

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

Staffed by the Josephites since 1952

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 21, 2025



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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: 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

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	12/20/2025	5:00PM
<i>Joseph & Earlene Duplechaine (D)</i> The Duplechaine Family		
SUN	12/21/2025	7:30AM
<i>People of the Parish</i>		
SUN	12/21/2025	10:00AM
<i>Willard J. McKinley & Anita C. McKinley (D) – Keith McKinley</i>		
TUE	12/23/2025	7:00AM
<i>Marlene Lazard Bassett (D)</i> Odelia Lazard Vallery		
WED	12/24/2025	5:00PM
<i>Christmas Eve Vigil</i> <i>People of the Parish</i>		
THUR	12/25/2025	10:00AM
<i>Christmas Day</i> <i>People of the Parish</i>		
FRI	12/26/2025	7:00AM
<i>Derrick Patterson (D) - Tywana Navy</i>		
SAT	12/27/2025	5:00PM
<i>Hilton "Steve" Williams (L)</i> Special Intention		



Barbara Peugh passed away on December 15, 2025. Mrs. Peugh is the Mother of Jason Peugh, Sr. Funeral arrangements are pending. *Eternal rest grant unto her soul, O Lord, and perpetual light shine upon her.*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS**DECEMBER 20 - DECEMBER 21**

5:00pm.....**Mary Sias**
7:30am.....**Herbert & Delores Archer**
10:00am.....**Matt & Angela Rogers**

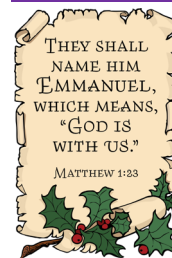
**Our Parish Office
Will Be Closed**
1pm December 24th to
9am December 31st
January 1st and
January 2nd



Donald Abraham, Akaycia Addison, Azielee & Nathan Addison IV, Emmoree Addison, Kayne Addison, Lauren Addison, Zaneta Addison, Mary Jane Albert, Joseph Alcendor, Virgis Anderson, Clara Barras, Ivy Bobb, Amy Bowie, Hazel S. Brown, Tommy Burton, Julius Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Nathaniel Campbell, Dalton Cooper Jr, Frank Davis Sr, Rev. Henry Davis SSJ, Marlene Davis, Dalton & Julia Dean, Mary Duplechain, Michael Eaglin, Lois Epps, Lawrence Frank, Paul Garrick Jr, Kristin Gilbreath, Anthony Gobert, Valerie Williams Goode, Betty Goodwin, Stella Goodwin, Beulah Hadrick, Mary Hamilton, Beverly Heileman, Cheryl Henderson, Donald & JoAnne 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, Very Rev. William L. Norvel SSJ, Carolyn Ollison, Angela Pena, Cynethia Pichon, Margie Pichon, Percy Pichon Sr, Robin Pichon-Mosley, Catherine Pierre, Michael Pierre, Mildred Pierre, Marcelle Prevost, Melody Ratcliff, Effie Rems, Elise Richmond, John & Christine Roberts, Wilson Robertson, Louis Robinson, Oliver Rose, Brian Russell, Grace Russell, Very Rev. Michael K. Saah-Buckman SSJ, Kerry Samuels, Joseph Selexman, 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.

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, LaTroy King, Essence McMillan, 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, Robert Lee Smith, **Air Force:** Samuel Houston, Roderick Jones, Joshua Creeks, Joffre Lander
Marines: Reginald Ward

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Twice today we hear the words Isaiah proclaimed hundreds of years before Christ's birth: "the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel." This Hebrew name means "God is with us," and when Joseph, a devout and righteous man, is visited by an angel in his dream, he recalls Isaiah's prophecy. We know that God is also with us as we gather here to listen to God's word, and so at this time we allow ourselves to be immersed in God's presence as we actively listen to today's readings.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK**Sunday – December 21**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14

