

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 21, 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., 12:15pm

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.	01/20/2024	5:00PM
<i>Earlene & Joseph Duplechaine (D)</i> The Duplechaine Family		
SUN.	01/21/2024	7:30AM
<i>Ezzard Sam (D) – Lydia & Roger Sam</i>		
SUN.	01/21/2024	10:00AM
<i>Julian Rose Forté (D) – Wesley Forté</i>		
SUN.	01/21/2024	12:15PM
<i>People of the Parish</i>		
MON.	1/22/2024	7:00AM
<i>Luis Gomez (D) – Tywana Navy</i>		
TUE.	1/23/2024	7:00AM
<i>Louis McChristian (D)</i> Florence & Wanda		
WED.	1/24/2024	7:00AM
<i>Provost Family (L) – Provost Family</i>		
THUR	1/25/2024	7:00AM
<i>Wonder Victoria Hamilton (D)</i> Tywana Navy		
FRI	1/26/2024	7:00AM
<i>Andrew Onochie Nwokobia (D)</i> The Nwokobia Family		
SAT	1/27/2024	5:00PM
<i>People of the Parish</i>		



Please Pray for...
 Donald Abraham, Dcn
 Alfred Abram, Akaycia
 Addison, Azielee Addison,
 Kayne Addison, Nathan
 Addison IV, 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, Barbara Forte, Lawrence Frank,
 Anthony Gobert, Betty Goodwin, Angela
 Levine Green, Beulah Hadrick, Mary
 Hamilton, Mason Harrison, Alvin J.
 Hebert, Donald Henderson, Anthony
 Hicks, Crystal Jackson, Freddy Jackson,
 Natalie Johnson, Brooke Joseph, Shirley
 Ann Joseph, Kennedy Family Members,
 JoAnn LaSane, Freda 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, Steven Singleton,
 Joyce Smith, Joyce Stagg, Jeanette
 Steptoe, Mackenzie Swanks, Kennedi
 Swanks, Erma Taylor, 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. **Let us Know:**
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

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



In the first reading we hear today, God sends Jonah to the huge city of Nineveh, where he warns of God’s wrath and calls for repentance. In the Gospel, Jesus comes to Galilee calling for repentance as well. He proceeds to call his first disciples, promising that he would change their lives. They follow immediately, much as the residents of Nineveh turned toward the LORD immediately. As Paul reminds the Corinthians, “time is running out.” Let us realize the urgency with which we’re called to repent and follow the Lord.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday – January 21**
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Jonah 3:1-5, 10
 Psalm 25:4-9
 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
 Mark 1:14-20
- **Monday – January 22**
 2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10
 Psalm 89:20-22, 25-26
 Mark 3:22-30
- ■ **Tuesday – January 23**
Saint Vincent, Deacon, Martyr
 2 Samuel 6:12-15, 17-19
 Psalm 24:7-10
 Mark 3:31-35
- **Wednesday – January 24**
Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor of the Church
 2 Samuel 7:4-17
 Psalm 89:4-5, 27-30
 Mark 4:1-20
- **Thursday – January 25**
The Conversion of Saint Paul, The Apostle
 Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22
 Psalm 117:1-2
 Mark 16:15-18
- **Friday – January 26**
Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishop
 2 Timothy 1:1-8 or Titus 1:1-5
 Psalm 96:1-3, 7-8, 10
 Mark 4:26-34
- ■ ■ **Saturday – January 27**
Saint Angela Merici, Virgin
 2 Samuel 12:1-7, 10-17
 Psalm 51:12-17
 Mark 4:35-41

MASS SCHEDULE CHANGE!
 Please note that we will discontinue the 12:15pm Mass beginning Sunday, February 4, 2024.



GILBERT XAVIER JOSEPH
1941 - 2024



Jan 22nd6:00pm
 6th-10th Grades
 Jan 27th9:30am
 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.



The SFX Prison Ministry will meet in the Harris Center Auditorium on Wednesday, **January 24th**, at 6:00pm. Call (713) 446-4279, or email us for additional information: makeitbetter4us23@gmail.com

ATTENDANCE

In-person Mass attendance on Saturday, January 13th and Sunday, January 14th was **384** and the 7:30am Sunday Mass Livestream received **72** views. Please join us via YouTube Livestream, or bring a friend to come worship with us in the church.



Kelly M. Batiste passed away on January 14th. Kelly is the Niece of Liz & Joseph Orphe'. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on January 27th at Notre Dame Church in St. Martinville, LA. Eternal Rest unto her soul.

