

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

Staffed by the Josephites since 1952

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 15, 2026



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 Conference: 713.731.2716
WEB Address: <http://www.sfxhouston.com>
E-MAIL: stfranchishou@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:

Very Rev. Michael Thompson, SSJ

DEACONS:

Michael V. Jenkins

Darryl K. Drenon

Frank J. Laugermann (Retired)

SACRISTAN

Orell Dargin

PARISH SECRETARY

Shirley M. Foreman.....x113

BOOKEEPER

Stacie Boisseau.....x109

DIR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Unella Baber.....x103

ADULT FORMATION (OCIA)

Deacon Michael V. Jenkins

Tierra Ledet

ST VINCENT de PAUL CONFERENCE

Erica Smith

CONTRIBUTIONS/MEMBERSHIP

Agnes Thompson.....x107

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Hope Jackson

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

4th Saturdays: 12:00 Noon

CHOIR DIRECTOR:

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 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	03/14/2026	5:00PM
<i>The Soul of Florence McChristian (D)</i> Sheila McDaniel, Court 91, Alexandria, LA		
SUN	03/15/2026	7:30AM
<i>Herbert Goodwin, Jr. (D)</i> The Goodwin Family		
SUN	03/15/2026	10:00AM
<i>Deliverance & Protection for Cynthia Charles, Sons & Brothers (L)</i> Cynthia Charles		
TUE	03/17/2026	NO MASS
<i>Birthday Blessings-Thu Nhi Nguyen (L)</i> Kieunhi Nguyen		
WED	03/18/2026	NO MASS
<i>Helen Foreman Orsort (D)</i> Shirley & Belinda Foreman		
THUR	03/19/2026	NO MASS
<i>Jerry McGowan (D) – Tywana Navy</i>		
FRI	03/20/2026	7:00AM
<i>Unella Baber (L) – Special Intention</i>		
SAT	03/21/2026	5:00PM
<i>People of the Parish</i>		



Donald Abraham, Akaycia Addison, Azielee & Nathan Addison IV, Emmoree Addison, Kayne Addison, Lauren Addison, Zaneta Addison, Mary Jane Albert, Joseph Alcendor, Clara Barras, Ivy Bobb, Hazel S. Brown, Dylan Broussard, Tommy Burton, Jimmy Byas, Julius Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Nathaniel Campbell, Sterling Certenberg, Dalton Cooper Jr, Frank Davis Sr, Rev. Henry Davis SSJ, Marlene Davis, Atrica Dozier, Mary Duplechain, Lois Epps, Paul Garrick Jr, Anthony Gobert, Valerie Williams Goode, Betty Goodwin, Stella Goodwin, Beulah Hadrick, Mary Hamilton, Mason Harrison, Cheryl Henderson, Donald Henderson, Anthony Hicks, Diane Houston, Al Jackson Jr, Crystal Jackson, Angela Johnson, Deacon Irvin Johnson, Natalie Johnson, Brooke Joseph, Serral Landry, JoAnn LaSane, Barbara Laugermann, Hilary & Patricia Ledet, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, Eugene Mallery, Charles Martin, Shannon Martin, Donald May, Diane Miles, Dorothy Milstead, Cookie Mooring, Debbie Morris, Lester Mose, Carolyn Ollison, Angela Pena, Cynethia Pichon, Margie Pichon, Percy Pichon Sr, Robin Pichon-Mosley, Catherine Pierre, Michael Pierre, Mildred Pierre, Marcelle Prevost, Melody Ratcliff, Susan Rawls, Effie Rems, Elise Richmond, John & Christine Roberts, Wilson Robertson, Louis Robinson, Oliver Rose, Brian Russell, Grace Russell, Very Rev. Michael Saah-Buckman SSJ, Kerry Samuels, Kevin Simon, Joyce Smith, Joyce Stagg, Jeffery Steptoe, Mackenzie Swanks, Kennedy Swanks, Erma Taylor, Melvin Thomas, Gemma Walcott, Herbert White, Agnes Williams, Patricia Williams, Terrell Wilson, Janice Woods, Alberta Zenon and all the sick and shut-in in our parish family.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



Two overlooked people play starring roles in today’s readings. First, we hear the LORD choose David—the youngest of Jesse’s sons, who was left tending the sheep while his brothers were paraded before

