

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 8, 2026



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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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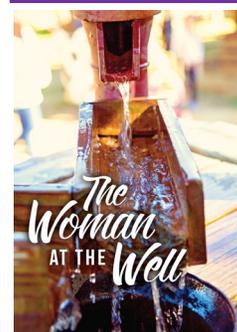
*Save the number as a contact in
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MASS INTENTIONS		
SAT	03/07/2026	5:00PM
<i>Deacon Albert Henry (D) – The Family</i>		
SUN	03/08/2026	7:30AM
<i>Demeteria Elaine Headspeth (L)</i> The Henderson Family		
SUN	03/08/2026	10:00AM
<i>People of the Parish</i>		
TUE	03/10/2026	7:00AM
<i>Patrick Martell (D)</i> Joyce Martell & Family		
WED	03/11/2026	7:00AM
<i>Levan Ledet (D)</i> Ronnie & Barbara Smith		
THUR	03/12/2026	7:00AM
<i>Deliverance & Protection for Cynthia Charles, Sons & Brothers (L)</i> Christine Charles		
FRI	03/13/2026	7:00AM
<i>Vivian Willis (D) – Annette Willis</i>		
SAT	03/14/2026	5:00PM
<i>The Soul of Florence McChristian (D)</i> Sheila McDaniel, Court 91, Alexandria, LA		



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, Nona Mayberry, Eugene Mallery, Charles Martin, Shannon Martin, Donald May, Diane Miles, Cookie Mooring, Debbie Morris, Lester Mose, Very Rev. William 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, Susan Rawls, Effie Rems, Elise Richmond, John & Christine Roberts, Louis Robinson, Oliver Rose, Brian Russell, Grace Russell, Very Rev. Michael Saah-Buckman SSJ, Pamela Sam, Kerry Samuels, Kevin Simon, Joyce Smith, Joyce Stagg, Jeffery Steptoe, Mackenzie Swanks, Kennedi 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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



“Is the LORD in our midst or not?” This question is posed at the end of the first reading, but it could be asked in all three. First, we hear the Israelites complain to Moses about the lack of water in the desert. Paul proclaims to the Romans that our hearts are filled with the love of God, though we may not realize it. In the Gospel, Jesus reveals to the woman at the well that he is the Messiah, the Christ, the one who she and her people had been waiting for. The Lord is indeed in our midst, as for the Chosen People in the desert, as in the early church in Rome, and as with the woman at the well.



Grant Ulice Solomon, Jr passed away on March 3, 2026, at the age of 64yrs. A Funeral Mass is scheduled for March 14, 2026 at 10:00am. *May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

Ida Davis Noel passed away on March 3, 2026, at the age of 89 yrs. A Funeral is scheduled for March 21, 2026. *May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday – March 8**
Third Sunday of Lent
 Ex 17:3-7
 Ps 95:1-2, 6-9
 Rom 5:1-2, 5-8
 Jn 4:5—42 or 4:5-15, 19-26, 39, 40-42
- Monday – March 9**
Saint Frances of Rome
 2 Kgs 5:1-15
 Ps 42:2-3; 43:3-4
 Lk 4:24-30
- Tuesday – March 10**
 Dn 3:25, 34-43
 Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
 Mt 18:21-35
- Wednesday – March 11**
 Dt 4:1, 5-9
 Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20
 Mt 5:17-19
- Thursday – March 12**
 Jer 7:23-28
 Ps 95:1-2, 6-9
 Lk 11:14-23
- Friday – March 13**
 Hos 14:2-10
 Ps 81:6-11, 14, 17
 Mt 12:28-34
- Saturday March 14**
 Hos 6:1-6
 Ps 51:3-4, 18-21
 Lk 18:9-14

LAETERE SUNDAY

Next Sunday is the halfway mark of the Sundays of Lent. This Sunday is known as **Laetare Sunday** for the first word of the Entrance Antiphon “Rejoice” (IS 66:10-11); it is a Sunday of joy. The celebrant has the option to wear rose-colored vestments. You are invited to wear pink or rose next Sunday.



