

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 13, 2020



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: 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>

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

NEW WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Sat: Vigil 5:00 p.m.

Sun: 7:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday: 7:00 a.m.

First Friday: 7:00 a.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.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED

SACRAMENT:

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

CHOIR REHEARSALS:

Adult Choirs

Judah Choir:

SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

God's Chosen Choir:

SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Youth Choir:

SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

BIBLE STUDY/

ADULT CATHECHISM:

SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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.

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

To register, call, come by the parish office or visit our website at: www.sfxhouston.com

GIVE without Cash or Check



Text-to-Give
Text \$ amount to 281-949-7600



Save the number as a contact in your mobile phone for easy giving.

MASS INTENTIONS

NOTE: THE SUNDAY 12:15PM MASS INTENTIONS HAVE BEEN MOVED TO THE 10:00AM MASS.

SAT. 12/12/2020 5:00PM

Kristina M. Chaney (D)

Family & Friends

Rev. August Thompson (D)

Levan & Dolores D. Ledet

Gilmore/Washington Families (D)

Morris & Melanie Washington

Richardson/Thompson Families (D)

Morris & Melanie Washington

Charolette Davis (D) – Lois Epps

SUN. 12/13/2020 7:30AM

Kristina M. Chaney (D)

Family & Friends

Amy Landry Gallow & Dallas Gallow, Sr.

Wanda Dixon/Family

Gary Charles (L) – Charles Family

JoAnne Henderson (L)

Henderson Family

Gaston Joseph, Sr. (D)

Sr. Theresa Sue Joseph, SSF

SUN. 12/13/2020 10:00AM

People of the Parish

Lonnie Carrier (D) – Theresa Williams

MON. 12/14/2020 7:00AM

Edwin Vallery (L) – Special Intention

Barbara Tolbert (D) – Audrey Otis

TUE. 12/15/2020 7:00AM

Raymond Otis (D) – Rita Albert

WED. 12/16/2020 7:00AM

Alonzo Richardson (D)

Marian Richardson & Family

THUR. 12/17/2020 7:00AM

Marguerite Lege' Durall (D)

Karen Stephenson

Andre J. Durall (D) – Karen Stephenson

FRI. 12/18/2020 7:00AM

John & Mary Buckman (D)

Elizabeth Nyankah (D)



Deacon Alfred Abram, Xavier Bowie, Vonda Breaux, Brooks Family, Julius Cadoree, Margaret Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Sterling Dotson Certenberg, Mary Augustine Chenier, Nora Coleman, Dalton Cooper Jr., Rita Darjean, Dubriel Family, Nicole Fontenette, Barbara Forte', Ursula Gross, Jimmy Harris, Hebert Family, Willie Mae Henderson, Dana Montez Hill, Brooke Joseph, Kennedy Family Members, Helen Kennison, JoAnn LaSane, Ophelia Lazard, Hazel Lewis, Laurenza Lewis, Eugene Mallery, Cynthia Ann Malone, Charles Martin, Shannon Martin, Dorothy Milstead, Nikita Mitchell, Vy. Rev. William L. Norvel, SSJ, Carolyn Ollison, Helen Foreman Orsot, Cynethia Pichon, William Pierre Sr., Mae Poindexter, Marcelle Prevost, Carole Pryor, Elise Richmond, Evelyn Roberts, Oliver Rose, Simon Smith, Joyce Stagg, Mackenzie Swanks, Kennedi Swanks, Erma Taylor, JoAnn Thomas, Agnes Williams, Patricia Williams, 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 a surgery so that we can put the name on the sick list for prayers. **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, Patrick Clay Jr, Stephen Jones, LaTroy King, Gary Christian Robertson, Anthony Lamar Smith II, David Stagnoli, Jordan T. McCorkle, Essence L. Casteel

Navy:

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

Air Force:

Roderick Jones, Joffre Lander, Bena Sellers, Terrance J Valiare, Thomas Q Valiare II