Samuel—to be king. Then, after Jesus heals a blind man on the Sabbath, the man is questioned repeatedly as to how this happened. By the end of the Gospel, it becomes obvious who truly has eyes of faith. As we listen to today’s readings, may we remember not to overlook those who seem less capable or remarkable.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- **Sunday – March 15**
Fourth Sunday of Lent
 1 Sm 16:1, 6-7, 10-13
 Ps 23:1-6
 Eph 5:8-14
 Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
- **Monday – March 16**
 Is 65:17-21
 Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12, 13
 Jn 4:43-54
- **Tuesday – March 17**
Saint Patrick, Bishop
 Ez 47:1-9, 12
 Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9
 Jn 5:1-16
- **Wednesday – March 18**
Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop, Doctor of the Church
 Is 49:8-15
 Ps 145:8-9, 13-14, 17-18
 Jn 5:17-30
- **Thursday – March 19**
Saint Joseph, Spouse of The Blessed Virgin Mary
 2 Sm 7:4-5, 12-14, 16
 Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29
 Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22
 Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24 or Lk 2:41-51
- **Friday – March 20**
 Wis 2:1, 12-22
 Ps 34:17-21, 23
 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- **Saturday March 21**
 Jer 11:18-20
 Ps 7:2-3, 9-12
 Jn 7:40-53



MARCUS SEAN FORTE'
1970 - 2026

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, Jacc Blanks, Wadie Troy Butler, Patrick Clay Jr, Kalah A. Guidry, Angel Guillory, LaTroy King, Essence McMillan, Gary Christian Robertson, Anthony Lamar Smith II
Navy: Alvin Balthazar, Debreanna Brown, Jermaine Ceaser, Kevin Crockett, Mason Guidry, Alexander Guillory Jr, Courtney Harris, Nia D. Hawkins-Camp, Xavier Henry, Anthony N. Russell, Robert Lee Smith

Air Force: Samuel Houston, Roderick Jones, Joshua Creeks, Joffre Lander
Marines: Reginald Ward

MORNING MASS SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Father Thompson will be on travel this week for the Funeral Mass for Very Rev. William Norvel, SSJ. There will be no Morning Mass on **Tuesday** (3/17), **Wednesday** (3/18) and **Thursday** (3/19). Your scheduled Mass Intentions will be honored in Father Thompson’s private daily Mass.



March 16.....6:00pm
 6th – 10th CCE CLASSES-Stations of the Cross
 March 21.....9:30am
 PreK – 5th CCE CLASSES-Stations of the Cross
 March 23.....6:00pm
 6th – 10th CCE CLASSES-Stations of the Cross
 March 28.....9:30am
 PreK – 5th CCE CLASSES-Stations of the Cross
 March 30.....6:00pm
 6th – 10th CCE CLASSES-Stations of the Cross
 April 3.....2:30pm
 Passion Play
 April 4 & April 6
 NO CCE CLASSES-EASTER HOLIDAY

**OCIA CLASSES
 2025-2026**

March 19
 NO OCIA CLASS – Spring Break
 March 26.....6:00pm
 FINAL CLASS



Blessed Olive Wood Creations, a Christian group from Bethlehem in the Holy Land, will be visiting our parish on **March 21st & 22nd**. They will speak to us about the Christian struggle in the Holy Land. They will also have some beautiful Olive Wood carvings, which are all handmade by the Christian people in Bethlehem, for sale after all the Masses. The purpose of this visit is to help maintain the existence of the Catholic people in the Holy Land. Catholic Christians were once the majority in that land, but the percentage has now dropped to less than 1.3%. Please take time to look at the carvings, make a purchase, and help this church maintain a presence in the very land where our Lord was born, where He preached the Good News and where His Kingdom was first established. These carvings make great sacramental gifts that have an added special significance, given where and why they were made.

Lenten
 WORSHIP
 SCHEDULE

Outdoor Stations of the Cross
 (In the Prayer Garden; weather permitting)
 Every Friday during Lent
 5:30pm
 March 15
Laetare Sunday (Wear Rose/Pink)

Holy Week

Palm Sunday – March 29

Holy Thursday – April 2
 Mass6:00pm
 (No Morning Mass)

Good Friday – April 3
 CCE Passion Play.....2:30pm
 Good Friday Service.....3:30pm
 (No Mass)

Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)
 April 4
 Mass.....8:00pm
 (No 5:00pm Mass)

Easter Sunday - April 5
 Regular Mass Schedules
 7:30am and 10:00am



The Stewardship Committee will meet on Tuesday, **March 17th**, at 6:00pm in the Harris Center Auditorium. All Organization and Ministry Heads are invited to attend this Ministry Fair Planning Meeting.

55+ Club



The 55+ Club will meet on Thursday, **March 19th at 2:00pm** in the Harris Center Auditorium. The last day to accept new members is **March 31st**. Membership dues are only **\$15.00/year**. Contact Herbert “Red” Archer @ (281) 536-8912.



Ministers of Hospitality will meet on Sunday, **March 22nd**, at 11:30am in the Harris Center Auditorium. Brunch will be served.

