

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

*Staffed by the Josephites since 1952*

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025



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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](mailto: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 (OCIA)

Deacon Michael V. Jenkins

## SVdP FOOD PANTRY

Closed for Restructure

## CONTRIBUTIONS/MEMBERSHIP

Agnes Thompson

## HALL MANAGER

Hilton S. Williams 713.542.0120

## PLANT MANAGER/MAINTENANCE

Curtis Jones/Eugene Wilson

## WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Sat: Vigil 5:00 p.m.

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

## WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday (Tue - Fri): 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

4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays: 12:00 Noon

## CHOIR DIRECTORS:

Jerry Givens 281.772.9276

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.sfxhouston.com)



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**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>SAT</b>	<b>09/13/2025</b>	<b>5:00PM</b>
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)</i> Family & Friends		
<b>SUN</b>	<b>09/14/2025</b>	<b>7:30AM</b>
<i>People of the Parish</i>		
<b>SUN</b>	<b>09/14/2025</b>	<b>10:00AM</b>
<i>Curtis Jones (L) – Special Intention</i>		
<b>TUE</b>	<b>09/16/2025</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
<i>R.L. Henderson (D)</i> The Henderson Family		
<b>WED</b>	<b>09/17/2025</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
<i>Herbert Goodwin, Jr. (D)</i> The Goodwin Family		
<b>THUR</b>	<b>09/18/2025</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
<i>Stanley "Billy Boy" Simpson, Jr. (D)</i> Red Simpson		
<b>FRI</b>	<b>09/19/2025</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
<i>Deceased Family Members</i> Wanda Johnson		
<b>SAT</b>	<b>09/20/2025</b>	<b>5:00PM</b>
<i>Alesha Hooks (D) - Stephanie Hooks</i>		



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**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 country.**

**Army:** Sade Beck, Wadie Troy Butler, Patrick Clay Jr, Kalah A. Guidry, Angel Guillory, Kerry Hubbard, Kory Hubbard, LaTroy King, Gary Christian Robertson, Anthony Lamar Smith II **Navy:** Alvin Balthazar, Debreanna Brown, Jermaine Ceaser, Kevin Crockett, Alexander Guillory Jr, Courtney Harris, Nia D. Hawkins-Camp, Xavier Henry, Anthony N. Russell **Air Force:** Samuel Houston, Roderick Jones, Joshua Creeks, Joffre Lander **Marines:** Reginald Ward

## THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



In today's reading, God has Moses make a bronze serpent, mount it on a pole, and lift it up so that those who were bitten by venomous snakes could look upon it and live. Centuries later, Jesus tells Nicodemus that the Son of Man must be lifted up in a similar way so that all who look upon him as their salvation will live. On this feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, let us consider that what Jesus did for us on the cross to save our immortal souls recalls what God had Moses do in the desert to save the Chosen People's mortal lives.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

#### ■ Sunday – September 14

*The Exaltation of the Holy Cross*  
Nm 21:4-9  
Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38  
Phil 2:6-11  
John 3:13-17

#### □ Monday – September 15

*Our Lady of Sorrows*  
1 Tm 2:1-8  
Psalm 28:2, 7-9  
John 19:25-27 or Luke 2:33-35

#### ■ Tuesday – September 16

*Saint Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishops, Martyrs*  
1 Tm 3:1-13  
Psalm 101:1-3, 5-6  
Luke 7:11-17

#### ■ □ □ Wednesday – September 17

*Saint Robert Bellarmine, Bishop; Saint Hildegard of Bingen, Virgin,*  
1 Tm 3:14-16  
Psalm 111:1-6  
Luke 7:31-35

#### ■ Thursday – September 18

1 Tm 4:12-16  
Psalm 111:7-10  
Luke 7:36-50

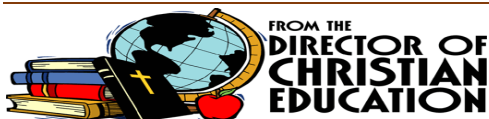
#### ■ Friday September 19

*Saint Januarius, Bishop, Martyr*  
1 Tm 6:2-12  
Psalm 49:6-10, 17-20  
Luke 8:1-3