March 9 & March 14
NO CCE CLASSES-SPRING BREAK
 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 29.....10:00am
 Passion Play
 March 30.....6:00pm
 6th – 10th CCE CLASSES-Stations of the Cross
 April 4 & April 6
NO CCE CLASSES-EASTER HOLIDAY

**OCIA CLASSES
 2025-2026**

March 12
NO OCIA CLASS – Lenten Revival
 March 19
NO OCIA CLASS – Spring Break
 March 26.....6:00pm
FINAL CLASS



The **St. Francis Xavier St. Vincent de Paul Conference** was Commissioned at the 5:00pm Mass on February 28, 2026. This marks the launch of a new Parish initiative to provide emergency financial assistance to individuals and families facing eviction, utility shut-off, and other urgent financial hardships. Representatives from St. Vincent de Paul Society Conferences throughout the region were in attendance in a show of solidarity and support.

Lenten
 WORSHIP
 SCHEDULE

Outdoor Stations of the Cross
(In the Prayer Garden)
 Every Friday during Lent
 5:30pm
 March 12 & 13
 Lenten Revival.....6:00pm
 March 15
Laetare Sunday (Wear Rose/Pink)
Holy Week
Palm Sunday – March 29
 CCE Passion Play.....10:00am
Holy Thursday – April 2
 Mass6:00pm
 (No Morning Mass)
Good Friday – April 3
 Outdoor Stations..... 3:00pm
 Good Friday Service.....4:00pm
 (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

**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, February 28th and Sunday, March 1st was **584**. The Sunday Livestream received **66** views. 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:

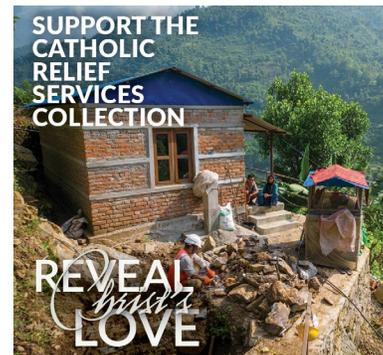
A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

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

That we become more “God-centered” and less “self-centered” in our daily actions and decisions. “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again.” John 4:13 Jesus reminds us that material things, even something as basic as water, can never satisfy us over the long run. When we build our lives around material possessions we will always want more, and no amount will ever satisfy our desire. True joy and peace only come when we follow Jesus - when we become more “God-centered” and less “self-centered.”



The Lenten season is a time of penance and preparation when the Church looks to the example of Jesus praying and fasting in the desert as he prepares to reveal his love to the world on the Cross. On the weekend of **March 14-15, 2026**, the faithful in many United States dioceses will have the opportunity to reveal Christ’s love to victims of war, natural disasters, violent persecution, and extreme poverty by contributing to **The Catholic Relief Services Collection**. Funds from this collection benefit six Catholic agencies that offer aid to vulnerable people here in the United States and overseas.



Some reflections inspired by online copyrighted commentaries and homilies

Third Sunday of Lent (Cycle A)

During today's First Reading from the Book of Exodus, we heard that the people thirsted for water. They complained to Moses who in turn cried out to the Lord. As instructed, Moses, in the presence of the elders, struck the rock and water came out of it. This incident that occurred during the Old Biblical days was prophetic in nature. As the people in the days of Moses thirsted for water, we also thirst for water. As they knew that life was dry without a personal relationship with God, we also know that life is dry without God. For we are called to search for the greater truth of the Spirit of God, a truth that can only be found when the living water of the Spirit of Christ flows in us.

