

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 15, 2023



4600 REED ROAD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77051-2857  
Parish Office: 713.738.2311; Fax: 713.738.3337  
CCE Office: 713.731.2775; SVdP Food Pantry: 713.731.2716  
Parish Hall: 713.731.2725  
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 (RCIA)

Deacon Michael V. Jenkins

## SVdP FOOD PANTRY

Curtis Jones 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., 12:15pm

## WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday: 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.-5:00 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 832.920.6912

## 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)

## GIVE without Cash or Check



**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>SAT.</b>	<b>10/14/2023</b>	<b>5:00PM</b>
<i>Joseph &amp; Earlene Duplechaine (D)</i> Duplechaine Family		
<i>Michael Albert (D)</i> – Rita Albert		
<i>Alton Albert, Jr. (D)</i> – Rita Albert		
<i>Andrew Nwokobia (D)</i> Nwokobia Family		
<i>Deacon Albert Henry (D)</i> – The Family		
<b>SUN.</b>	<b>10/15/2023</b>	<b>7:30AM</b>
<i>People of the Parish</i>		
<b>SUN.</b>	<b>10/15/2023</b>	<b>10:00AM</b>
<i>Agnes Williams (L)</i> SFX Sisters in the Spirit		
<i>Ozel Biagas Auzenne (D)</i> Patricia Session		
<i>Theresa Lazard (D)</i> – Odessa Broussard		
<i>Lorelle Jackson (L)</i> – The LeBlanc Family		
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)</i> Family & Friends		
<i>Norman Richardson (D)</i> Oswald Thompson Family		
<i>Lena Hicks (D)</i> – M. Chaney		
<i>Kermit J. Allen (D)</i> – Michael V. Jenkins		
<i>Alexis Alfred (L)</i> Cheryl Henderson/Family		
<i>Rev. Henry Davis (L)</i> Bonnie & James Jefferson		
<b>MON.</b>	<b>10/16/2023</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
<b>NO MORNING MASS</b>		
<b>TUE.</b>	<b>10/17/2023</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
<i>Earnestine Holmes (L)</i> SFX Sisters in the Spirit		
<i>Corliss Taylor-Simmons (L)</i> SFX Sisters in the Spirit		
<b>WED.</b>	<b>10/18/2023</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
<i>Andrew Nwokobia (D)</i> Nwokobia Family		
<i>Lena Hicks (D)</i> – M. Chaney		
<b>THUR</b>	<b>10/19/2023</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
<i>Jerry Givens (L)</i> – Special Intention		
<i>James &amp; Justice Reaux (D)</i> – M. Chaney		
<b>FRI</b>	<b>10/20/2023</b>	<b>7:00AM</b>
<i>James &amp; Justice Reaux (D)</i> – M. Chaney		
<i>Kermit J. Allen (D)</i> – Margaret Cadoree		



Say Goodbye to  
Fr Michael and Fr John

**Fr. Michael** leaves for his new location at St. Luke Church in Washington, DC on **Monday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>**. His new mailing address is: **4925 E. Capitol**

**Street, S.E., Washington, DC 20019.** Our Farewell Reception for Fr. Michael will take place in the Parish Hall after each Mass on the weekend of **October 21-22**. Please join us in wishing him a fond farewell.



Please  
Pray  
for...