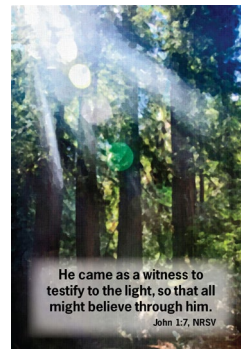
Marines

Alyssa Dugar, Reginald Ward

NEW OFFICE HOURS

Monday..... Closed
Tuesday..... 9:00am to 5:00pm
Wednesday.... 9:00am to 5:00pm
Thursday..... Closed
Friday..... 9:00am to 3:00pm

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



We are visited by three messengers today. The first is Isaiah, with a message of hope and joy, "a year of favor...a day of vindication."

Next comes Paul, with a

message for the Thessalonians that we can take to heart as well, advising us how to live while we wait for Christ's return. Finally we hear from Jesus' messenger, John the Baptist, who came to testify to the Messiah. Let us heed their messages as we prepare for Christ's coming.

READINGS**FOR THE WEEK**

Sunday – December 13

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

Psalms 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday – December 14

Saint John of the Cross, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17

Psalms 25:4-5, 6, 7, 8-9

Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday – December 15

Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13

Psalms 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23

Matthew 21:28-32

Wednesday – December 16

Isaiah 45:6-8, 18-21, 25

Psalms 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14

Luke 7:18-23

Thursday – December 17

Genesis 49:2, 8-10

Psalms 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 17

Matthew 1:1-17

Friday – December 18

Jeremiah 23:5-8

Psalms 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19

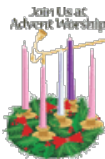
Matthew 1:18-25

Saturday – December 19

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25

Psalms 71:3-4, 5-6, 16-17

Luke 1:5-25



ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS

Dec 12 – Dec 13

5:00pm.....Phyllis Moore & Ruth Celestine

7:30am.....Ann Polk

10:00am....Linda & Keithrik Knighten

GAUDETE SUNDAY

On this weekend during the Advent season we celebrate "Gaudete" which means "Rejoice" by wearing something rose or pink colored. The pink candle of the Advent wreath will be lit.



SFX GABRIEL PROJECT
Pregnant? Need Help?
Call 713-225-5826



December 14th6:00pm

6th -10th CCE CLASSES

December 19th9:30am

PreK-5th CCE CLASSES

RCIA

Thinking of becoming Catholic?

RCIA classes are held on **Thursdays**, at **6:30pm** in the Harris Center. Registration Forms are available in the vestibule of the Church, and on the Parish Website.



SFX PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY

The St. Francis Xavier's Christmas Party was successful and safe. The Young Adults and Parish Volunteers served approximately 130 plates on December 6, 2020. Thank you to everyone who worked and attended this event.



If you will need a copy of your 2020 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 2020.**

ATTENDANCE

Attendance on Dec 8:

57-In Church; Livestream-182

Attendance on Dec 5th & Dec 6th:

186-In Church; Livestream-317

Please join us via Livestream, or bring a friend to come worship with us in the church. You must wear a mask to attend all services in the church.



Senior Food Distribution
The Houston Food Bank, the Sunnyside Multi-Service Center, the Honorary Mayor of Sunnyside and area churches will collaborate to distribute 11,000 boxes of food during the month of December, to senior citizens ages 60 years of age and up. 2,200 boxes will be handed out every Tuesday (**Dec 15, 22 & 29**) from **3:00pm to 6:00pm** here at St. Francis Xavier Church.



Thank you to everyone for your generous support to the Honduras Hurricane Eta Relief Fund! For monetary donations, go to: www.sfxhouston.com and click on the **Honduras Hurricane Eta Relief Fund** or make your check payable to St. Francis Xavier Church. Please specify "**Honduras Hurricane Relief**" in the memo.

Stewardship Reflection

"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
— 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.



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.



