

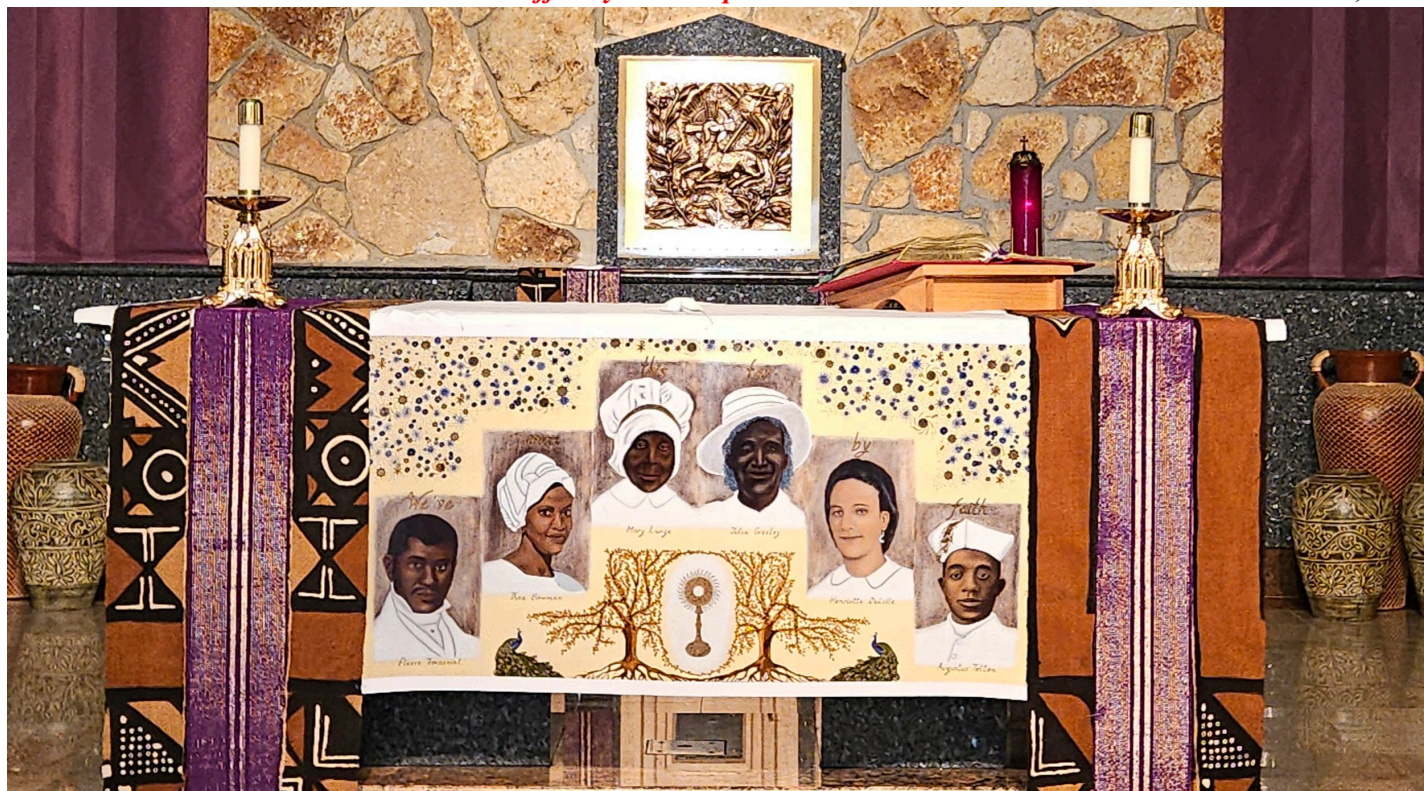
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Staffed by the Josephites since 1952

MARCH 3, 2024



4600 REED ROAD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77051-2857
Parish Office: 713.738.2311 Fax: 713.738.3337
Emergency Contact: 409.963.5633 CCE: 713.731.2775
Parish Hall: 713.731.2725 SVdP Food Pantry: 713.731.2716
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