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 are less concerned about our outward appearance and more concerned with our interior conversion of heart. “Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7 How often do we invest our time, talent and treasure in creating an appearance that does not matter at all to God? We strive to impress with our clothing, home, career, possessions, car and other marks of distinction. But none of these illusions of greatness will impress God. Instead, He will look into our hearts to see how much we loved Him, how much we loved others and how we showed that love by the way we used our time, talent and treasure here on earth.

Texas Education Freedom Accounts (TEFA) - Choose Catholic Schools

Parents of children in Pre-K through 12th grade in Texas have the opportunity to apply for funds through the new school-choice program, **Texas Education Freedom Accounts**. Don't miss this opportunity to provide your child with an exceptional Catholic education. Online student applications are available now through **March 17, 2026**, on the Texas Education Freedom Accounts website: www.educationfreedom.texas.gov

ATTENDANCE

In-person Mass attendance on Saturday, March 9th and Sunday, March 8th was **421**. The Sunday Livestream received **78** views. Please join us via YouTube Livestream or bring a friend to come and worship with us in the church.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

March 15, 2026

Lord, Help Me to See

Happy Sunday! The readings for the Fourth Sunday of Lent invite us to reflect on the theme of **spiritual sight**.

In the first reading, the prophet Samuel is sent by God to anoint the next king of Israel. Samuel initially looks at the outward appearance of Jesse's sons and assumes he knows which one God will choose. But God reminds him:

“Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart.”

Samuel had sight, but he needed to learn how to **see as God sees**.

This theme continues in the Gospel when Jesus heals a man who was blind from birth. The disciples assume that someone must have sinned for the man to suffer blindness. But Jesus explains that the man's condition is not the result of sin. Instead, it becomes an opportunity for **God's work to be revealed**.

Through Jesus' healing, the man receives his physical sight. Even more importantly, he comes to recognize who Jesus truly is.

The Pharisees, however, remain spiritually blind. Rather than celebrating the miracle, they focus on the fact that the healing occurred on the Sabbath. Because they are so focused on the rules, they fail to recognize the love and power of God present before them.

The man who was healed gives a simple and powerful testimony:

“I was blind and now I see.”

This Gospel invites each of us to reflect on our own **spiritual vision**.

Sometimes we develop spiritual “blind spots” that prevent us from seeing clearly. These blind spots may include pride, resentment, selfishness, addictions, or an excessive desire for wealth, pleasure, power, or recognition.

When these things take hold in our lives, they can cloud our ability to recognize God's presence and action in our lives.

The good news is that God always offers us the grace we need to see more clearly.

During Lent, we are invited to strengthen our relationship with God through prayer, reflection on Scripture, acts of charity, and repentance. Lent is a time to cultivate the soil of our souls and remove anything that interferes with our relationship with God.

The Gospel ultimately invites us to pray a simple prayer:

“Lord, help me to see.”

Help me to see your presence in my life.

Help me to recognize the ways you are working around me.

Help me to see beyond my blind spots.

And help me to follow you more faithfully.

Amen.

Deacon Darryl



Very Reverend William Norvel, SSJ

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our 13th Superior General, Very Reverend William Norvel, SSJ, who went to be with the Lord on the morning of Sunday, March 8, 2026.

Father Norvel was a faithful Josephite priest, pastor, teacher, author, and liturgical leader whose ministry spanned more than five decades. Born in Pascagoula, Mississippi, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1965 and dedicated his life to serving Black Catholic communities across the United States with deep pastoral love and missionary zeal.

Throughout his priesthood, Father Norvel became widely known for his leadership during the Black Catholic Movement, helping to foster the incorporation of Black spiritual traditions within Catholic worship. He traveled extensively across the country assisting parishes in establishing gospel choirs and nurturing vibrant liturgical life. His contributions also helped shape the landmark hymnal *Lead Me, Guide Me: The African American Catholic Hymnal*, a resource that continues to enrich Catholic worship today.

In 2011, Father Norvel made history when he was elected the 13th Superior General of the Josephites, becoming the first African American to lead the Josephite community and the first Black man to head a Catholic religious community of priests in the United States. His leadership marked a significant milestone in the life of the Church and in the Josephite mission.

Father Norvel's ministry also extended internationally. He played a key role in helping establish a Josephite house of formation in Nigeria, strengthening vocations that continue to support the Josephite apostolate and its mission of evangelization and service.

Those who knew Father Norvel remember him as a unique and gifted priest whose joyful spirit, deep faith, and love for the people of God shaped generations of clergy, musicians, and lay leaders. He was a shepherd who was deeply loved by the communities he served.

We give thanks to Almighty God for Father Norvel's life of priestly service, his courageous witness in the struggle for dignity and inclusion within the Church, and his steadfast commitment to the Josephite mission.

The Josephite community invites all to join us in praying for the repose of his soul:

“Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.”