Dates to Remember

December 13, 2020

3rd Sunday of Advent

Gaudete' Sunday (Wear pink/rose)

December 20, 2020

4th Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2020 – Christmas Eve

NO MORNING MASS

Vigil Mass – 6:00pm

December 25, 2020-Christmas Day

NO MIDNIGHT MASS

Morning Mass – 10:00am

Dec 31, 2020-New Year's Eve

NO MORNING MASS

Vigil Mass – 6:00pm

January 1, 2021 - New Year's Day

Eucharistic Adoration – 7:30am

Morning Mass-10:00am



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

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

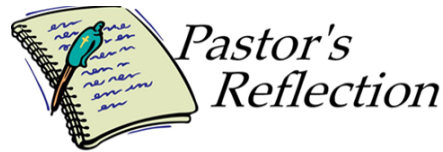
Did you know that Catholics can make an Act of Spiritual Communion?

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.



Even During This Time of Uncertainties, Rejoice

Today is traditionally known as “*Gaudete*” (Rejoice) Sunday. The name comes from **Philippians 4:4-5** which sets the tone for joyful anticipation of the Lord’s birth and His second coming. We are joyful, not just because Christmas is near and we are getting excited about things we may receive, but because of our faith in what God is doing for us.

Our life situation today paints a bleak picture. We are still dealing with political challenges which threaten to erode the foundation of our democratic experiment, i.e. questioning the credibility of our election process. The economy is going down with no termination point in sight; many are anxious about paying their bills. In the middle of these uncertainties is the COVID_19 pandemic. In spite of these challenges, we hear the Prophet Isaiah say to us, as he did to Israel who had been exiled and enslaved in Babylon for 50 years, that our bleak situation is over. This is great news, even though things are not easy for us. Many of us have lost loved ones, our livelihood, and have nothing; yet we are to rejoice. Isaiah, in the middle of these uncertainties, encourages us to rejoice because of what God has and is doing for us.

On their return from exile the people found their land in ruins. They lived with rampant injustice and poverty. Isaiah had prophesied restoration is coming, not as a grand theophany, but through a prophet empowered by God’s spirit. He is anointed and sent to bring good news to the poor and the brokenhearted. The people must be patient and trust with hopeful confidence that God’s promise will be realized.

The level of anxiety and depression that the Jews felt when they returned from exile can also be likened to that of Mary, the mother of Jesus. She was growing up in a normal Jewish family with the expectation of getting married and raising her children with Joseph. Then her whole life started taking a different course in front of her. She was suddenly going to be a mother without the completion of the marital rites. Her husband Joseph was getting ready to break the engagement quietly and spare the life of Mary, who according to traditional law should be stoned to death. In a little while she would suffer disgrace among family and friends when the pregnancy becomes obvious and she was going to have a baby without being married. In a society where being fatherless is the worst thing to happen to a child and its mother, how was she going to financially support herself and the baby. Despite all these challenges, Mary took the time to visit her cousin Elizabeth after getting the information that she too was pregnant. There in the womb of Elizabeth, the infant leapt for joy for the incarnation being realized. Mary affirmed this expression of joy, not in her misery, but in what God was about to do through her. The joy of this incarnation is what John attest to when he said that he was just a messenger crying out “make straight the way of the Lord”.

For us who are searching for reasons to be joyful, St. Paul reminds us that the job of being a missionary of Christ is not easy. Having listed the challenges he endured in his second letter to the Corinthians, namely that he had been beaten several times, put in jail, faced angry mobs, had gone without food or sleep, faced death, been shipwrecked three times, suffered cold and pain, faced dangers from robbers, his own people, even supposed Christians, Paul tells us in his Thessalonian letter to “rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks”. Why? Because this is the will of God for you.