Moses was commanded by God to strike the rock. Throughout the Holy Bible, God is called the Rock, this being the Name given to God the Father in the Old Testament and to Jesus Christ in the New Testament. To strike the rock was prophetic of the crucifixion of Christ. Striking the rock was prophetic in the sense that once the Rock had been struck, Christ having died on the Holy Cross for our sins, the Spirit of God would be released upon the world. Through the Spirit of Christ, living water would flow towards the children of God. Those who would answer their calling by welcoming the grace of God and the sanctification of the Holy Spirit in the Most Holy Name of Jesus, would be welcomed to drink abundantly from this living water.

That theme of thirst runs through today's gospel reading, the human thirst for physical water, but also the deeper thirst for God. In some ways what we have most in common as human beings, regardless of race or religion, is our thirst for water and our thirst for God. We find Jesus sitting at a village well, tired from his journey and thirsty under the mid-day sun. He asks a woman for a drink, because she has a bucket to retrieve water from the well. Jesus was doing something unconventional in asking this woman for a drink.

When you visit the well in Palestine, north of Jerusalem; Jacob's very well that Jesus met the woman is preserved but now held within an Orthodox church built on that spot. But when you drink water from the well you can imagine the encounter with Jesus in the heat of the day. This water not only quench your thirst but give you a spiritual connection to the gospel.

Although Jesus started off by asking her for a drink to satisfy his physical thirst, he went on to offer her what he calls "Living Water", 'the gift of God' that could satisfy her deeper thirst. Jesus finds this gift of God as living water because, the living water of God's love, the Spirit of God's love. He promises her that if she receives this gift of God, it will become a spring deep within her welling up to eternal life. The Spirit of God's love is the foretaste of eternal life and, also, the power that brings us there. The woman gradually opens herself up to this gift of God that Jesus is offering her.

Praying on today's reading from the Gospel of John, we heard the promise of Jesus to give us living water that will become in us a spring of water gushing up to eternal life. The living water is the presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit. How do we become springs of water gushing up to eternal life? It is by our lifetime of sanctification in our desire to be Christ like through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is by shining in our living faith. For it is said, "faith without works is dead." (James 2:14-26).

During his conversation with the woman, Jesus uncovered her deeper thirst. The risen Lord continues to work among us and within each of us today to uncover our own deeper thirst. He continues to offer himself to us as the one who alone can satisfy that deep thirst within us. A question for all of us is, 'Where do we find living water?'

Later on in this gospel of John, Jesus issues an invitation which is addressed to each one of us, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink', because out of Jesus' heart flow rivers of living water, the living water of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God's love. It is by the bearing fruit of the Holy Spirit, so we may shine in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. [Gal. 5:22-3] When we persevere in our living faith in Christ by the grace of God the Father and the power of the Holy Spirit, we become springs of water gushing up towards our eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

Very Rev. Michael L. Thompson, SSJ

Lenten Revival

A Season Of Preparation



Rev. Anthony Bozeman, SSJ
Revivalist



THURSDAY, MARCH 12 AND FRIDAY, MARCH 13

6:00PM – 7:30PM

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**Elementary Black History Program Participants:
Miome Flores,
Kobe Mclean, Bryanna Eaglin, Sean Mose, Logan
Joshua, Halle Johnson**



**Junior High Black History Program Participants:
(L-R) Jamiyah Mouton, Nevaeh Espinoza, Alexis Pena,
Maci Phillips**

PARISH & PERCUSSION

STEP RIDEAU &
THE ZYDECO OUTLAWS

3/14/2026

20\$
ENTRY

DOORS OPEN
@ 6:30PM

BAND STARTS
AT 8-11PM

MENU: BOUDIN | TIPSY TREATS
RED BEANS/RICE & SAUSAGE
SAUSAGE LINK | BEER

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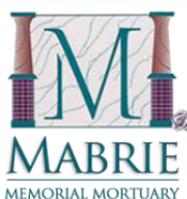
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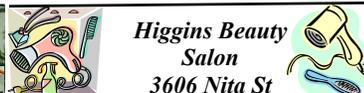
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