

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

*Staffed by the Josephites since 1952*

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 12 2025



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](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

Mandy Wheatfall 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 (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

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 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>01/11/2025</b>	<b>5:00PM</b>
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)</i> Family & Friends		
<b>SUN.</b>	<b>01/12/2025</b>	<b>7:30AM</b>
<i>Marguerite Durall (D)</i> – Lori Stephenson		
<b>SUN.</b>	<b>01/12/2025</b>	<b>10:00AM</b>
<i>People of the Parish</i>		
<b>TUE.</b>	<b>01/14/2025</b>	<b>Private Mass</b>
<i>J. C. James (L)</i> Evonne Cummings-Thompson		
<b>WED.</b>	<b>01/15/2025</b>	<b>Private Mass</b>
<i>James &amp; Leatrice Gary (D)</i> The Gary Family		
<b>THUR</b>	<b>01/16/2025</b>	<b>Private Mass</b>
<i>Sylvia Robertson (D)</i> – The Gary Family		
<b>FRI</b>	<b>01/17/2025</b>	<b>Private Mass</b>
<i>Larry Payne (D)</i> – Tywana Navy		
<b>SAT</b>	<b>01/18/2025</b>	<b>5:00PM</b>
<i>Joseph Duplechaine (D)</i> The Duplechaine Family		



Please Pray for...  
 Donald Abraham, Akaycia Addison, Azielee Addison, Kayne Addison, Lauren Addison, Nathan Addison IV, Mary Jane Albert, Adrienne Barnes, Clara Barras, Hazel S. Brown, Tommy Burton, Amber Byas, Julius Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Nathaniel Campbell, Thelma Carmouche, Sterling Certenberg, Dalton Cooper Jr, Frank Davis Sr, Rev. Henry Davis SSJ, Marlene Davis, Dalton & Julia Dean, Lois Epps, Edward & Lillie Etienne, James Forbes, Wesley Forte, Lawrence Frank, Paul Garrick Jr, Anthony Gobert, Betty Goodwin, Stella Goodwin, Beulah Hadrick, Mary Hamilton, Alvin J. Hebert, Clyde Henderson, Donald Henderson, Anthony Hicks, Diane Houston, Tommy Guillory Jr., Crystal Jackson, Deacon Irvin Johnson, Natalie Johnson, Brooke Joseph, Shirley Ann Joseph, JoAnn LaSane, Barbara Laugermann, Hilary Ledet, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, Eugene Mallery, Charles Martin, Shannon Martin, Florence McChristian, Diane Miles, Cookie Mooring, Vy. Rev. William L. Norvel SSJ, Carolyn Ollison, Angela Pena, Cynethia Pichon, Percy Pichon Sr, Robin Pichon-Mosley, Catherine Pierre, Michael Pierre, Mildred Pierre, Melvin Portier, Marcelle Prevost, Melody Ratcliff, Effie Rems, Mary Richard, Elise Richmond, John & Christine Roberts, Louis Robinson, Oliver Rose, Brian Russell, Grace Russell, Vy. Rev. Michael K. Saah-Buckman SSJ, Kerry Samuels, Joyce Smith, Joyce Stagg, James Stelly, Jeffery Steptoe, Mackenzie Swanks, Kennedi Swanks, Erma Taylor, Melvin Thomas, Gemma Walcott, Agnes Williams, Patricia Williams, Eddie Jean Wilson, Terrell Wilson, Janice Woods, Gail Young and all the sick and shut-in in our parish family. **Let us Know: Call the Parish Office when you and/or a family member are ill, in the hospital, or having surgery.**

**BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

And a voice came from heaven: Today's first reading and Gospel feature nearly the same words from God. Centuries before Christ's birth, Isaiah says God proclaims, "Here is...my chosen one with whom I am pleased." When Jesus was baptized, the Father spoke from heaven, "You are my beloved Son: with you I am well pleased." Let us listen to how Isaiah, Peter, and Luke speak of God's chosen one: the Messiah, the Christ God's Son.



L u k e 3 : 2 2

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- Sunday – January 12**  
*Baptism of the Lord*  
 Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7  
 Psalm 29:1, 2, 3-4, 9-10  
 Acts 10:34-38  
 Luke 3:15-16, 21-22
- Monday – January 13**  
*Saint Hilary, Bishop, Doctor of the Church*  
 Hebrews 1:1-6  
 Psalm 97:1, 2, 6, 7, 9  
 Mark 1:14-20
- Tuesday – January 14**  
 Hebrews 2:5-12  
 Psalm 8:2, 5-9  
 Mark 1:21-28
- Wednesday – January 15**  
 Hebrews 2:14-18  
 Psalm 105:1-4, 6-9  
 Mark 1:29-39
- Thursday – January 16**  
 Hebrews 3:7-14  
 Psalm 95:6-11  
 Mark 1:40-45
- Friday January 17**  
 Saint Anthony, Abbot  
 Hebrews 4:1-5, 11  
 Psalm 78:3, 4, 6-8  
 Mark 2:1-12
- Saturday January 18**  
 Hebrews 4:12-16  
 Psalm 19:8-10, 15  
 Mark 2:13-17



