ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 20, 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

7:00 a.m. Weekday: First Friday: 7:00 a.m.

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

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



MASS INTENTIONS

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

SAT. 12/19/2020 5:00PM

Kristina M. Chaney (D)

Family & Friends

Emmitt Williams, Jr. (D)

Theresa Williams

Bessie Swindle (D) – Lois Epps

Joseph Duplechaine/Earlene Duplechaine The Duplechaine Family

Joseph Holley (L) – Florence & Wanda

12/20/2020 SUN.

7:30AM

7:00AM

6:00PM

Kristina M. Chaney (D)

Family & Friends

Thelma Archer (D)

Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Archer & Family Bernard & Joyce Thompson

Marian Richardson & Family Edward Ray Chavis, Jr. (D)

Edward R. Chavis Family

Yvonne Mullone (D) – Donald Mullone 10:00AM

SUN. 12/20/2020 Mary Theresa Cameron (D)

Pam Johnson & Family *Jermaine Walker (D)* – Theresa Chambers

Amy Landry Gallow & Dallas Gallow, Sr. Wanda Dixon/Family

Leo E. Prescott, Jr. (D) – Unella Baber *Margaret Davis (L)* – Azielee Addison

People of the Parish

MON. 12/21/2020 7:00AM Beatrice Dugas Foreman (D)

Shirley & Belinda Foreman 7:00AM

TUE. 12/22/2020 Mr. & Mrs. R.L. Henderson (D/L)

Henderson Family

Irene Hutchins (D) – Tory Holdman

WED. 12/23/2020 Kristina M. Chanev (D)

Family & Friends

Mr. & Mrs. R.L. Henderson (D/L)

Henderson Family

THUR. 12/24/2020

People of the Parish

12/25/2020 10:00AM

People of the Parish



FRI.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS

Dec 19 - Dec 20

5:00pm..... Mary Sias 7:30am...... Herbert & Delores Archer 10:00am..... Mikayla & Mackenzie Peugh



The Parish Office will be closed:

December 24th - 28th



Deacon Alfred Abram, Julius Cadoree. Margaret Cadoree. Nancy Calvin, Mercelee Dilbert, Sterling Dotson Certenberg, Mary

Augustine Chenier, Dalton Cooper Jr., Nicole Fontenette, Barbara Forte', Ursula Gross, Jimmy Harris, Willie Mae Henderson, Dana Montez Hill, Brooke Joseph, Kennedy Family Members, Helen Kennison, JoAnn LaSane, Ophelia Lazard, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, Eugene Mallery, Cynthia Ann Malone, Charles Martin, Shannon Martin, Dorothy Milstead, Vy. Rev. William L. Norvel, SSJ, Carolyn Ollison, Helen Foreman Orsort, Cynethia Pichon, William Pierre Sr., 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

Navv:

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

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



FOURTH SUNDAY **OF ADVENT**

As we begin our last week of preparation for the coming of our Lord, we listen to the preparations three others took during earlier eras. King David intended to prepare a house for the ark of God, but God revealed a more important house to prepare. Saint Paul completed his letter to the Romans, a church he'd prepare for the mystery of Christ. In the Gospel, Mary agreed to prepare a place in her womb for the Son of God. Let us prepare a place in our hearts now for the word of God.



Dates to Remember

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 sponsor the Christmas Poinsettias in Honor or in Memory of your loved one. The minimum donation is \$10.00.

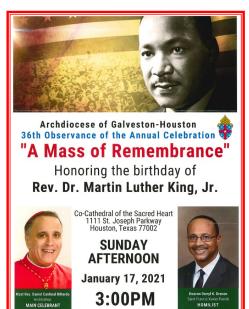


December 21st, 26th and 28th

NO CCE-CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS



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.





If you will need a copy of your 2020 contribution statement for tax purposes, please call the Parish Office after **December 31**st 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 December12th & December 13th was **168**. The 7:30am Livestream was viewed online by **282**. 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 22 & 29) from 3:00pm to 6:00pm here at St. Francis Xavier Church.

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 2-3*, 2021 (*Stewardship Intention Weekend*). If you do not receive envelopes, we will have cards in the pews and in the vestibule of the church.

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

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.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday – December 20
Fourth Sunday of Advent
2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14-16
Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

Monday – December 21
Saint Peter Canisius, Priest &
Doctor of the Church
Song of Songs 2:8-14 or
Zephaniah 3:14-18
Psalm 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21
Luke 1:39-45

Tuesday – December 22
1 Samuel 1:24-28
(Psalm) 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8
Luke 1:46-56

Wednesday – December 23
Saint John of Kanty, Priest
Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24
Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14
Luke 1:57-66

Thursday – December 24 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14-16 Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 Luke 1:67-69

☐ Friday – December 25

The Nativity of the Lord

Vigil: Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29

Acts 13:16-17, 22-25

Matthew 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Midnight: Isaiah 9:1-6

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

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14

Day: Isaiah 52:7-10

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

Hebrews 1:1-6

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

Saturday – December 26
Saint Stephen, The First Martyr
Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59
Psalm
Matthew 10:17-22

Stewardship Reflection

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" – Luke 1:28 After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.