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MASS INTENTIONS		
SAT	03/02/2024	5:00PM
<i>Wesley Wiltz (D)</i>		
Anna R. Wiltz & Family		
SUN.	03/03/2024	7:30AM
<i>People of the Parish</i>		
SUN.	03/03/2024	10:00AM
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)-Family & Friends</i>		
MON.	03/04/2024	7:00AM
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)-Family & Friends</i>		
TUE.	03/05/2024	7:00AM
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)-Family & Friends</i>		
WED.	03/06/2024	7:00AM
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)-Family & Friends</i>		
THUR	03/07/2024	7:00AM
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)-Family & Friends</i>		
FRI	03/08/2024	7:00AM
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)-Family & Friends</i>		
SAT	03/09/2024	5:00PM
<i>Deceased Family Members</i>		
Wanda Johnson		



Please Pray for... Donald Abraham, Dcn Alfred Abram, Felicia Baul, Hattie Blackmon, Savannah Blackwell, Hazel S. Brown, Kenyatta Brown, Michael Brown, Robert Brown, Augustina Buckman, Tommy Burton, Amber Byas, Julius Cadoree, Margaret Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Nathaniel Campbell, Sterling Certenberg, Dalton Cooper Jr, Foley Davis, Frank Davis Sr, Rev. Henry Davis SSJ, Judy Davis, Marlene Davis, Lois Epps, Allison & Stanley Eskine, Barbara Forte, Lawrence Frank, Anthony Gobert, Betty Goodwin, Tristian Gore, Rose Guidry, Alexander Guillory Jr, Angel Guillory, Geraldine Guillory, Beulah Hadrick, Alvin J. Hebert, Donald Henderson, Brooke Joseph, Gregory Joseph, Shirley Ann Joseph, Kennedy Family Members, Ann & Leo Kennerson, JoAnn LaSane, Roy Lee, Hilary Ledet, Dcn Edward Levine, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, Jimmie Mack, Eugene Mallery, Charles Martin, Shannon Martin, Mary Matthews, Diane Miles, Dorothy Milstead, Bahattin Mizrak, Cookie Mooring, Yusuf Muwwakkil, Vy. Rev. William L. Norvel SSJ, Carolyn Ollison, Cynethia Pichon, Percy Pichon Sr, Robin Pichon-Mosley, Catherine Pierre, Mildred Pierre, Marcelle Prevost, Melody Ratcliff, Elise Richmond, Wilson Robertson, Oliver Rose, Brian Russell, Grace Russell, Vy. Rev. Michael K. Saah-Buckman SSJ, Lillie Sims, Joyce Smith, Joyce Stagg, James Stelly, Jeanette Steptoe, Mackenzie Swanks, Kennedi Swanks, Erma Taylor, Melvin Thomas, Gemma Walcott, Agnes Williams, Patricia Williams, Jamee Wilson, Jamie Wilson, Rockale Wilson, Janice Woods, Gail Young, 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.

Lord, we pray for all our current military service 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 OF LENT

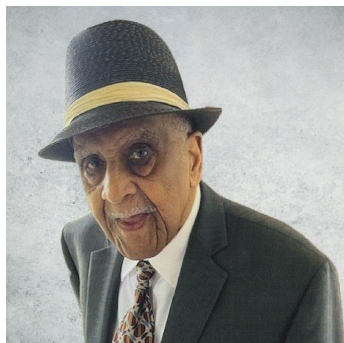
Water brings life. In the Sinai Desert, God provided water to a people crying out in thirst, convincing them that God was truly in their midst. Saint Paul speaks of the love of God being poured out into the hearts of the faithful. In the Gospel, Jesus promises living water to the woman of Samaria who comes to Jacob's well for ordinary water. During our journey through this Lenten desert, may our spiritual thirst be quenched by Christ's endless wellspring of living water.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday – March 3**
3rd Sunday of Lent
 Exodus 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17
 Psalm 19:8-11
 1 Corinthians 1:22-25
 John 2:13-25
- **Monday – March 4**
Saint Casimir
 2 Kings 5:1-15
 Psalm 42:2-3; 43:3-4
 Luke 4:24-30
- **Tuesday – March 5**
 Daniel 3:25, 34-43
 Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
 Matthew 18:21-35
- **Wednesday – March 6**
 Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9
 Psalm 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20
 Matthew 5:17-19
- **Thursday – March 7**
Saints Perpetua and Felicity
 Jeremiah 7:23-28
 Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9
 Luke 11:14-23
- **Friday – March 8**
Saint John of God, Religious
 Hosea 14:2-10
 Psalm 81:6-11, 14, 17
 Mark 12:28-34
- **Saturday – March 9**
Saint Frances of Rome, Religious
 Hosea 6:1-6
 Psalm 51:3-4, 18-21
 Luke 18:9-14



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Cornelia Pickney passed away on February 25, 2024, at the age of 67. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on March 9, 2024 at 10:00am. Eternal Rest Grant unto her soul.