Donald Abraham, Dcn  
Alfred Abram, Alexis Alfred,  
Rv. Alfred Ayem SVD, Vea  
Barksdale, Sandra Bass, Kelly  
Batiste, Hazel S. Brown, Augustina  
Buckman, Savannah Blackwell, Amber  
Byas, Julius Cadoree, Margaret Cadoree,  
Nancy Calvin, Sterling Certenberg, Mabel  
Chavis, Dalton Cooper Jr, Ayonna  
Coleman, Frank Davis Sr, Rv. Henry  
Davis SSJ, Marlene Davis, Lois Epps,  
Barbara Forte', Lawrence Frank, Louis  
Gardner, Anthony Gobert, Valerie Goode,  
Betty Goodwin, Edna Guillory, Beulah  
Hadrick, Gilbertine Haley, Mason  
Harrison, Alvin J. Hebert, Donald  
Henderson, Floyd Henderson, Brooke  
Joseph, Shirley Ann Joseph, Kennedy  
Family Members, Maria Laredo, JoAnn  
LaSane, Roy Lee, Stella Linden, Dcn.  
Edward Levine, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia  
Lewis, Celestine Loftis, Jimmie Mack,  
Eugene Mallery, Charles Martin, Kevin P.  
Martin, Shannon Martin, Diane Miles,  
Dorothy Milstead, Cookie Mooring, Vy.  
Rv. William L. Norvel SSJ, Carolyn  
Ollison, Betty Patrick, Cynethia Pichon,  
Percy Pichon Sr, Robin Pichon-Mosley,  
Cornelia Pickney, Catherine Pierre,  
Mildred Pierre, Ann Polk, Marcelle  
Prevost, Melody Ratcliff, Elise  
Richmond, Louis Robinson, Russell  
Robinson, Oliver Rose, Grace Russell,  
Vy. Rv. Michael K. Saah-Buckman SSJ,  
Eunies Shakesnider, Joyce Smith, Simon  
Smith, Joyce Stagg, Jeanette Steptoe,  
Mackenzie Swanks, Kennedi Swanks,  
Erma Taylor, Craig Temple, Melvin  
Thomas, Irma Toliver, Gemma Walcott,  
Agnes Williams, Mark Williams, Patricia  
Williams, Janice Woods, and all the sick  
and shut-in in our parish family.

**After 30 days, please call the office to remain on this list.**

**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, 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, Courtney Harris, Nia D. Hawkins, Xavier Henry, Randolph J. Navy III, Anthony N. Russell **Air Force:** Roderick Jones, Joshua Creeks, Joffre Lander **Marines:** Reginald Ward

**TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Both Isaiah and Jesus describe a feast in the readings we hear today, a feast given by God, a feast to which all are invited. Isaiah describes a banquet on a holy mountain, full of food, joy and life. Jesus' story is of a wedding banquet, given by a king. Between these two readings, we hear Paul encouraging the Philippians to have faith that God will always provide. May God's word help us realize that the feast we celebrate together here is a sign of God's bounty and generosity.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK****Sunday – October 15**

*The 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Isaiah 25:6-10

Psalm 23:1-6

Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Matthew 22:1-14 or 22:1-10

**Monday – October 16**

*Saint Hedwig, Religious; Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin*

Romans 1:1-7

Psalm 98:1-4

Luke 11:29-32

**Tuesday – October 17**

*Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop, Martyr*

Romans 1:16-25

Psalm 19:2-5

Luke 11:37-41

**Wednesday – October 18**

*Saint Luke, Evangelist*

2 Timothy 4:10-17

Psalm 145:10-13, 17-18

Luke 10:1-9

**Thursday – October 19**

*Saints John de Brébeuf & Issac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs*

Romans 3:21-30

Psalm 130:1-6

Luke 11:47-54

**Friday October 20**

*Saint Paul of the Cross, Priest*

Romans 4:1-8

Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 11

Luke 12:1-7

**Saturday October 21**

Romans 4:13, 16-18

Psalm 105:6-9, 42-43

Luke 12:8-12





**October 16 – NO CCE CLASSES**

**October 21.....9:30am**

**PreK-5<sup>th</sup> – CCE CLASSES**

Late Registration fees will begin on **December 9, 2023**. If you have any questions call (713) 731-2775.

## RCIA

### *Thinking of becoming Catholic?*

If you're not a Catholic, or you are a baptized Catholic lacking Confirmation and Eucharist, we invite you to explore the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)**. Classes are on Thursday's from **6:00pm - 7:00pm** in the Harris Center Room 125. Registration forms are available in the vestibule of the Church and on the Parish Website [www.sfxhouston.com](http://www.sfxhouston.com)

## Joint COUNCILS

The **Pastoral Council** and the **Finance Council** will have a joint meeting on Wednesday, **October 18<sup>th</sup>**, at 6:00pm in the Harris Center Auditorium.

### BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



Parishioners brought their pets to the Prayer Garden on Saturday, **October 8<sup>th</sup>**, for individual blessings by Deacon Michael Jenkins. We thank God for the love and joy our pets bring into our lives. They are our companions and friends; they stay by our side at all times, and they draw us closer as family and friends.



October is "*Respect Life Month*"



**Odile Malveaux** passed on to eternal glory on October 12, 2023 at the age of 93yrs. A Funeral Mass is scheduled for Saturday, October 20, 2023 at 10:00am. Eternal Rest Grant unto her soul.

**Mary M. Timberlake** joined the Saints in Heaven at the age of 92yrs. A Funeral Mass is scheduled for Saturday, October 21, 2023 at 10:00am. Eternal Rest Grant unto her soul.

### WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Get Ready to Set Your **"Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move"** for World Mission Sunday!

Next weekend, we'll unite with fellow Catholics globally to mark World Mission Sunday. As we reflect on Pope Francis' compelling theme, we're invited to kindle the flames of Christ's love and spread its warmth to mission territories in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe. Prepare to support the Society for the Propagation of the Faith with prayers and generosity. Thank you for being a beacon of Christ's love!

### DREXEL SOCIETY FOUNDER'S DAY & AWARDS LUNCHEON

Announcing The Drexel Society, Inc., Houston Chapter Founder's Day and Presidential Awards Luncheon. Are you ready? The date is **October, 28 2023**, at the Wyndham Houston Hotel, 8686 Kirby Dr, Houston, TX 77054, at 11:30 a.m. Our guest speaker is Mrs. Lajuana Armstrong-Jean, an HISD Principal. Lunch will be served approximately 12:30pm. This year marks 45 years of service in Houston. The cost is \$40.00 per person. You may obtain tickets via email to: Drexelaire Angela Duplechain at [duplecha.angela@att.net](mailto:duplecha.angela@att.net), or call (713) 416-6957.



### LECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING

Lectors will meet on Saturday, **October 21<sup>st</sup>**, at **12:00 Noon** in the Harris Center Auditorium.

**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 learn to depend on God to supply for our all needs. "My God will fully supply whatever you need..." - Philippians 4:19 God really does provide for those who are grateful and generous. This is very difficult for people that don't live a stewardship lifestyle to believe. People are skeptical and say it's just coincidence. If you are skeptical, try living a stewardship lifestyle for just one month – be generous with your gifts of time in prayer, talent in charitable works, and treasure, then see how God provides for your needs.

### EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who promised to stay with us always, until the end of the age. Re-awaken our wonder at His presence in the Most Holy Eucharist. May our hearts burn within us as He opens the Scriptures and breaks the bread. Give us the eyes of faith to recognize His presence in our brothers and sisters, especially in the face of the poor and the suffering. Nourished by the Eucharist, send us forth to walk faithfully as missionary disciples, proclaiming the Gospel to every heart and extending Your kingdom to every land. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

### ATTENDANCE

In-person Mass attendance on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> was **425** and the 7:30am Sunday Mass Livestream received **58** views online. Please join us via YouTube Livestream, or bring a friend to come worship with us in the church.



## *Yes Lord, I Accept Your Invitation*

**Deacon Darryl K. Drenon**

Happy Sunday! Do we believe the Good News we hear week after week from our scriptures readings in Mass? On this 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time, we continue to walk through the Gospel of Matthew. Sometimes it sounds harsh. Sometimes it sounds too good to be true. When the Good News tells us over and over again how much God loves us, we may find it a little too much. Can God really love me that way? If we wonder about that then our Gospel today will really be exciting. It's about the greatest invitation we will ever receive.

We are honored by invitations, aren't we? We feel honored to be invited to the wedding or birthday of a friend. On a bigger scale, how would you feel if you were invited to a state dinner at the White House? Suppose you were in Rome and part of an audience with the Holy Father. How would you feel if the Pope pulled you aside and said, "Please join me for dinner tonight." Would you accept immediately, wholeheartedly or would you say, "Thank you, your Holiness, but I already have other dinner plans." Today's Gospel is about an invitation much greater than any of these.