Father Thompson will be out of the office from Monday, **01/13/25**, thru Friday, **01/17/25**. There will be NO morning Mass this week. The Mass Intentions scheduled for these dates will be offered during the Pastor's Private Mass. Please pray for safe travels for Father Thompson. May he find refreshment for his spirit and return to us rejuvenated and filled with joy.



**Roy Lee** passed away on January 6, 2025 at the age of 91 yrs. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, January 25, 2025 at 10:00am. Eternal rest grant unto his soul.

**Betty Briggs** passed away on January 7, 2025 at the age of 74 yrs. Ms. Briggs is the Sister of Donald Henderson. Funeral arrangements are pending. Eternal rest grant unto her soul.

**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:** Barbara Baber, Sade Beck, Wadie Troy Butler, Patrick Clay Jr, Kalah A. Guidry, Angel Guillory, Geraldine Guillory, 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, Alexander Guillory Jr, Courtney Harris, Nia D. Hawkins-Camp, Xavier Henry, Randolph J. Navy III, Anthony N. Russell **Air Force:** Samuel Houston, Roderick Jones, Joshua Creeks, Joffre Lander **Marines:** Reginald Ward







January 13.....6:00pm  
 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> CCE Classes  
 January 18.....9:30am  
 PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> CCE Classes  
 January 20  
**NO CCE CLASSES – MLK HOLIDAY**  
 January 25.....9:30am  
 PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> CCE Classes  
 January 27.....6:00pm  
 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> CCE Classes



**Jubilee 2025 Young Adult Pilgrimage: Rome & Assisi**

Pope Francis has declared that 2025 will be a Jubilee year, and all young adults (ages 18-39) are invited to join the archdiocesan pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi to participate! The Office of Young Adult & Campus Ministry is partnering with Verso Ministries to offer a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi for the Jubilee on **July 27-August 6, 2025**. This pilgrimage is open to all young adults (ages 18-39). This pilgrimage offers a unique opportunity to explore the rich history of Rome, walk through the holy doors for the Jubilee year, participate in adoration and Mass with Pope Francis, and visit the home of Sts. Francis and Clare of Assisi. We will also attend the canonization Mass for Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. Cost for the trip is **\$3,881 per person** (flights not included). Any interested young adults (ages 18-39) are welcome to register starting now! Click the link below to start the registration process. A deposit of **\$500** is due upon registration. The remaining payments can be spaced out over the next **6 months**. All payments are due to Verso ministry by **March 31, 2025**.

<https://versoministries.com/departures/archdiocese-of-galveston-houston-jubilee-of-young-people-july-2025/>

**Office of Aging**

The Office of Aging Ministry offers a variety of practical and pastoral planning resources on their website. The resources address: Caregiving, aging in place and end-of-life planning. For more information, contact the Office of Aging at **713-741-8712**; visit their webpage at <https://www.archgh.org/aging>.

**ATTENDANCE**

In-person Mass attendance on Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> was **455** and the 7:30am Sunday Mass Livestream received **51** 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 fulfill our own Baptismal call by giving ourselves entirely to God and answer His call to holiness. “John answered them all, ‘I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming...he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit...’” - Luke 3:16 The Catholic Catechism states that “Jesus’ immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God’s will.” In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.

**Stewardship Intention Card**



As we begin a new year, let’s take time to reflect on the Blessings we have received in 2024.

You are invited to commit to giving back in 2025 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 and the Parish Office.



**Annual Giving Statements**

If you need a copy of your 2024 contribution statement for tax purposes, please call the Parish Office at **(713) 738-2311**. Statements will be sent only upon request. **Please note: Contributions received after December 31<sup>st</sup> will not be reflected on statements for 2024.**

**Discussing Sexuality with Your Children**

Parents, you’re invited to a special two-day event to help you confidently and lovingly guide your children through conversations about human sexuality. Together, we’ll engage in thoughtful presentations, supportive small groups discussions, and open Q&A sessions designed to empower you with faith-filled guidance. **January 17–18, 2025** from 8:30am – 4:00pm at **St. Jerome Catholic Church**, 8825 Kempwood Drive, Houston, TX. Registration \$150 per couple or \$100 per individual. For details and registration, scan the QR code or contact us at 281-741-8710. Email [familylifehouston@archgh.org](mailto:familylifehouston@archgh.org), or visit [www.arch.org/familylife](http://www.arch.org/familylife).