Ps 24:1-6

Rom 1:1-7

Mt 1:18-24

Monday – December 22

1 Sm 1:24-28

(Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8

Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday – December 23

Sain John of Kanty, Priest

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24

Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14

Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday – December 24

Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

Is 62:1-5

Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29

Acts 13:16-17, 22-25

Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Thursday – December 25

Christmas Day

Is 52:7-10

Ps 98:1-6

Heb 1:1-6

Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Friday December 26

Saint Stephen, Martyr

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59

Ps 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16-17

Mt 10:17-22

Saturday December 27

Saint John, Apostle, Evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4

Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12

Jn 20:1, 2-8



December 22 thru January 3

NO CCE CLASSES

January 5.....6:00pm

6th – 10th CCE CLASSES

January 10.....9:30am

PreK – 5th CCE CLASSES

January 12.....6:00pm

6th – 10th CCE CLASSES**2025-2026 OCIA**

December 25 and January 1

NO OCIA CLASSES

January 8.....6:00pm

OCIA CLASS

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI THANK YOU JESUS PRAYER BRUNCH

5102 Dabney Street, Houston TX

Saturday, January 17, 2026

9 AM to 12 Noon • Parish Hall • Free

*Songs of Thanksgiving; Inspirational**“Thank You, Jesus” Talk; 2,000 Times**Thank You, Jesus Prayer; Gratitude**Walk; Testimonies; Brunch*RSVP by **January 5, 2026**. Text onlyto: Renita Mathis – **832-869-0186**Latricia Lewis – **281-703-8548**Mary St. Julian – **713-443-3616**

Thank You Jesus Chaplets will be available for purchase for \$5.00 (first come, first served)



If you will need a copy of your 2025 contribution statement for tax purposes, please call the Parish Office after **December 31st** at **(713) 738-2311**. Statements will be sent only upon request.

Please note: Contributions received after December 31st will not be reflected on statements for 2025.

Stewardship Intention Card



As we approach the end of the year, let's take time to reflect on the Blessings we have received. You are invited to commit to giving back in the new year by completing a **Call to Stewardship Intention Card**. These cards were mailed in your January Envelope packet. If you do not receive envelopes in the mail, we have yellow intention cards in the vestibule of the church. These cards will be collected on the weekend of **January 3rd & 4th**.



Dates to Remember

December 21, 2025**4th Sunday of Advent****Parish Christmas Party – 12:00pm****December 24, 2025 - Christmas Eve****No Morning Mass****Christmas Vigil Mass – 5:00pm****December 25, 2025 - Christmas Day****Christmas Day Mass – 10:00am**

WINTER GOAT DRIVE



St. Francis Xavier Sisters in the Spirit give a special thanks to the parishioners for their contributions towards our **Winter Coat Drive**. Coats were distributed to Woodson Elementary School students on December 16th.



Please join Archbishop Joe S. Vasquez and the family of our Archdiocese as we celebrate the 41st annual observance of the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The **MLK Mass of Remembrance** will be held Sunday, January 18, 2026, at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart at 3:00pm. Reception immediately following. For further information, call 713-652-4492.

ATTENDANCE

In-person Mass attendance on Saturday, December 6th and Sunday, December 7th was **423** and the 7:30am Sunday Mass Livestream received **61** views online. Please join us via YouTube Livestream, or bring a friend to come and 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

3rd Sunday of Advent: December 14 That through daily prayer we gain patience and align ourselves with God and His plan for us. “You too must be patient. Make you hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.” James 5:8 Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule; we like things to be convenient. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer God reveals to us what He wants us to do with the gifts He has given us. We are able to better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.



SCAN HERE TO GIVE



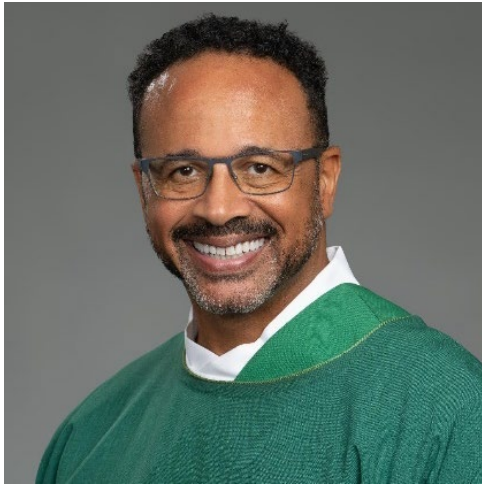
True joy in the Lord compels us to give back and share what we have. When we **Cry Out with Joy to the Lord!** we are inspired to open our hearts and

hands, supporting ministries that bring hope and help to those in need. Our Parish Goal this year is **\$74,300.00**. We have paid **52%** of our goal, **\$38,698.36**. We have a balance of **\$35,601.64**.