So today, Isaiah, Mary, Elizabeth, John, and Paul all tell us not to let self-pity control our lives. If we can believe in the great things God has done and continues to do for us, then we have a reason to rejoice. Like the Jews who had returned from exile to find their land in ruins and the social structure destroyed by mismanagement, like Mary who have might become the laughingstock for their society, like Paul who became danger to his society, many of us also find ourselves in a similar situation today. Yet we have more reasons to rejoice. Why? Because we enjoy physical blessings and our freedom. We rejoice in what God is doing in our lives. We see an end to our political and social saga, COVID_19 now has a vaccine, and our economy will bounce back. So, we live in faith and hope until the kingdom of God is realized in us. **Let us rejoice for we know there is one among us whom we do not recognize.**

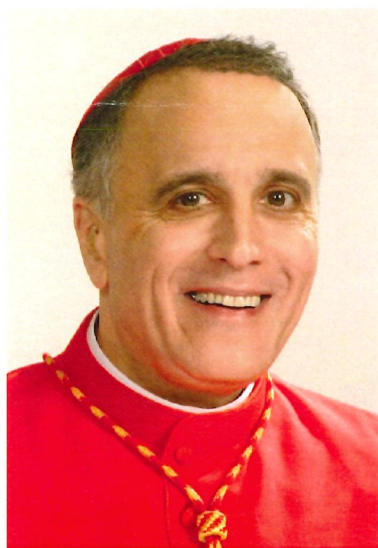


Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
36th Observance of the Annual Celebration



"A Mass of Remembrance"

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



Most Rev. Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
Archbishop
MAIN CELEBRANT

Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart
1111 St. Joseph Parkway
Houston, Texas 77002

**SUNDAY
AFTERNOON**

January 17, 2021

3:00PM



Deacon Darryl K. Drenon
Saint Francis Xavier Parish
HOMILIST



The Pharisees questioned John, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ?" How did John answer?



Write the letter that is in the first word but not the second. Then fill in the blanks.

1. rate - tea = _____
2. meal - alm = _____
3. told - old = _____
4. trash - star = _____
5. moose - some = _____
6. beat - tea = _____
7. pint - tin = _____
8. time - met = _____
9. yarn - ran = _____
10. team - met = _____
11. zone - one = _____
12. waste - seat = _____
13. dune - den = _____
14. main - aim = _____
15. sand - and = _____
16. meager - eager = _____

" _____ 8 6 10 7 3 8 11 2 12 8 3 4
 12 10 3 2 1 _____ J _____ d,
 " _____ 6 13 3 10 16 5 14 _____ g _____ 9 5 13
 15 3 10 14 15 5 14 2 9 5 13
 d _____ n _____ k _____.
 5 5 3 14 5 12 4 2
 _____ 8 15 3 4 2 5 14 2 12 4 5
 c _____ 5 16 2 15 10 3 2 1 16 2
 _____ f _____."

Children's Worship Bulletin™

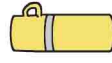
Ages 7+

December 13, 2020 • John 1:6-8, 19-28

Make Straight the Way of the Lord

This Scripture is about a man who came as a witness. Find out about him.

Name each picture. Write all the letters of each word in order on the blanks at the bottom.



