

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 2019



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
WEB Address: <http://www.sfxhouston.com>
E-MAIL: stfrancishou@sfxhouston.com
Parish Office Hours: Mon - Wed 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Closed on Thursday; Fri 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/StFrancisXavierCatholicChurchHouston>

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:

Rev. Michael K. Saah-Buckman, 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

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

Anthony Ray Gobert

MAINTENANCE

Violet & Harold Champ

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Sat: Vigil 5:00 p.m.

Sun: 7:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m.

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday: 7:00 a.m.

First Friday: 6:30 p.m.

Holy Days: 7:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m.

CONFESSIONS

Saturday: 4:15p.m. - 4:45p.m.

Sundays: 6:45a.m. - 7:15a.m.

9:20a.m. - 9:45a.m.

11:35a.m. - 12:00p.m.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED

SACRAMENT:

First Friday: 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

CHOIR REHEARSALS:

Adult Choirs

Judah Choir:

Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.

God's Chosen Choir:

Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Youth Choir:

Saturday-12:00pm (Harris Center)

Thursday before the 4th Sunday-7:00pm

(In Church)

BIBLE STUDY/

ADULT CATHECHISM:

Tuesday: 6:30 p.m.

CHOIR DIRECTORS:

Jerry Givens 281.772.9276

Daniel Guerrero 281.723.9948

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.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Please contact a priest a minimum of six months prior to proposed date.

WELCOME VISITORS AND

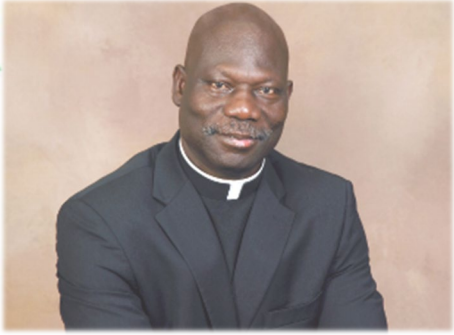
NEWCOMERS

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**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND NEW YEAR
WISHES
DECEMBER 2019**

2019 has been a year filled with many trials and uncertainties. Our nation has been consumed with immigration and other social challenges. We have just elected new leaders to govern our nation, States and cities

right on the heels of impeaching our President. Our Christian family has not been spared from the social and spiritual challenges. We are dealing with the misconducts from church leaders and individuals. Some of us have had our faith tested as we cope with the scandals that face us. The economy as they say is good. However, not all are sharing this piece of the economic pie. Some are finding life more and more difficult.

Reason suggests that this year's Christmas ought to be bleak and subdued. Yet, if we calm ourselves down and discern the activities of the whole year, we will find grace inherent in all the situations that have transpired throughout the year. Our good days out-weigh our bad days, and so we can't complain (Rev. Don Johnson, 1974).

The season of Advent has given us the moment to reflect on the coming of Christ. We have been asked to look for the signs of salvation. As the Prophet Isaiah has reminded us, God is faithful and trustworthy so we can "strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak" and assure "those whose hearts are frightened: be strong and fear not" because God has come to bring us vindication and salvation (Isaiah 35: 6).

John the Baptist appeared as an apocalyptic preacher challenging us to change our ways and get ourselves ready for Christ because he would come with "axe and torch to cut down and burn the rotten wood". Jesus, however, comes as a more comforting and inclusive Messiah. Rather than focusing on sin and punishment, Jesus shows us God's offer of salvation as he fulfilled the prophecies of Isaiah.

So, with love we celebrate the birth of the one who has come to realize the prophecies of Isaiah in a communion feast that mirrors His experience of God. It does not matter how beleaguered we are, or may feel, there is cause for rejoicing here. We know that God loves us and has enabled us to pierce through our trials and tribulations to find reason to celebrate.

It is, therefore, an honor and a privilege for me to be able to join you in this spiritual journey as a person and as your Pastor. Your living faith is an oasis from which I draw strength as I too struggle to live my faith. As we celebrate these communion feasts during the Christmas Season, I pray that the Love which the Incarnate Word brings continue to be the source of strength in our daily lives. May the Christmas joy continue to fill us with hope. Know that your intentions will be on the Altar of Sacrifice at all the Masses during the Octave of Christmas.

A very merry Christmas to every one of you.