#### ■ Saturday September 20

*Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, & Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, & Companions, Martyrs*  
1 Tm 6:3-16  
Psalm 100:1-5  
Luke 8:4-15





## CCE REGISTRATION

CCE Registration for the 2025-2026 school year will be accepted as follows:

**Tuesdays & Wednesdays..9am-4:30pm**

**Fridays.....9:00am-3:00pm**

Registration forms are available in the Vestibule of the Church, the Harris Center and the Parish Website ([www.sfxhouston.com](http://www.sfxhouston.com)). Classes will begin on Monday, **September 22<sup>nd</sup>** at **6:00pm** for Jr High and High School Students and on Saturday, **September 27<sup>th</sup>** at **9:30am** for Pre-K and Elementary Students. Call the CCE Office at (713) 731-2775 for additional information.

Journey to  
Second  
Chance  
**MINISTRY**



The Journey to  
Second Chance  
Ministry Open Door  
Day will provide

outreach and support to the formerly incarcerated and their families on Wednesday, **September 17<sup>th</sup>**, from **10:00am to 2:00pm** in the Harris Center Room 125. Job placement interviews, clothing & shoes, counseling, partner outreach, and notary services will be provided. In addition, TEXAS DPS Identification and Driver License Services & Financial Support in obtaining & completing the required documentation will be available to help you on your JOURNEY TO SECOND CHANCE.

## 55+ Club



The 55+ Club will meet on Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, at **2:00pm** in the Harris Center Auditorium.

**Big  
Thank  
You!**

From the Ministers of Hospitality to everyone who supported our "Wings and Fries Fundraiser"! Thanks to you this was a big success! A portion of the funds raised will sponsor the Kids Game Truck for the Bazaar.

## ATTENDANCE

In-person Mass attendance on Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> was **442**. The 7:30am Livestream received **53** views. Please join us via YouTube Livestream, or bring a friend to come worship with us in the church.



**Michael Bowers** passed away on September 4, 2025 at the age of 45 yrs. Michael is the Great-Nephew of Unella Baber and Louella Kelly. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, in Lake Charles, LA.

**Willie Mack Washington III** passed away on September 9, 2025 at the age of 43 yrs. Willie is the Son of Janice Washington and the Nephew of Earnestine Holmes. A Funeral Mass is scheduled for Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00am. Viewing will begin at 8:45am.

**Anna Lee Hargrove** passed away on September 8, 2025 at the age of 88 yrs. Anna Lee is the Sister-in-Law of John & Mary Richard and the Aunt of Mary Sias. A Funeral Mass is scheduled for Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00am. Viewing will begin at 8:45am.

*Eternal rest grant unto their souls, O Lord, and perpetual light shine upon them.*

## ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH FALL RAFFLE



**Grand Prize!**

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize.....\$1000.00 Gift Card**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize.....\$500.00 Gift Card**

**4<sup>th</sup> Prize.....\$400.00 Gas Card**

**5<sup>th</sup> Prize.....\$300.00 Macy's Card**

Tickets are \$5.00 each. Each household is asked to buy or sell at least 2 books of 20 tickets. Pick up Raffle Books after all Masses this weekend. Call the Parish Office if you would like to receive your Raffle Books in the mail. Go to:

<https://www.church.faithdirect.net/forms/index/632> or Scan the QR Code below to purchase Tickets online.



**Drawing: October 19, 2025**

**Winner Need Not be Present!**

## 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 understand each of us has a unique role in building God's kingdom and to share our gifts beyond our parish boundaries. "Everything I have is yours." Luke 15:31 Our Heavenly Father gives us everything, including the chance to share in His eternal kingdom. Yet, like the Prodigal Son, we are often lured away by the materialism of our society. Do you really want to turn your back on all that God offers in exchange for material wealth that has no lasting value? God wants us to be happy on earth as well. But that requires us to freely accept His gift of faith; putting Him first in all things and detaching from our own self-sufficiency.