Mar 4th6:00pm
 6th-10th Grades
Mar 9th9:30am
 Pre-K – 5th Grades
Mar 11th & Mar 16th
 NO CCE CLASSES-Spring Break



**CONFIRMATION RETREAT
 JANUARY 27, 2024**

Pictured (L-R): Unella Baber DRE, Naomi Knighten, Noah Knighten, Louis Hill (9TH Grade Catechist), Sofia Alvarez Gonzalez (All Saints Catholic Church), Vy. Rev. Michael Thompson, Pastor, JoAnne Henderson (Confirmation Coordinator), Rodney Henry and Deacon Michael Jenkins, Retreat Leader.



Thank you to everyone for the Cards and Gifts received for my Birthday! Your thoughtfulness and generosity is sincerely appreciated. You will continue to be in my prayers.

Fr. Michael

**NEXT WEEK'S SECOND
 COLLECTION**

Next week, our parish will take up **The Catholic Relief Services Collection**. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection and reveal **Christ's love** to those most in need. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief

FISH FRY!
Every Friday During Lent

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

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Catfish/Trout..... \$20.00
 Extra Side Orders.....\$2.00
 Cake.....\$1.00
 Drinks.....\$1.00



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!



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 in the United States and between countries; Daily Mass
 – Airport Taxes, Fees & Surcharges;
 – Transportation with luxury bus
 – 4 or 5 star hotels in downtown areas
 – All breakfasts and all dinners.
 – All tips to driver, hotel, and tour guide
 – Guided Tours and Tour Fees
 – Luggage handling; Single Supplement
 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, March 6th, at 6:00pm. Call (713) 446-4279, or email us for additional information:

makeitbetter4us23@gmail.com

ATTENDANCE

In-person Mass attendance on Saturday, February 24th and Sunday, February 25th was **430** and the 7:30am Sunday Mass Livestream received **78** views. Please join us via YouTube Livestream, or bring a friend to come worship with us in the church.

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 learn to turn away from the false idols of our society – those visible and invisible. “You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything...” - Exodus 20:4 How many “gods” do you put before God? “Idols” do not always take the shape of physical things, things we can touch and feel. Those are easy to recognize. Many times they take the form of things we cannot touch and are much harder to spot like pride, power, ego, time, comfort or health. Pray for God’s help to prune our vices and to grow in virtue.


**Lenten
 WORSHIP
 SCHEDULE**

Stations of the Cross
Every Friday during Lent
5:30pm

Laetare Sunday – March 10
 (Wear Rose)
Holy Week

Palm Sunday – March 24
Holy Thursday – March 28
 Mass6:00pm
 (No Morning Mass)

Good Friday – March 29
Stations of the Cross..... 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



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

March 3, 2024

In today's Gospel, we heard of when Jesus went up to the Temple in Jerusalem at the approach of the Passover. There He found people selling animals and exchanging money in His Father's House. Making a whip, Jesus drove the animals out and overturned the tables of the money changers.

The people demanded an explanation from Jesus, under what authority was He acting to do such a thing. Jesus told them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." Being blind to the spiritual meaning of the words of Jesus, the people asked how He could do it in three days when the Temple was still under construction after forty-six years. They did not realize that Jesus was talking about His Body, the glorious Resurrection.

During the Lenten Season, this Gospel passage bears another spiritual meaning. We are Temples of the indwelling Holy Spirit. As Jesus cleaned the Temple of the animals and money changers, we should clean our Temples of our habits, our vices, our sins, all what is unrighteous and offensive to the Lord God. While our physical bodies shall die when our moment arrives, our souls shall continue to live because of the loving atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

St. Paul reminds us that we are God's temples, body and soul, because the Spirit of God dwells in us. Hence, we have no right to desecrate God's temple by impurity and injustice. We are expected to cleanse our hearts of pride, hatred, jealousy, and all evil thoughts, desires, and plans. Reminiscent of what Jesus did in cleansing the Temple, we, as 21st century disciples, must, with His grace, cleanse ourselves of attitudes and behaviors that prevent us from seeing and responding to hurt wherever we find it. We use the Lenten time to prepare ourselves both body and soul. This reminds me of a joke about out Lenten sacrifice.