1) _____



4) _____



2) _____



5) _____



3) _____



6) _____

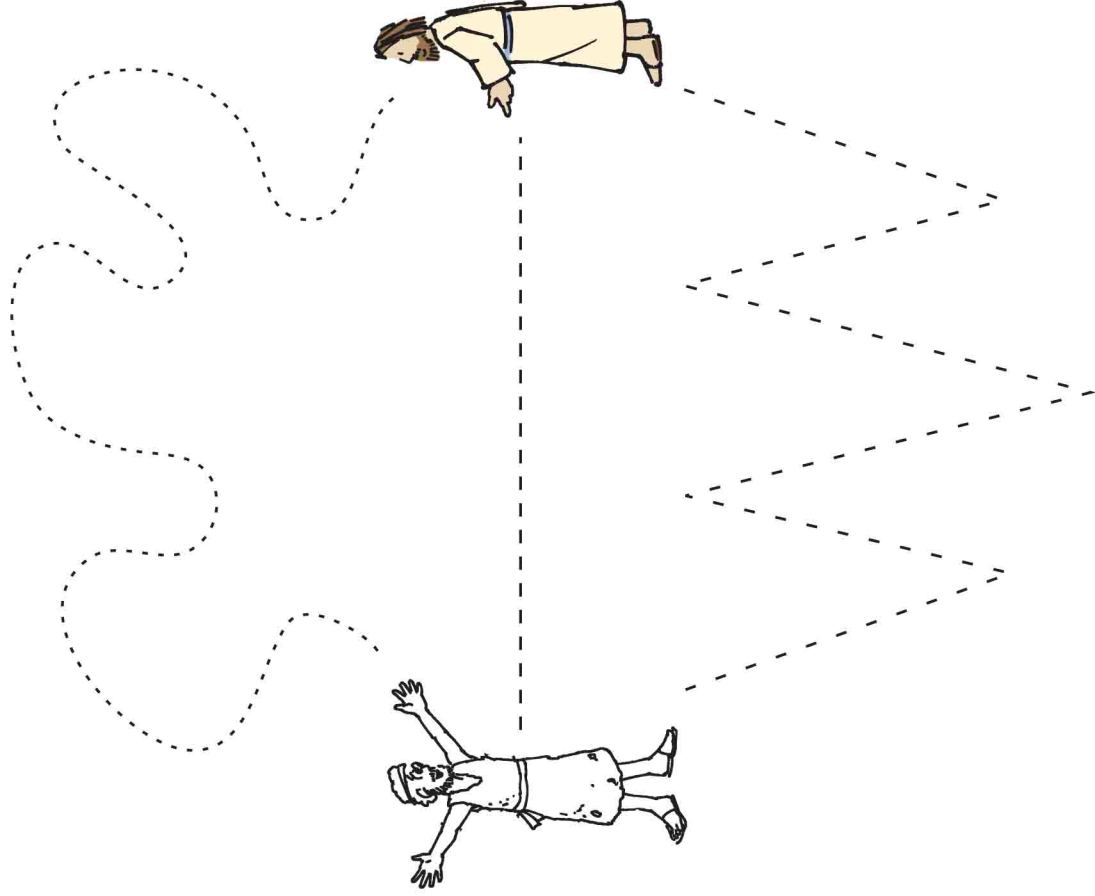
_____ 1 1 1 1 1 _____ e _____ a _____ 2 3 3 3
 _____ a _____ w _____ 4 6 4 2 _____ s _____ n _____ 3
 by G _____ d; hi _____ 5 _____ m _____ 4
 _____ a _____ 5 _____ 1 _____ Joh _____ 2

Enter your **SECRET CODE** to unlock games @ games.childrensbulletins.com

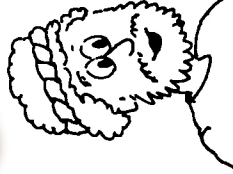
SECRET CODE!
EPVBJ5

John answered, "I am
the voice of one calling in the desert,
'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

Trace the straight path.


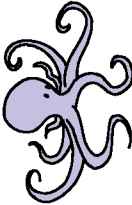


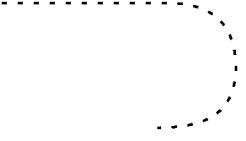


Make Straight the Way of the Lord



There was a man
sent from God.
His name was John.

Write the beginning sounds for each picture.



FORTE' & ASSOCIATES
Life-Health-Disability-Securities
2603 Augusta Dr, Suite 1300
Houston, TX 77057
(281) 731-4995
J. Wesley Forte'
Financial Representative

NTA Photography

Nicole T. Alexander

nicole@ntaphotography.com
 12303 Kitty Brook Houston 77071
 713.478.2022
 ntaphotography.smugmug.com



CONTROLLED MADNESS

"Specializing in Working German Shepherds"

Toren Robinson 713.557.4524 Houston, TX



5000 Alameda Road
Houston, TX 77004
(713) 942-ROSE (7673)
Fax: (713) 942-2180
www.mabriemortuary.co



REGGIE RUSSELL REALTORS

1325 Alameda Genoa, Houston, TX 77047

(713) 434-9999

MARY KAY
THE BEAUTY OF YOU!