Brothers and sisters let's look at the literal meaning of the Gospel. The king is God. The wedding banquet is heaven. God first invited his chosen people, the Israelites. Some refused, some were too busy. Then God opened the banquet to everyone. He went to the main roads and invited everyone he found.

Now let's apply this Gospel to ourselves. It means God is inviting us to heaven. His invitation is just as real as going to your mailbox and finding an envelope addressed to you. You open it and read, "I respectfully invite you to heaven. I request your presence with me forever. Please RSVP." Signed, God.

Does this seem too good to be true? Do we ever say to ourselves, "I just hope God closes his eyes and let me slip into heaven." If we feel this way, we are saying that God does not really want us in heaven. If we get there it will be through the back door, like an uninvited guest crashing the party. But today Jesus is saying, "No, you are the invited guest. God really wants you there."

Do we wrestle a little with this? Do we feel like double-checking the name on the envelope in our mailbox? Do we feel that we don't deserve this? Well, you're right. None of us deserve our invitation. None of us deserve the suffering and death of Jesus. But when Jesus died, the invitation list to heaven was completed and it includes your name and mine.

Brothers and sisters, again, sometimes it can be very demanding, perhaps even upsetting. Sometimes it seems too good to be true. But I didn't write the Gospel, Matthew did. It is not my parable; it is from Jesus Himself. This is Gospel truth.

How will we respond? Will we ignore the invitation like some did? Will we be too busy with other things to take it seriously? No. We will respond with a wholehearted, "Yes. Yes, Lord, I won't let anything get in the way. Yes Lord, count me in. I will be there." And you know what? They day we believe the invitation is ours, they day we respond with our whole heart, will be the day we live as people on their way to heaven.





## A NOTE OF GRATITUDE (Fr John Patrick Tindana)

Dear Friends of St Francis Xavier Catholic Church, “Goodbye may seem forever. Farewell is like the end, but in my heart is the memory and there you will always be.” — Disney

I am using this opportunity to say a big thank you for your warmth and hospitality during my “short” one year stay with you. I thank the Pastor, Fr Michael Saah-Buckman, for his brotherly love during my stay with him. May God bless him.

To you, the wonderful people of God, words alone are not enough to express my gratitude. I promise to add prayer of thanksgiving on your behalf. May you continue to be a community of love and Christian charity.

Last but not least, may I make a special mention of all the young ones in the church. I appreciate your presence and participation in church activities. As I keep telling you, “When daddy and mummy do not feel like coming to church, tell them you want to go anyway, and they will bring you.”

Kindly permit me to leave you with my contact:

### ST. CECILIA CATHOLIC CHURCH

47950 Mattapany Road

P.O. Box 429

St. Mary’s City, Maryland 20686

Email: [myfineangel@yahoo.com](mailto:myfineangel@yahoo.com)

Cell: 631-615-0812

Once again, thank you. May God bless you and may Mother Mary keep you all under her maternal protection. Amen.





# AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA

## ROSARY RALLY

The Public Square Rosary Rally to the Blessed Virgin Mary to Save America was held on October 7, 2023 in the St. Francis Xavier Prayer Garden. The Rally focused on praying the rosary, special intentions for America, praise in song and word and the fellowship of family, friends and parishioners. We thank everyone for registering and participating in the Rosary Rally.

The Rosary Rally was sponsored by Knights of Peter Claver Unit 138 under the leadership of Lady Ingrid Singleton. We were blessed to have the Junior Division of Unit 138 to lead the Rosary. They did a wonderful job. We were blessed again to have the CCE students participate in the Rally.

We are asking more parishioners to get involved in the Rosary Rally. This is a way to strengthen our Christian foundation and pass on a legacy of prayer to our children and those to come. Praying the rosary is fundamental.

See you the next time!



Membership/Rosary Rally Committee not pictured: Knight Michael Lamothe, Ladies Unella Baber, Phyllis Moore and Earline Sayrie

Submitted by Lady Gwen Reed Lamothe



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# TRUNK or TREAT



**Saturday, Oct, 28 at 10am–12pm**

**Located at St. Francis Xavier Church  
4600 Reed Rd, Houston, TX!**

**Join us for a Free, Safe and Unique way to  
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