**dsf Cry Out with JOY TO THE LORD!**

SCAN HERE TO GIVE



As we celebrate DSF Commitment Weekend, we are called to *Cry Out with Joy to the Lord!* and extend His love to others. Through your gift to the Diocesan

Services Fund, you support 64 vital ministries that care for the vulnerable, educate our youth, and form future priests. Make your commitment this weekend at Mass in the special collection, or online at [www.archgh.org/dsf](http://www.archgh.org/dsf), and join us in sharing God's love and mercy with those most in need. Let us prayerfully consider our role in this mission of mercy and respond generously. Our Parish Goal this year is **\$74,300.00**. We have paid **41%** of our goal, **\$30,353.81**. We have a balance of **\$43,946.19**.



Some reflections inspired by online copyrighted

## ***Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross***

Last October when we went on pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi, we visited the Basilica of Saint Clare to venerate a wooden cross. It is the 700 year old cross that spoke to Saint Francis in the church of San Damiano in Assisi.

On that occasion Francis heard the Lord call on him to rebuild his church. It is really a painting on wood of Jesus on the cross. The image is very unlike the image of Jesus on the large crucifix in our side chapel. There it is very evidently the suffering Jesus that is depicted. On this cross from Assisi Jesus looks very serene. There is no trace of suffering in his face. It is almost like the glorious Christ on the cross with his arms outstretched to embrace all.



That image is very appropriate for today's feast. This is not like the feast of Good Friday, where we dwell on the sufferings of Jesus. This feast proclaims the triumph of Jesus on the cross. What was the nature of that triumph? It was firstly the triumph of life over death. Those who put Jesus to death did not have the final say, because God the Father raised him high, in the words of Saint Paul in today's first reading.

It was also the triumph of love over hatred. Human hatred for Jesus did not have the last word, because in and through Jesus crucified, the love of God for humanity was shining brightly. In the words of the gospel reading, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son. It was also the triumph of mercy over sin.

In today's first reading, the people of Israel cried out, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord'. However, when they looked upon the bronze serpent, they experienced the Lord's life-giving mercy. When we look upon the face of the Lord on the cross, we too find mercy; we experience the cross as the throne of grace.

Today's feast celebrates the good news that God turned the tragedy of Calvary into a triumph for us all. Through the cross, God's life-giving love and mercy was embracing us all. Today's feast also reminds us that in our own personal experiences of Calvary, the Lord is present with us in a loving and merciful way, working on our behalf to bring new life out of our suffering and dying.

*Rev. Michael L. Thompson, SSJ*

Gentlemen, Save the Date



**AWARENESS  
DAY**

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2025**

**DOORS OPEN AT 9AM,  
PROGRAM BEGINS AT 10AM**



This is a *Gentlemen Only Event.*



# Jubilarian Couples and Families Are You Ready!?



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**Registration for Mass will include a professional photo with Archbishop Vásquez, your names featured in the Worship Aid, and a signed certificate congratulating you on your anniversary.**



**Date:** September 21st  
**Time:** 2:00 - 4:00 PM



**Date:** October 26th  
**Time:** 2:00 - 4:00 PM

**Location:** Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart  
1111 St. Joseph Pkwy, Houston, TX 77002

For more information contact the Office of Family Life at: **713-741-8710** or

Email: [familylifehouston@archgh.org](mailto:familylifehouston@archgh.org)

To be part of this celebration **REGISTER HERE:** [www.archgh.org/weddingjubilee](http://www.archgh.org/weddingjubilee)



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## ROSARY RALLY

October 11, 2025      10:00am

ALL MINISTRIES ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. ROSARY WILL BE LEAD BY THE KPC JUNIORS OF COUNCIL & COURT 138 AND ASSISTED BY CCE STUDENTS, KNIGHTS AND LADIES AND OTHER MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY.

**PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE CHURCH LOBBY IF  
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Justin Mabrie

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