To Pledge/Pay Online visit:

www.archgh.org/dsf or Scan the QR code above. Carefully consider your role in this mission of mercy and prepare to respond generously.

We will have a Special Second Collection for DSF on the weekend of December 27-28.



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

December 21, 2025

Turn Toward God in Imperfect Circumstances

Brothers and Sisters, Happy Sunday! As we arrive at the final Sunday of Advent, our readings remind us that faith is not lived in perfect situations. Faith is lived where life is uncertain, confusing, and sometimes painful. The Scriptures give us three figures, Ahaz, Joseph, and John the Baptist, each facing imperfect circumstances, each forced to choose whether they would turn toward God or away from Him.

King Ahaz is surrounded by enemy nations and filled with fear. God sends Isaiah to encourage him and even invites Ahaz to ask for a sign of reassurance. But Ahaz refuses. His doubt leads him to turn away from God's invitation. Yet God remains faithful and promises the sign that will one day point to the Messiah: **"The virgin shall conceive...Emmanuel."**

Joseph, 700 years later, receives that same promise in real time. He learns that Mary, his beloved, is with child. A confusing, painful, imperfect situation. But when the angel speaks God's message, Joseph chooses faith over fear. He turns toward God and embraces the role God prepared for him. Joseph shows us that even when circumstances are uncertain, grace is available when we turn toward the Lord.

And then we see, (from last Sunday's Gospel), John the Baptist, sitting in prison, awaiting his fate. Even John has a moment of doubt and

sends his disciples to ask Jesus: **"Are you the one who is to come?"** John does not hide his doubt; he brings it to Jesus. He turns toward God, not away, and Jesus strengthens him with reassurance.

These three figures speak to our own lives. We all face seasons of uncertainty:

- Why is my family struggling?
- Why am I sick?
- Why did my relationship fall apart?
- Why can't I find peace?
- Why did my loved one die so soon?

In those moments, the enemy whispers discouragement. But Advent teaches us that God enters our imperfect situations with perfect love. Emmanuel, *God-with-us*, comes precisely where life is messy.

So the invitation this week is simple:

Whatever your circumstances, turn toward God.

Turn toward Him in prayer.

Turn toward Him in Scripture.

Turn toward Him in the sacraments.

Turn toward Him when doubts appear.

Like Joseph and John the Baptist, bring your fears and questions to God. He will meet you with grace, strength, and peace.

As we prepare for Christmas, may you experience the hope and comfort of Emmanuel...God with us in every circumstance.