Rev. Michael H. Saah-Buckman, SSJ
Pastor

MASS INTENTIONS

SAT. 12/21/19 5:00PM

Kristina M. Chaney (D)
Family & Friends
Edward R. Chavis, Jr. (D)
The Edward R. Chavis Family
Earlene Duplechaine (D)
The Duplechaine Family
Joseph Duplechaine (D)
The Duplechaine Family

Brandi Y. Moore (D) – Phyllis Moore
SUN. 12/22/19 7:30AM

Kristina M. Chaney (D)
Family & Friends
Rev. August Thompson (D)
Marian Richardson/Family
Lauretha Sellers (D) – Marian Richardson
Thomas Burney (D) – Yvonne

SUN. 12/22/19 10:00AM

Annie Ruth Frank (D) – The Family
Anthony Calvin (D) – Nancy Calvin
Quentus Calvin (D) – Nancy Calvin
Madeline Hamilton (D)
The Hamilton Family

Mary T. Cameron (D)
Pamela Johnson & Family
SUN. 12/22/19 12:15PM

People of the Parish
MON. 12/23/19 7:00AM

Rev. Edward J. Mullaney, SSJ (D)
TUE. 12/24/19 5:00PM

People of the Parish
WED. 12/25/19 12:00AM

People of the Parish
WED. 12/25/19 9:00AM

People of the Parish
THUR. 12/26/19 7:00AM

Kristina M. Chaney (D)
Family & Friends

Emmitt Williams, Jr. (D) – Audrey Otis
FRI. 12/27/19 7:00AM

Hilton "Steve" Williams (L)
Special Intention

R.L. Henderson (D)
Willie Mae Henderson



REGINALD LEE PIERRE
1972-2019



Deacon Alfred Abram, Algy Alfred, Margaret Cadoree, Mary Augustine Chenier, Marie Green Cooper, Nicole Fontenet, Ursula Gross, Jimmy Harris, Stacy Lamar Harris, Willie Mae Henderson, Tracy Jackson, Brooke Joseph, Gaston Joseph, Helen Kennison, Markitha Labbe', JoAnn LaSane, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, Cynthia Ann Malone, Patrick Martell, Barbara Martin, Shannon Martin, Dorothy Milstead, Vy. Rev. William L. Norvel, SSJ, Carolyn Ollison, Helen Foreman Orsot, Cynethia Pichon, William Pierre Sr., Marcelle Prevost, Marie Prevost, Thomas Randle, Evelyn Roberts, Wilson Robertson, Oliver Rose, Kim Roy, Evelyn Smith, Simon Smith, Joyce Stagg, MacKenzie Swanks, Kennedi Swanks, Erma Taylor, Pamela Thibodeaux, Agnes Williams, Patricia Williams and all the sick and shut-in in our parish family.

Let us Know

Please let us know when you and/or a family member are ill, in the hospital, or having a surgery, especially if the illness or surgery is serious. Call the Parish Office so that we can put the name on the sick list for prayers and/or visitation if needed. **After 30 days, please call the office to remain on the prayer list.**

Lord, we pray for all our current military service members and first responders who put their own lives on the line every day in order to protect our families and our country.

Army:
Barbara Baber, Sade Beck, Wadie Troy Butler, Shanta Charles, Josiah Charles, Stephen Jones, LaTroy King, Gary Christian Robertson, Anthony Lamar Smith II, David Stagnoli

Navy:
Alvin Balthazar, Debreanna Brown, Jermaine Ceaser, Kevin Crockett, Courtney Harris, Nia D. Hawkins, Randolph J. Navy III, Anthony N. Russell

Air Force:
Hayden Jacob Jr, Roderick Jones, Joffre Lander, Bena Sellers, Terrance J Valiare, Thomas Q Valiare II

Marines
Alyssa Dugar, Reginald Ward



Bible Study Classes are **cancelled** thru the end of the year. Classes will resume on

January 7, 2020.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

As we close in on an event that changed the course of history, we hear in the words of scripture how the birth of Jesus fulfilled prophecies from hundreds of years earlier. Isaiah tells the king that a virgin will bear a son, who will come from the house of David and be called Emmanuel, "God is with us." Mary, the Blessed Virgin Mother, and Joseph, of the House of David, willingly agree to God's plan. God is with us as we celebrate the final Sunday of Advent today.