GARAGE



Most clothing items \$2.00

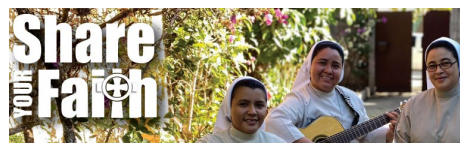
10am-5pm
January 27-28

St. Philip Neri Catholic Church

Eat in= \$10.00

Gumbo for sale

Take Out = \$12.00



NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION

Next week we will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America. For many in Latin America and the Caribbean, a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers all present obstacles to practicing the faith. Your support for the collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our Catholic faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ. To learn more about how your gifts make a difference, visit www.usccb.org/latin-america.

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 we may hear Jesus' personal invitation to "Follow Him" and respond by generously sharing all our gifts. "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." - Mark 1:17 Jesus' call to "follow me" is a call to all Christians! The call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are "ready" or have everything in order. Good stewardship of our God-given gifts means that things aren't always going to go according to our schedule, but that God has a much better plan in store for each of us.



If you will need a copy of your 2023 contribution statement for tax purposes, please call the Parish Office at (713) 738-2311. Statements will be sent only upon request.

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Stewardship Intention Card



God has blessed us with another New Year! We thank you for your investment in your parish of St. Francis Xavier. You are invited to commit to giving tithes and offerings by completing a **Call to Stewardship Intention Card**. These cards were mailed in your January Envelope packet. If you do not receive envelopes, we have cards in the vestibule of the church and the Parish Office. This year we would like to also remind you that you may consider increasing your investment if you are not giving 10 percent of your net income. We never want you to go without, so this is just a reminder. Also, here at St. Francis Xavier, there are multiple ways to give. We can help you support your parish with Online Giving, the Text-to-Give Program, and of course you may continue using your monthly envelopes.



Come After Me

Deacon Darryl K. Drenon

Happy Sunday! In today's Gospel reading, what was it about the invitation to "Come after me" that caused an immediate 'yes' by Simon, Andrew, James, and John? They did not ask where they were going. They did not go home to pack a bag. Surprisingly to me, James and John's father did not object to being abandoned by his sons. Without question or further thought, they surrendered everything to follow a man known to them as the son of a carpenter. Why?

St. Ignatius would call Simon, Andrew, James, and John's immediate choice an election of the first kind. "When God our Lord so moves and attracts the will that without doubting or being able to doubt, such a dedicated soul follows what is shown, just as St. Paul and St. Matthew did when they followed Christ the Lord". An election of the first kind looks spontaneous, but without some prior event(s) to stir an awakening of the soul; we cannot hear our call. What had prepared the future disciples to respond?

Brothers and sisters, amid the drudgery of life and the struggle to survive under Roman oppression, the Jewish people must have heard hope in the teachings of John the Baptist. While mending their nets, the fishermen might have wondered about John's exhortation, "The Kingdom of God is near." To ease the pain of life's uncertainties, perhaps they shared their dreams about what it would be like living in God's kingdom. Maybe they prayed for the coming of that kingdom. In any event, they were ready and longing for an invitation the day Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee. Jesus' words filled the emptiness in their souls, melting away doubts or the ability to doubt the carpenter. Would we accept a carpenter's invitation?

The invitation to "Come after me" happens every day. Unlike the fisherman responding to the carpenter, we know a call from Jesus is a call from the Son of God. God longs for us to articulate the hopes and dreams residing in the deepest recesses of our soul and then listen for our invitation. Where might God's invitation take us?

God invites us to move into a deeper relationship that includes the promise that God will never abandon us. The invitation does not end the uncertainty or hardships of life, but as our trust grows, so does our ability to see God in all things and accept the world as it is – we become more of our true selves. We grow into a person that is ready to set the world on fire. How might we prepare for God's invitation?

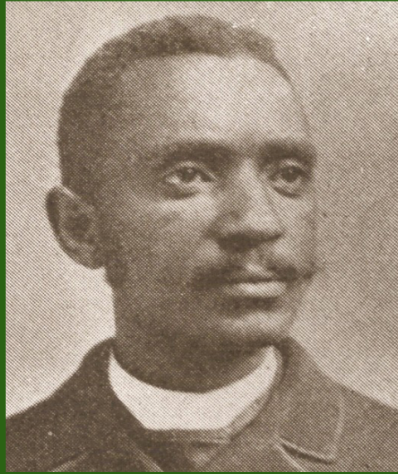
We could...sit quietly with God, examine the depths of our soul, and lift to God our deep longings.

"Your ways, O Lord, make known to me, teach me your paths, guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior" (Psalm 25: 4-5)

Can your students identify these Catholic leaders who fought against the sin of racism?



*Society of St. Joseph
of the Sacred Heart (Josephites)*



Daniel Rudd



Sr. Mary Ebo, FSM

What our students don't know about Black Catholic History

(and why it's important that we teach them)

A virtual workshop for religious educators & catechetical leaders

Thursday, February 1 | 10am-noon | Via Zoom

How can learning about the Communion of Saints, help students understand the gifts of diversity and unity in the Body of Christ?