**Archdiocesan Youth Conference (AYC) 2025**

This is the largest evangelizing event for high school youth that the Office of Adolescent Catechesis and Evangelization (OACE) hosts annually. Participants will have the opportunity to share and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ through daily Mass, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Confession, dynamic talks, and other prayer experiences. AYC will take place from **July 25-27** at the Hilton Americas-Houston. This year’s theme is *Pilgrims of Hope* in celebration of the 2025 Jubilee Year. Contact Tim Colbert ([tcobert@archgh.org](mailto:tcobert@archgh.org)) for more information.

**55+ Club**



The 55+ Club is recruiting new members during the months of January thru March. Membership dues are only \$15.00/year. You must be 55 yrs or older to apply. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **January 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm** in the Harris Center Auditorium.



## BAPTISM OF THE LORD(c)

January 12, 2025

[After Jesus had been baptized] A voice came from heaven, which said "You are My beloved Son; with You, I am well pleased." Luke 3:22

### Using our Baptism as Spiritual Blinders

Traditionally, the **Baptism of the Lord** marks the end of the Christmas season. For those who have experienced Baptism, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we have become **God's beloved children. Our baptism aligns us with our purpose in life.** Do you want to please God; then be like His Son! "This is my Beloved Son, with You, I am well pleased" Luke 3:22. God wants us to be like His Son, and the only way we will be like Christ is to **fix our eyes on Him.** This is our **baptismal calling.**



Some horses wear **blinders.** The blinders reduce the horse's field of vision and help the horse to concentrate and limit distractions. Horses can easily get distracted by disturbing sounds. Blinders can help them keep their vision focused on the track, trail, or roadway before them; so they **don't go the wrong way.** Blinders can also keep the horse looking straight ahead and not side to side, or the rear.

In the same way our **baptism** should become **Spiritual Blinders for us.** The main thing Satan uses against us are distractions; so we can lose focus on Christ. Our baptismal should remind us not to look to the side and get off **course because of people. Our friends, co-workers and even family shouldn't distract us from following the Lord.** Do you want to know why you are here? Here is your purpose! **Romans 14:8:** "If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die we are the Lord's. Why are you here? **You are here for the Lord;** not for women, and not for men.

You are not here for your boyfriend or girlfriend. You are not even here for your husband or your wife. The disciples told Jesus, "We have forsaken all to follow you" (Matt. 19:27). What did Jesus say? "**Unless you love Me, more than Father, Mother, sister, brother even your own life, you are not worthy to be My disciple**" Matt. 10:37. In other words, you got to love **Him,** more than you love you. **1 Cor. 10:31:** "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

**You are here on this earth for God.**

Blinders keep horses from looking back. Our Spiritual Blinders (**Baptism**) should remind us not to look back and return to our former way of living. Jesus warned us in Luke 9:62 that we are not fit for the Kingdom of God, if we, "**set a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind.**" A plow is for work; it's hard to work for the Lord and keep looking backward.

A horse can't put **the Blinders on himself.** He needs His owner to place the blinders on. You can't follow Christ in your power; you need the Lord's help. **John 15:5:** "Apart from Me, you can do nothing." **Matt. 19:26:** "With God all things are possible." Spiritual blinders help us to focus on what really matters.

All the people who witnessed my infant baptism over 60 years ago are deceased. My Mom, however, kept the clothes I was baptized in. They are a reminder to me that I must fight a good fight, I must finish my course, and I must keep the Faith.

**Our baptism** should help align ourselves with God's will and purpose for our life.



◁▷ Dcn. Jenkins





**Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston**  
**40th Observance of the Annual Celebration**



# "A Mass of Remembrance"

Honoring the birthday of  
**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**



His Eminence  
Daniel Cardinal DiNardo  
PRINCIPAL CELEBRANT

Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart  
1111 St. Joseph Parkway  
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**SUNDAY  
AFTERNOON**

**January 19, 2025**

**3:00PM**

Reception to follow at the Cathedral Centre.



Deacon Will Hunter  
Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish  
HOMILIST





**Our JOURNEY TO SECOND CHANCE TEAM partnered with PATH TO FREEDOM in December as we signed up sponsors for the families who have loved ones incarcerated to have a MERRY CHRISTMAS! Each sponsor committed to providing money and/or unwrapped gifts for a family participating in the Angel Tree program. All the gifts were distributed at the Angel Tree Party held at ST JOHNS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH on December 21, 2024.**



Celebration of

# CATHOLIC YOUTH OF AFRICAN DESCENT

*"Thus faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ."  
Romans 10:17*



**March 8, 2025**

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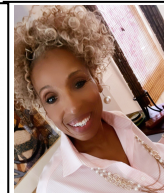
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