Dates to Remember

December 22, 2019

4th Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2019 – Christmas Eve

Vigil Mass – 5:00pm

December 25, 2019-Christmas Day

Midnight Mass – 12:00am

Morning Mass – 9:00am

(NO 7:00am Mass)

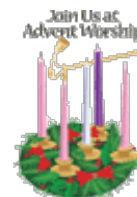
Dec 31, 2019-New Year's Eve

Vigil Mass – 5:00pm

January 1, 2020 - New Year's Day

Morning Mass–10:00am

(NO 7:00am Mass)



ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS

Dec 21-22

5:00pm....Syble Jones/Shawana Savoy
7:30am.....Herbert & Delores Archer
10:00am.....Audry Hill
12:15pm.....Jeanette Jackson



December 23, 28, & 30, 2019:

NO CCE - CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

RCIA

RCIA classes are canceled the remainder of December and will resume **Thursday, January 9, 2020.**

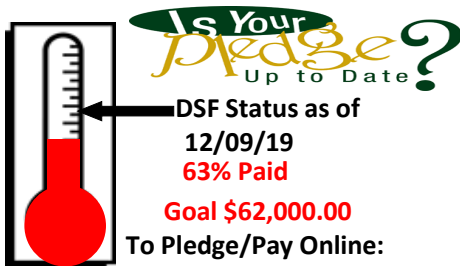


KPC SHOE DRIVE

KPC is collecting shoes for our shoe drive project thru the end of December.

Slightly worn shoes; No scuff marks; No shoe boxes.

Shoes must have tips on them.



To Pledge/Pay Online:

www.archgh.org/dsf

As of December 16, 2019, only **169** families have pledged or contributed to this year's DSF campaign. We are left with **\$21,752.70** to reach our DSF goal. If you have not yet had an opportunity to donate, please consider sending your donation this week. You can mail it directly to the Archdiocese at PO Box 4681, Houston, TX, 77210-4681. Please identify **St. Francis Xavier** on your payment. If you will need a copy of your 2019 contribution statement for tax purposes, please call the Parish Office after **December 31st** at **(713) 738-2311**. Statements will be sent only upon request.



If you will need a copy of your 2019 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 2019.**

Stewardship Intention Card



God will soon bless us with another New Year! Just as in the past, you are given the opportunity to again make a financial commitment to St. Francis Xavier parish. You are invited to commit to giving tithes and offerings by completing a **Call to Stewardship Intention Card**. These cards were mailed in your January Envelope packet and will be collected during Mass on the weekend of **January 4-5, 2020 (Stewardship Intention Weekend)**. If you do not receive envelopes, we will have cards in the pews and in the vestibule of the church.

Giving to God is a wonderful practice throughout a believer's life. It is so because it means that we are serious about showing our appreciation to God, who has enabled us to have all the blessings we enjoy daily. It is also an indication that we love God and want to show it by what we give. What every tither seems to learn is that tithing is not a hardship, but a genuine joy.

Thank you in advance for renewing your financial commitment to God and to your church family.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance on December 14th and December 15th was **465**. Please come worship with us and bring a friend.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS



We encourage all parishioners to take the chalice home for a week and pray for vocations. The signup sheet is located in the vestibule of the church.

STOCK/GIFT DONATION

Many parishioners donate annually during this holiday season with gifts of stock. Contact the Parish Office at **(713) 738-2311** for assistance in making a gift or stock donation to St. Francis Xavier. Consider leaving a lasting legacy in your will to your parish.



St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry

St. Francis Xavier's St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry provided assistance for **51** households (**158** individuals) during the month of **November**.

READINGS

FOR THE WEEK

■ Sunday – December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalms 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-24

■ Monday – December 23

Saint John of Kanty, Priest

Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24

Psalms 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14

Luke 1:57-66

■ Tuesday – December 24

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Psalms 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

Luke 1:67-79

□ Wednesday – December 25

The Nativity of the Lord

Vigil: Isaiah 9:1-6

Psalms 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14

Midnight: Isaiah 62:11-12

Psalms 97:1, 6, 11-12

Titus 3:4-7

Luke 2:15-20

Day: Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6

Hebrew 1:1-6

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

■ Thursday – December 26

Saint Stephen, The First Martyr

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

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

Matthew 10:17-22

□ Friday – December 27

Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

1 John 1:1-4

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

John 20:1, 2-8

■ Saturday – December 28

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 John 1:5—2:2

Psalms 124:2-3, 4-5, 7-8

Matthew 2:13-18



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Please remember to use your Christmas Flowers/Decorations envelope to sponsor the Christmas Poinsettia in Honor or in Memory of your loved one. The minimum donation is **\$10.00**.



The Parish Office will be closed:

December 24th – 26th



Please cut out this "Thank You Ad" and present it the next time you Patronize One of Our Advertisers

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