The story is told of a priest who was coming back to his parish house one evening in the dark only to be accosted by a robber who pulled a gun at him and demanded, "Your money or your life!" As the priest reached his hand into his coat pocket the robber saw his Roman collar and said, "So you are the priest? Then you can go." The priest was rather surprised at this unexpected show of piety and so tried to reciprocate by offering the robber his packet of cigarettes, to which the robber replied, "No thank you Father, I gave up smoking for Lent."

Let us welcome Jesus into our hearts and lives during Lent by repentance and the renewal of our lives. We will drive out the wild animals that do not belong in the holy temple of our body by making a whip of cords out of our fasting, penance, and almsgiving during Lent, and by going to Confession to receive God's loving forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Together, in spirit, we shall await our glorious resurrection when our physical bodies shall be raised from the dead. Then, at the moment of the final judgment, it shall be determined if we are to partake in the eternal Kingdom of God or be denied entrance into His infinite glory.

Death shall destroy our Temples. But until such time as death does its work, we are called by the grace of the Heavenly Father and the power of the Holy Spirit to sanctify our Temples in Christ. We are called to become holy as God is Holy.

As we continue on our journey towards Easter, let us reflect on the cleanliness of our Temples. Let us reflect on what God has said to us when He spoke to us today through the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Let us now make a firm commitment on cleaning our Temples for the glory of God.

Vy. Rev. Michael Thompson, SSJ

Join us for A Spiritual Adventure at Our Lenten Revival!

Date: March 6-8, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: St. Nicholas Catholic Church

Theme: Nurturing Faith, Hope, and Love

Special Guest: Father Frankline Fomukong



Let's journey together towards deeper faith, brighter hope, and boundless love!

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FATHER FRANKLINE FOMUKONG

PARISH PRIEST
REV. FATHER ELISEUS IBEH, MSP

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SATURDAY MARCH 9

STARTS 9:00 AM ENDS 4:00PM

Theme
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and he is calling you
to be a part of it!

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WAYS TO EXPERIENCE THE REVIVAL

- ◆ Join a Eucharistic Revival small group.
- ◆ Sign up for the *Heart of the Revival* newsletter.
- ◆ Keep an eye out for upcoming Revival events in your area.
- ◆ Explore our free library of videos on the Eucharist for information and inspiration!
- ◆ Intercede for the Revival through prayer and fasting.
- ◆ Register for the long-awaited National Eucharistic Congress.
- ◆ Learn more about the historic National Eucharistic Pilgrimage.
- ◆ Help bring the Revival to your parish!

SCAN THE CODE TO GET STARTED!

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Children's Worship Bulletin™



Ages 7+

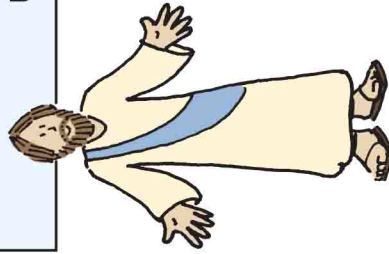
March 3, 2024 • John 2:13-22

Jesus Clears the Temple

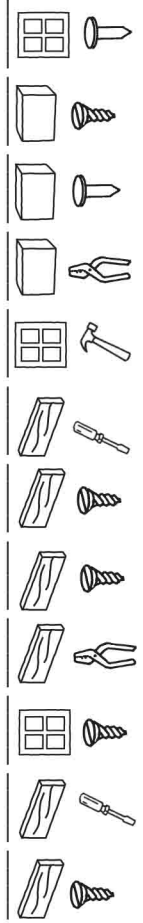
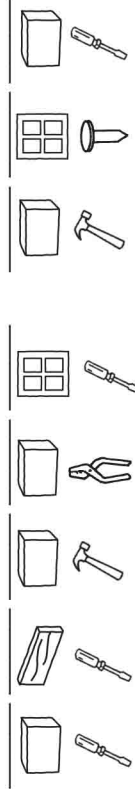
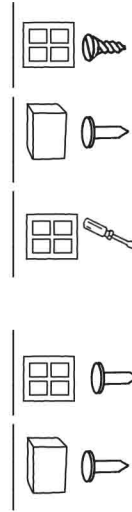
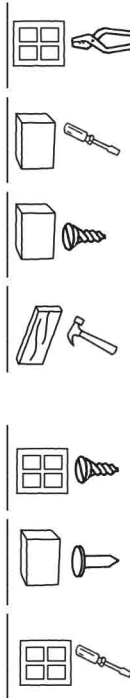
Some leaders wanted proof of Jesus' authority. He said, "Destroy this temple and I will raise it again in 3 days." They said it took 46 years to build! What temple was Jesus talking about?