Mary Kay products offer you so many ways to enhance your beauty and well-being. Innovative skin care! On-trend color! Pampering bath and body products and so much more!



Sandy Duplechaine

Independent Beauty Consultant

www.marykay.com/sduplechaine

832-746-8693

Let's find your favorites.
 Contact me today.

(832) 985-0258

www.homefueldelivery.com
info@homefueldelivery.com



GET FUEL DELIVERED RIGHT AT YOUR DOORSTEPS
STAY SAFE! SAVE TIME! SAVE MONEY!

Home!
 Business!
 On The Road!



Jeanie P. Ashiru
PROFESSIONAL
MANAGEMENT
SERVICES

4515 Reed Rd
 Houston, TX 77051
 (713) 733-1040
 (713) 738-0075 (Fax)
 (713) 416-7597 (Cell)
j.p.ashiru@gmail.com
Income Tax-Notary-
Fax-Tax/Business
Consultant



RODNEY JACKSON REALTY

Buying | Selling | Leasing | Investing | New Home Construction

"Always Something Different"

cell: 832-878-8556 | office: 713.623.8899



COLDWELL BANKER
REALTY



TRENT LANCELIN

Master Barber

13310 Cullen Blvd.
 Suite # E
 Houston, TX. 77047

Tuesday Special
\$10.00-All Even

When it's time for...
Compassion
Integrity
 and **Professionalism**
 it's time for McCoy and Harrison.



McCoy & Harrison
Funeral Home and Services

A Family Serving Families Since 1925

4918 Martin Luther King Blvd.
 Houston, TX 77021

Phone: 713.659.7618
 Fax: 713.748.7122

www.mccoyandharrison.com

Eugene Williams

Licensed Sales Agent

Turning 65 (Medicare Needs)



P 713-493-5345

2180 North Loop West, STE 115

Houston, TX 77018 Lic# 1007300

"I specialize in helping first-time buyers find the home of their dreams."



RE/MAX TOP REALTY
THE SILVER STAR GROUP

832-885-4435

www.lmccoy.remextexas.com



Higgins Beauty
Salon
3606 Nita St
Houston, TX 77051

Karen Higgins
Owner/Stylist

Appointments Call:
(713) 842-1915



TWO STEPPIN DJs



Jammin J and T Mike

Music at it's best for
Your Special Occassion

(832) 748-3968 or (713) 410-4214

Ross Mortuary, Inc.

"SERVICE OF DISTINCTION"

(713) 223-8071 or 223-3296

3618 Lyons Avenue
Houston, Texas 77020
FAX Number 223-5934



Dr. Umekei Smith
KPCLA Court #159



Umekei Smith DDS

FAMILY & COSMETIC DENTISTRY

Smile Makeovers • Invisalign • Implants and Dentures • HSA
 Flex Spending • Most Insurance Accepted
 AARP/Medicare Plans Accepted • 60 min Appointments Available
 3264 South Loop West | Houston, TX 77025

New Patient Special \$49 EXAM AND XRAYs



Steven K. Schwartz II, Attorney at Law

Probate & Estate Settlement
 Wills & Estate Plans

713-385-0269

www.SchwartzLawHouston.com



Mable Dyer - Your local agent

281-369-4500

Auto-Home-Business-Life

Contact me for a free review!

mabledyer1@allstate.com



Allstate

You're in good hands.

© 2018 Allstate Insurance Co.

258060

Please support these businesses. They support our parish and community.

For advertising information, contact the Parish Office at (713) 738-2311.