris, Nia D. Hawkins, Xavier Henry,
 Randolph J. Navy III, Anthony N. Russell
Air Force: Roderick Jones, Joshua Creeks,
 Joffre Lander **Marines:** Reginald Ward

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN
 ORDINARY TIME**



There's nothing like listening to a passage from Job to bring a person down. What happens to the poor guy ranges from tragic to miserable, leaving him in the throes of despair. Still, he turns to God for mercy and healing, much as the people of Capernaum later looked to Jesus. Listening to the word of God today, may we renew our trust in the Lord in the face of illnesses and difficulties.

- READINGS FOR THE WEEK**
- **Sunday – February 4**
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Job 7:1-4, 6-7
 Psalm 147
 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23
 Mark 1:29-39
 - **Monday – February 5**
Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
 1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13
 Psalm 132:6-10
 Mark 6:53-56
 - **Tuesday – February 6**
Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30
 Psalm 84:3-5, 10-11
 Mark 7:1-13
 - **Wednesday – February 7**
 1 Kings 10:1-10
 Psalm 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40
 Mark 7:14-23
 - □ □ **Thursday – February 8**
Saint Jerome Emiliani, Saint Josephine Bakhita, Virgin
 1 Kings 11:4-13
 Psalm 106:3-4, 35-37, 40
 Mark 7:24-30
 - **Friday – February 9**
 1 Kings 11:29-32, 12-19
 Psalm 81:10-15
 Mark 7:31-37
 - **Saturday – February 10**
Saint Scholastica, Virgin
 1 Kings 12:26-32, 13:33-34
 Psalm 106:6-7, 19-22
 Mark 8:1-10

Lenten
 WORSHIP
 SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday – February 14
 Mass.....7:00am/6:00pm
 Communion Service with Ashes
 12:00pm (Noon)
Outdoor Stations of the Cross
(In the Prayer Garden-Weather Permitting)
 Every Friday during Lent
 5:30pm
Holy Week
Palm Sunday – March 24
Holy Thursday – March 28
 Mass6:00pm
 (No Morning Mass)
Good Friday – March 29
 Outdoor Stations..... 2:00pm
 Passion Play.....3:00pm
 Good Friday Service.....4:00pm
 (No Mass)
Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)
March 30
 Mass.....8:00pm
 (No 5:00pm Mass)
Easter Sunday - March 31
 Regular Mass Schedules
 7:30am and 10:00am



- Feb 5th6:00pm**
6th-10th Grades
- Feb 10rd9:30am**
Pre-K -5th Grades
Black History Program
- Feb 12th6:00pm**
6th-10th Grades
Black History Program
- Feb 17th and Feb 19th**
NO CCE CLASSES
- Feb 24th9:30am**
Pre-K -5th Grades
- Feb 26th6:00pm**
6th-10th Grades
- March 2nd**
NO CCE CLASSES
- March 4th6:00pm**
6th-10th Grades
- March 9th9:30am**
Pre-K -5th Grades



Travel with Fr. Thompson on a **Pilgrimage to Italy** on **Oct 13-21, 2024**. We will visit **Rome, Assisi, Milan, Tuscany, Florence** and **Venice**. The cost is **\$4,299.00**

which includes:

- Flights from anywhere in the United States and flights between countries as per your itinerary
- Daily Mass
- Airport Taxes, Security Fees & Fuel Surcharges
- Transfers as per itinerary
- Transportation with luxury bus
- 4 or 5 star hotels in downtown areas
- All breakfasts and all dinners. Wine Included with all dinners.
- All tips to driver, hotel, and tour guide
- Guided Tours and Tour Fees
- Luggage handling
- Single Supplement
- Passengers will never be expected to pay extra for anything

To register, please contact **(855) 842-8001** or **(508) 340-9370**. You can also register online at: www.proximotravel.com.




St. Josephine Bakhita | February 8

The story of St. Josephine Bakhita (1869-1947) is a story that many people taken into slavery have experienced. Born in the Darfur region of Sudan, she was kidnapped at the age of 8 and sold into slavery many times. As she passed from owner to owner, she experienced the moral and physical humiliations associated with slavery. It was only at the age of 13 that her suffering was alleviated after she was bought for the Italian Consul in Sudan. It was here that she was fortunate to receive kindness, respect, and peace from her new master. She was later handed over to the Canossian Sisters when she made the case that slavery had been outlawed in Italy for years. She was baptized and confirmed in the Catholic Church in 1890, where she took the name Josephine. She later entered the Institute of St. Magdalene of Canossa in 1893 and made her profession three years later. St. Josephine Bakhita's next 50 years were spent serving people through cooking, sewing, embroidery, and housekeeping. She was a source of encouragement and her constant smile won people's hearts, as did her humility and simplicity. Today she is known as the patron saint of victims of modern slavery and human trafficking.

FISH FRY!
Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2024

11:00am - 6:00pm
Call (713) 731-2725 to place your order.



DONATIONS ARE NEEDED
GREEN BEANS (gallon size)
WHOLE KERNAL CORN (gallon size)
CAKES (a day or two prior)
Monetary Donations are Welcome
We will do the shopping for you.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Did you know that Catholics can make an Act of Spiritual Communion?

When unable to receive Holy Communion, pray the prayer below:

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, Come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen

Stewardship Reflection

That – just as Jesus rose early to pray – we, too, may find time in our day to be with God and to receive strength and nourishment from Him. “Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed...He told them, ‘Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come.’” - Mark 1:35, 38 In today’s Gospel reading we see a perfect example of stewardship. Jesus gives His time to do all that God wishes - healing the sick and preaching. But before He begins, Jesus takes time to be alone with God in prayer. It is through prayer, spending time with God, that we are given the graces needed to do what He wishes us to do. Praying before acting is a great habit to develop.