Use the graph to find the answer.

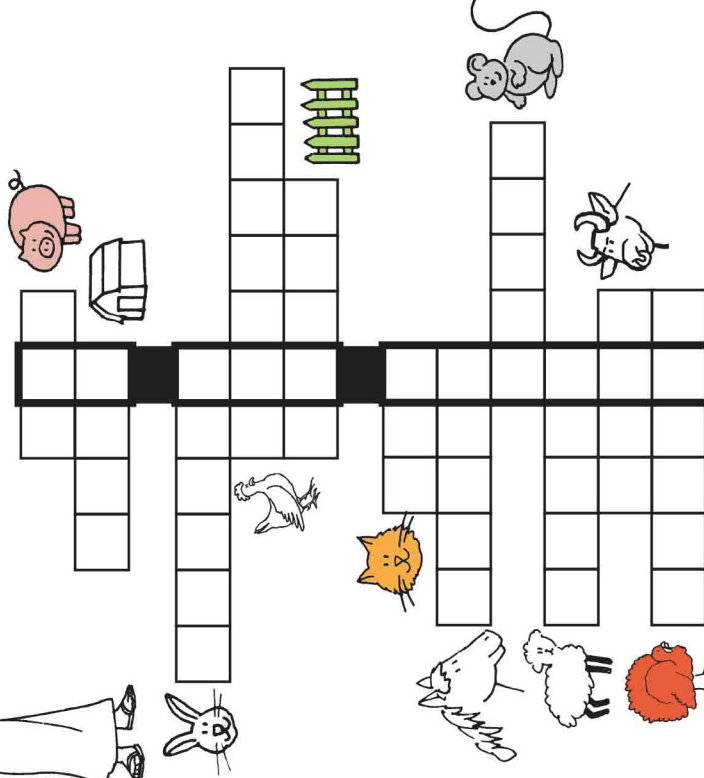
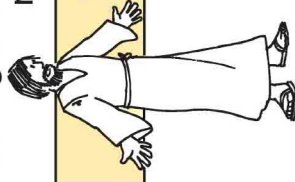


A	D	I	O	T
B	E	M	R	U
C	H	N	S	Y



It was almost time for the Passover. Jesus was in Jerusalem. He went to a place where He found men selling cattle, sheep and doves. Others were exchanging money at tables. Where was Jesus?

Write out the name of each picture in the boxes. The darker ones will spell out the answer.



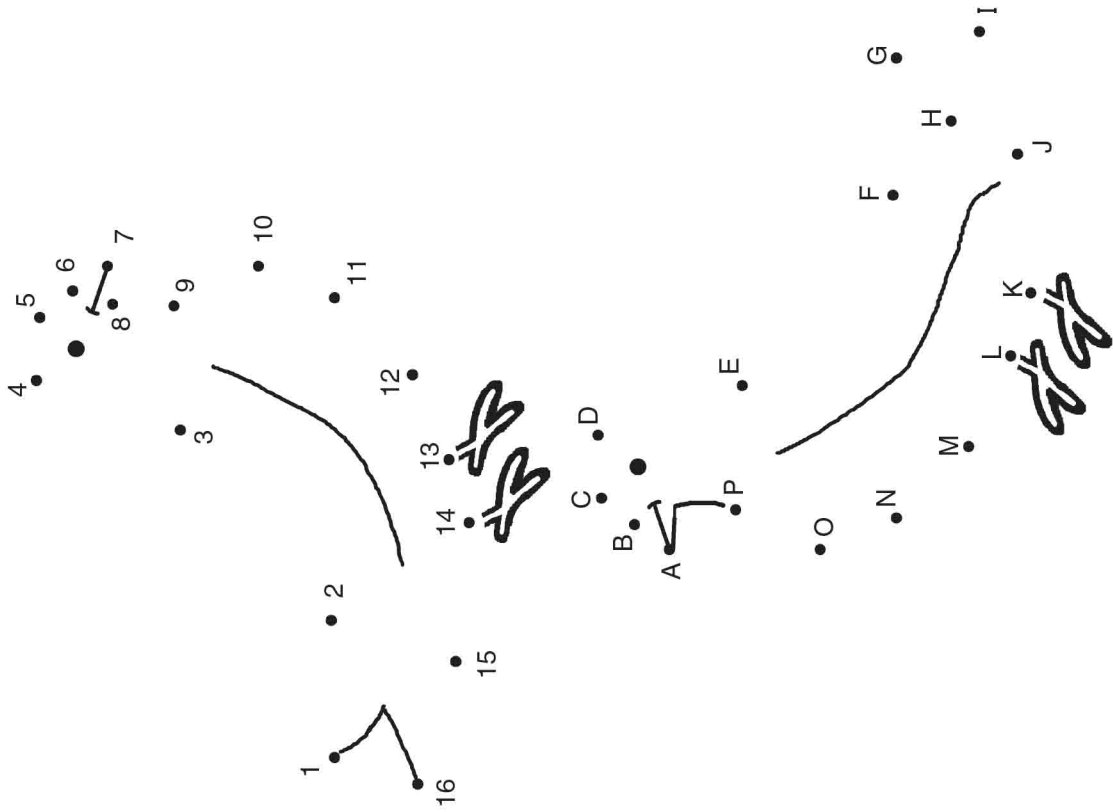
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WZMAHO