How can learning about the lives of African & African American saints and blessed help students grow in holiness?



Presenter: Kaye Crawford, Th.M

Founder & Director, BlackCatholicHistory.com

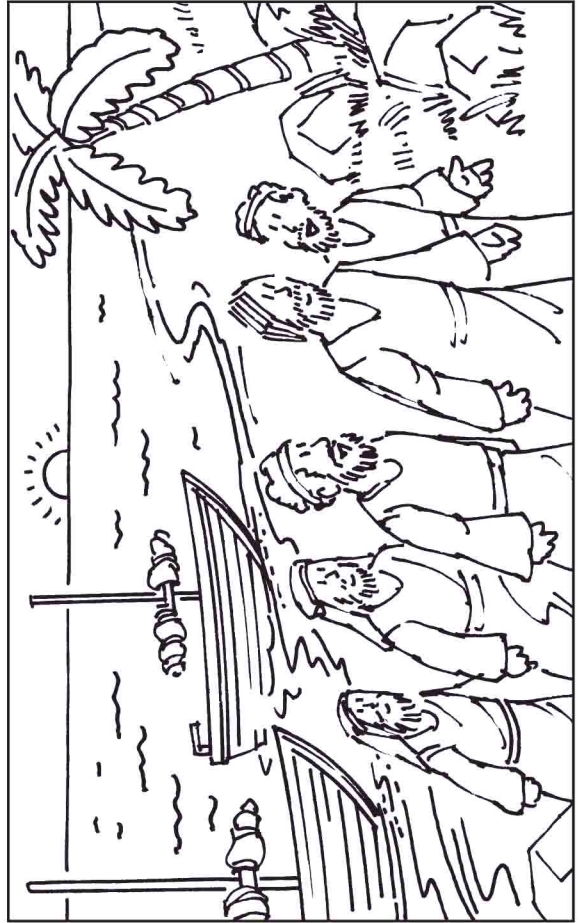
Ms. Crawford holds a Masters of Theology from Xavier University of Louisiana; she also served on the NCEA Advisory Committee on Racial Justice and the Diocese of Austin Black Catholic Advisory Committee.



Click here to register <https://email-mg.flocknote.com>

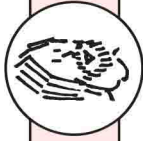
At once, they all left their boats and followed Jesus.

Circle 6 differences in the bottom picture.

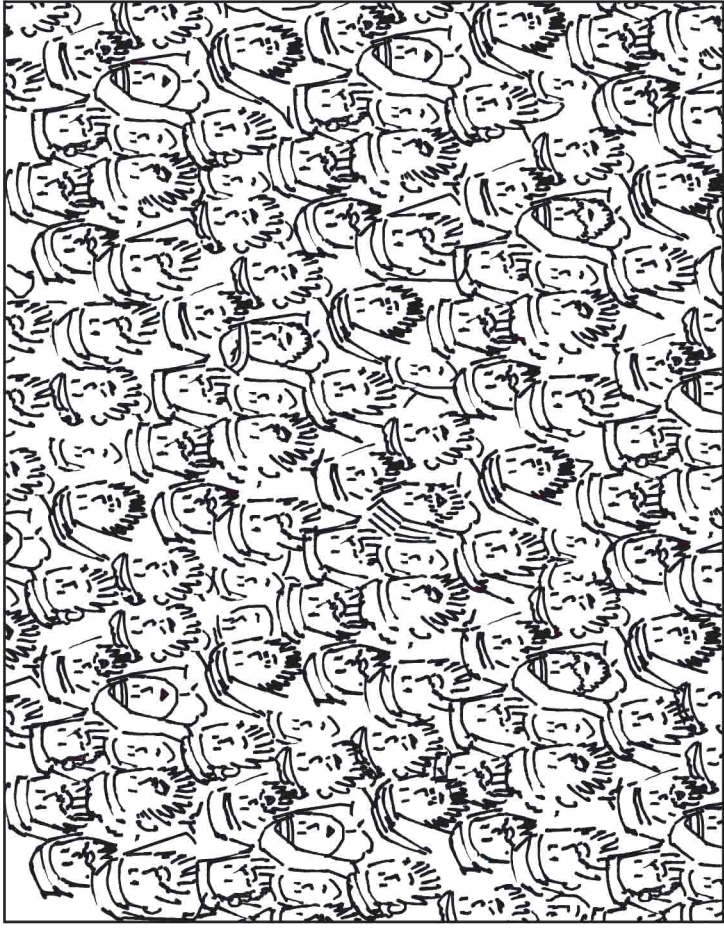


The Calling of the 1st Disciples

Jesus came to Galilee telling about God.



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