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Washington, DC March 18, 2026

Viewing: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Funeral Mass: 11:00 AM

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church

1600 Morris Rd SE

Washington, DC 20020

Pascagoula, Mississippi March 26, 2026

Viewing: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Funeral Mass: 11:00 AM

Saint Peter the Apostle Catholic Church

1715 Telephone Rd

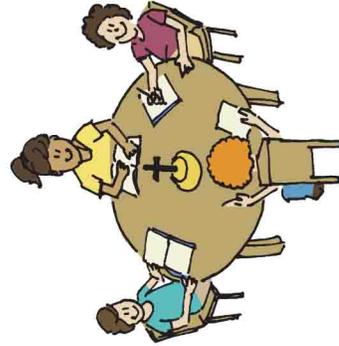
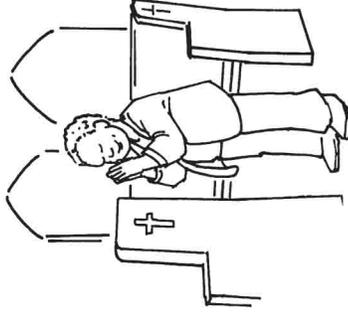
Pascagoula, MS 39567

Burial will follow at Gabriel Cemetery, next to the parish.

In Lieu of Flowers Donations may be made in Father Norvel's honor to support the continuing mission of the Josephites and the apostolate he faithfully shepherded and loved. Click here to give: [Josephites Giving Page](#)

But the healed man worshiped Jesus.

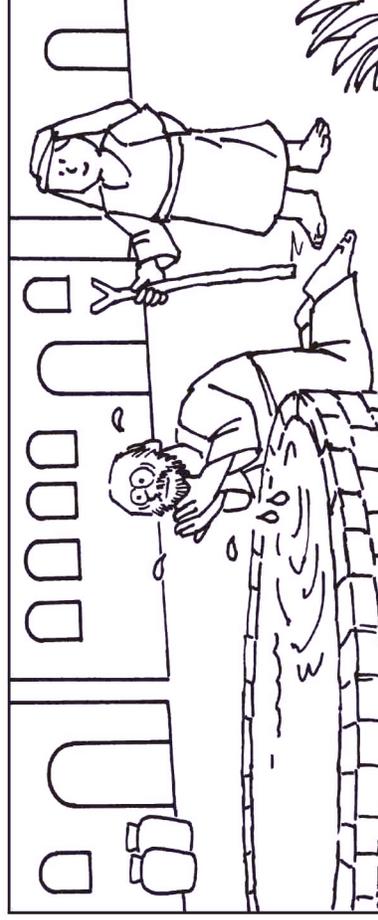
Circle the ways we can worship God.

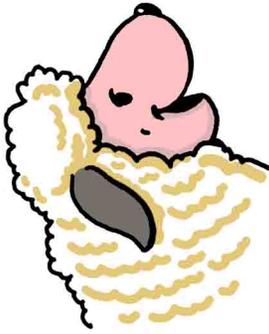


Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

One Sabbath day, Jesus told a blind man to wash in the pool of Siloam. Then he was healed.

Circle the 5 differences in the 2nd picture



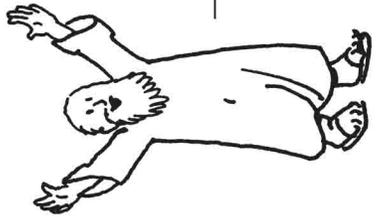


Jesus asked the man who had been blind, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He asked, "Who is He?" Jesus told him, "I am He." What did the man say next?

Write the word that has the opposite meaning of the one given.
Write the circled letters in order on the lines.

- 1) Quiet
- 2) Soft
- 3) Out
- 4) Good
- 5) Dry
- 6) Early
- 7) Take
- 8) Under

○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○



" _____, _____!"



Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 7+

March 15, 2026 • John 9:1-41

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

Jesus and His disciples met a man who had been blind since birth. The disciples asked if the man or his parents were being punished in this way for something they had done.



Find the underlined words of Jesus' answer in the puzzle below.
They may be found ↓ ↑ → ← ↖ ↗ ↘ ↙.

Jesus said,
"This happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life."

D	E	Y	K	R	Q	G	K	B	G	T
A	W	B	D	D	M	H	F	J	A	H
L	I	F	D	E	L	P	D	I	M	L
P	N	B	E	T	S	A	G	I	O	K
S	U	N	W	I	C	H	O	A	C	H
I	E	C	H	O	N	F	T	T	H	T
D	Z	T	J	N	F	T	T	H	H	T

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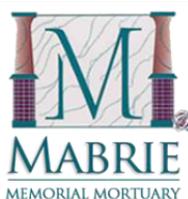
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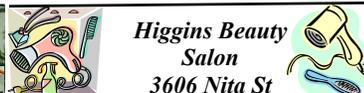
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