Jesus shouted, "How dare you turn My Father's house into a market!"
 What were the men selling?

Connect the dots.

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P



Children's Worship Bulletin™



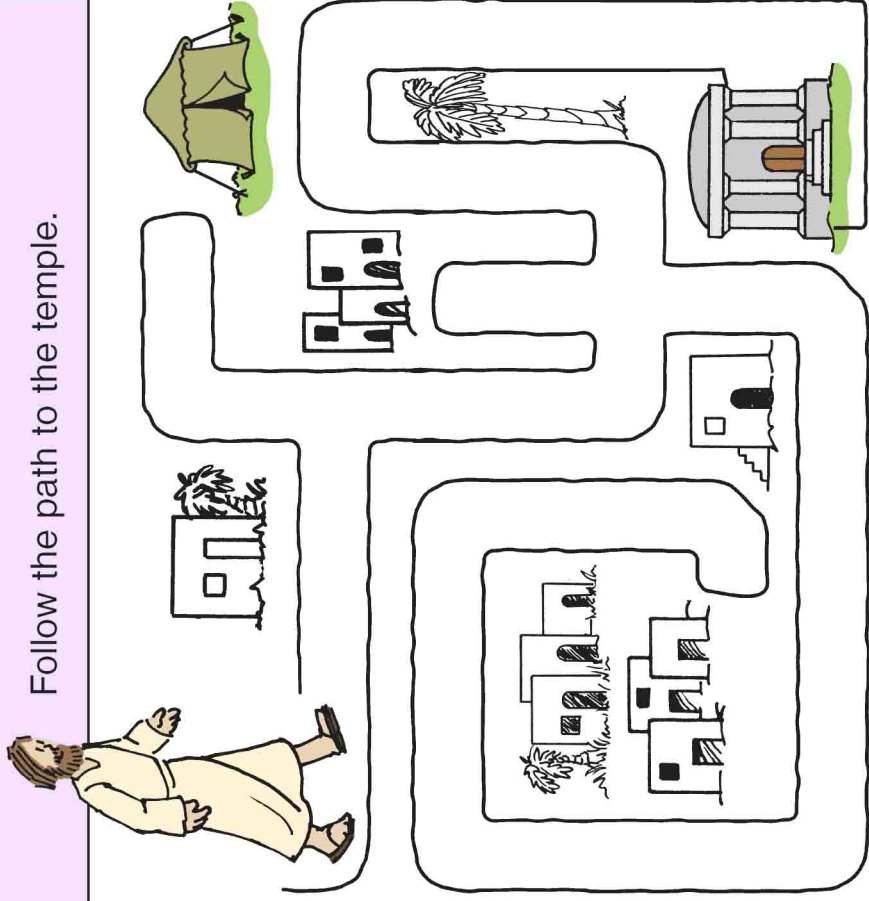
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March 3, 2024 • John 2:13-22

Jesus Clears the Temple

Jesus went up to the temple.

Follow the path to the temple.



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