The SFX Prison Ministry will meet in the Harris Center Auditorium on Wednesday, **February 7th**, at 6:00pm. Call **(713) 446-4279**, or email us for additional information: makeitbetter4us23@gmail.com



CELEBRATE
BLACK HISTORY
MONTH



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) February 4, 2024

They were all Amazed.

The excitement was great. So many were amazed. And their amazement at Jesus was not simply a form of curiosity. It was an amazement fueled by faith, which is why Jesus was able to perform so many miracles there. The people quickly realized that Jesus was the *One of Whom the prophets of old had spoken. He was the Messiah*, and the people gave Him their full attention.

Amazement! This is a good image for us to contemplate. As you think of the crowds and their unwavering desire to be near our Lord, consider your own desires pertaining to God. Do you regularly find yourself consumed with a desire to find our Lord, to be with Him, to listen to Him and to receive His grace and mercy? Or are you tempted to see Jesus and the practice of your faith as boring and uninteresting?

One of the unfortunate effects of modern technology is that we easily become fascinated by and intrigued with many superficial things. Perhaps it's the latest short video on a mobile app, or the latest episode of a favorite television series, or a new post by a friend on social media. There are many things today that compete for our attention, intrigue us, and even amaze us. The question we ask ourselves, is Jesus one of those things in your life?

In our modern world of constant stimulation and entertainment, we need to understand the difference between being amazed at the latest pop trends and being amazed by the grace and divine actions of our Lord. When we come face-to-face with the power of God in our lives, we will be Amazed in a way that fulfills and satisfies us on the deepest level. It will be a *spiritual amazement*, which is a gift of the Holy Spirit. And the satisfaction we receive from this form of amazement is transforming, deep and sustaining. But when we turn to lesser and more sensory "amazements" common within our world today, we will find that they last only for a moment, and we are quickly left dry and wanting for more. Our love of God is not an Instagram Reel, but a Real presence of the Spirit dwelling in us, Amazing us with Gods' grace.

We are challenged to Reflect, today, upon the people in today's Gospel who were so enthralled by Jesus that they continually sought Him out. Consider their excitement, their hope, and their genuine joy at their discovery of the Messiah. As you think about them, consider whether you share in their excitement about Jesus. If that excitement is lacking, we might need to recommit yourself to seeking out our Lord. And when you see that excitement present in your life, Rejoice, and give Glory to God for He is Truly Amazing.

Vy. Rev. Michael Thompson, SSJ



Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Office of the Cardinal

January 18, 2024

My brothers and sisters in Christ:

The theme for this year's Diocesan Services Fund (DSF) campaign is *We are the Lord's*. Taken from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans, this theme reminds us that despite our differences, despite our circumstances, and despite who and what the world tells us we are, we are first and foremost created in the image and likeness of God. We are constantly called back to Him.

DSF is a way in which we, as Catholic Christians, can live out these joys and these hopes as one Church. Your support of DSF allows 64 ministries in our local Church to flourish and to meet the needs of God's people in a way that no one parish can do on its own.

DSF-supported ministries serve the poor, the sick, and the forgotten. They help to strengthen and nurture our families and celebrate life from natural birth until natural death. They help prepare and support our seminarians, deacons, and priests who serve the Faithful of our local Church. And these ministries help to educate thousands of children each year, forming them in the Catholic Faith and preparing them for future success. YOU make these ministries possible.

In addition to supporting the ministries of the Archdiocese, DSF has a tangible benefit on your own parish community. This year:

- 75% of every dollar by which your parish exceeds its allotted DSF goal will be returned directly to your parish community;
- 50% of every gift made by a first-time giver to DSF will be returned directly to your parish community.

I invite you to join me in supporting the Diocesan Services Fund. You can make a safe and secure gift online at www.archgh.org/dsf.

No matter the size of your gift, every dollar goes a long way in helping us all live out a more authentically Christian life. Above all else, I ask that you pray for our local Church, for those engaged in ministry, and those who receive the healing of Christ through the work you support.

Be assured of my prayers for the abundant blessings of God on you and your loved ones. I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Daniel Cardinal DiNardo

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
Archbishop of Galveston-Houston



138 Junior Knights and Junior Daughters of
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SUPER BOWL Fundraiser

FEBRUARY 11, 2024



\$15.00

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St. Francis Xavier Parish Hall

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Thank you for your continuous support!!!





*Songs of Our Hearts
Meditations of Our Souls*
*A Lenten Morning of Reflection in
the African American Catholic Tradition*

Featuring the Catholic African American Ministry Choir
Program will be followed by a light brunch

Saturday, February 17
9:30am - noon

St. Mary of the Purification Catholic Church
3006 Rosedale | Houston, TX 77004

*Sponsored by The Archdiocesan Offices of the Vicar for Catholics of African Descent,
Evangelization & Catechesis, and Adolescent Catechesis & Evangelization*

The Catechetical Offices of the Archdiocese of Galveston Houston in partnership with the Office of Vicar for Catholics of African Descent invite you to attend "Songs of Our Hearts, Meditations of Our Souls", a Lenten morning of prayer in the African American Catholic tradition.

Join us **Saturday, February 17 from 9:30-noon** at St. Mary of the Purification Catholic Church in Houston's historic Third Ward for a morning of music, reflection, formation and fellowship. Our program will be followed by a light brunch from 11:30-noon.

Questions? Please contact Amy Auzenne, OEC Director at aauzenne@archgh.org

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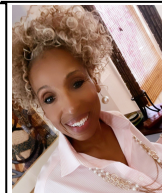


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