Deacon Darryl

INNER-CITY CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

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& THE ZYDECO OUTLAWS

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New Year's Eve ZYDECO DANCE

12.31.2025 | 8:00 PM - 12:30AM

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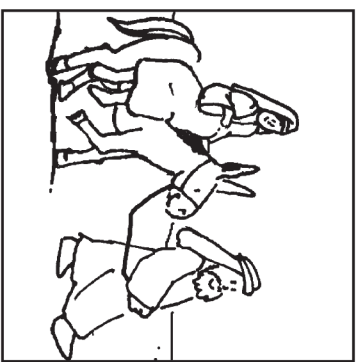
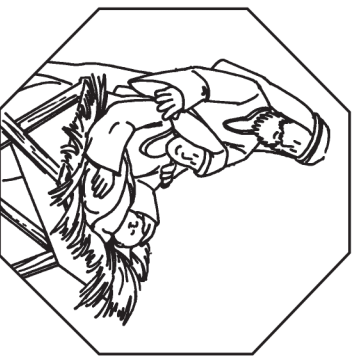
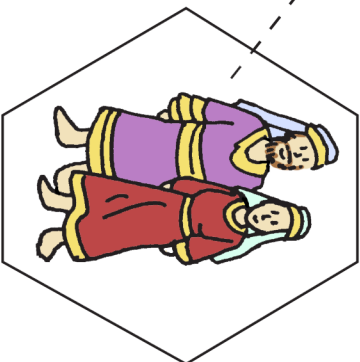
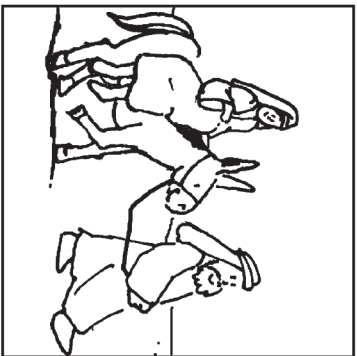
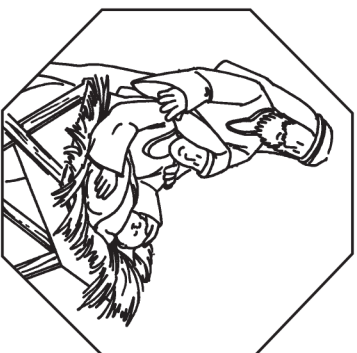
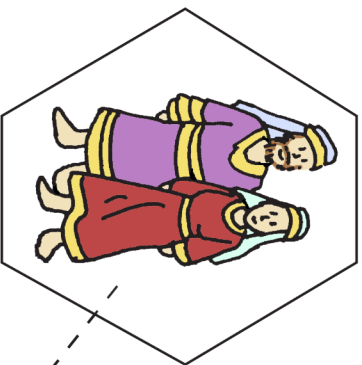
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When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. She gave birth to a son. And he gave Him the name Jesus.

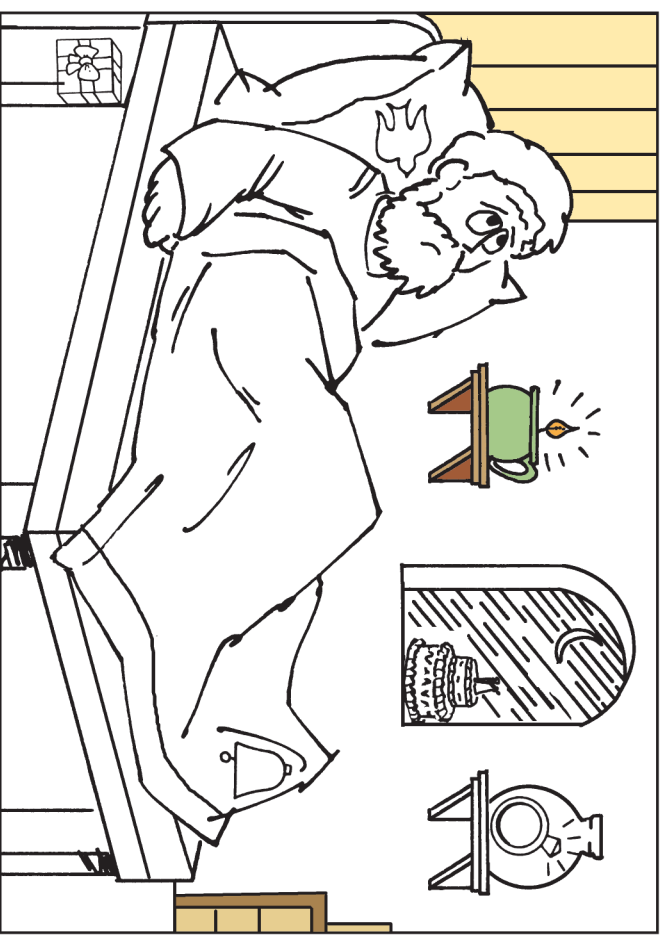
Match the shapes.



An Angel Visits Joseph

Joseph and Mary were to be married. Mary was going to have a baby, through the Holy Spirit. Joseph did not understand.

Find the hidden objects in the picture below.





Mark Gibson
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Mabrie, III, M.D.

Justin Mabrie

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