Salvation History, A Panoramic View

Most of the movies begin with a broad overview of the surrounding area and then zooms in gradually to the place before focusing on the characters. This method is remarkably interesting and is beautifully articulated in the story of our salvation history. The beginning of the Letter to the Hebrews (Hebrews 1:1-4) gives us the summary of this history. We can see the scene and hear music beautifully being introduced; from one view to another as the zooming narrows to a focal point when the main character is introduced. As the biblical google map begins to move from space to earth; and also runs over the sea through the land, it begins to show the Mediterranean Sea. Then from the Middle East it makes a brief stop before passing over Jerusalem to a village between two lakes connected by a river. The village is not even on the shores of the river but away from it. There in the middle of nowhere, God's angel lands to address a young woman. She was a societal nobody and yet the angel asked her to agree to God's plan to change human history. To listen to and contemplate on this mystery of Christ's birth, we must listen carefully and attentively with open heart. Attentive listening is the only way to bring a about a change heart as we internalize this love story of God.

Our panoramic view of the salvation history has been narrowed down and this is a cause for us to pause and reflect this last Sunday of Advent on the story of King David. King David, the shepherd king is enjoying peace and tranquility in the most luxurious type of house and amenities available to him. His kingdom is now well established and prosperous. To him, this is an affirmation of God. As he takes stock of his life and acknowledges God as the source of his successes, he decides to build a house for God. This Temple is where he would keep the ten (10) Commandments. Even though this intention has been approved by the Prophet Nathan, yet God forbade him to build the Temple. God's desire was rather to dwell among his people and be with them. God will be a father to them through the one who would be chosen by Him. God may have known that focus on the temple, could blind the people or make David get lost on his ego trip. So, God asked Nathan to tell David "no" to the building idea. However, God not only made a promise to David that He would make him famous but also give him an heir whose kingdom would endure forever.

The panoramic view now shifts to a village town of Nazareth. There the Angel Gabriel encountered a young woman engaged to be married. She allowed the word from the Angel to direct and change her life. Luke situates this encounter in the context of God's time. The God who did not want David to build a temple has passed the Temple and the Holy City of Jerusalem for a home in Nazareth. The reason for this is inferred from Deuteronomy 7:7 where God said he chose Israel not for its greatness but because God loved little Israel and called her from the days of Abraham. God has accompanied her everywhere, from when she acknowledged and did not know Him.

This God of Abraham revealed himself to a maiden engaged to be married. The choice of Mary reminds us of how impressed God is to those who are humble of heart. David the great king wanted to build a temple for God and God said "no". Then God came to a humble maiden and asked her for a home, and she said "yes". David thought he knew what being great was, but the angel described God's kingdom as been beyond human understanding.

So, the panoramic view of God's intervention in human history is now narrowed to the small village called Nazareth, into a simple family and zoomed in on an unassumed engaged young lady called Mary. Now we can hear how God realized his promise of incarnation. It was not the temple that first housed the Son of God, rather a stable. The Son of God did not come to a family of a king or priest, but to an unnoticed humble maiden who was engaged to be married. If there is one lesson to be learnt, it is this, that God is interested in a listening heart. If we follow the panoramic view and journey with God with listening and humble heart, we will experience his gifts of Christmas. **Stay tuned!**



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND NEW YEAR WISHES

DECEMBER 2020

2020 calendar year is ending with many trials and uncertainties. Our nation has been consumed with political and social challenges. We have just elected new leaders to govern our nation, States, and cities. We are dealing with an administration that does not seem to be able to grasp the fact that their party

lost the elections and is doing all it can to undermine our democratic process. Our Christian family has not been spared from social and spiritual challenges. We are struggling with our church which has taken political sides and so is losing its moral authority. Some of us have had our faith tested as we cope with the Church being openly political. The economy is down because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many have become dependent on government or private assistance. Over 300,000 of our brothers and sisters have died due to the corona virus.

Some of us have accepted that the challenges of our society are not going to change and so we acknowledge "a new normal concept". Many are looking for change and a better future where these socio-political challenges and COVID-19 are history. For us, who feel like living in the land of gloom, we hear Isaiah telling us to keep hope alive. However, we must first commit ourselves to humility and build or rebuild our relationship and trust with God. This new relationship with God is the answer to our quest. We shall then see the face of God who will "deliver us from our guilt".

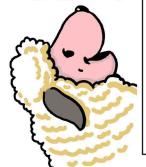
The season of Advent has given us the moment to reflect on the coming of Christ. We have been asked to look for the signs of salvation. As the Prophet Isaiah has reminded us, God is faithful and trustworthy so we can "strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak" and assure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

So, with love and hope we humbly celebrate the birth of the one who has come to realize the prophecies of Isaiah. Isaiah, Mary, Joseph, and Paul all tell us, with the Christmas story, not to let self-pity control our lives. 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, namely: with time our economy will bounce back, the political divide will be healed, and we now have a vaccine for the corona virus.

Therefore, it is an honor and a privilege for me to be able to join you on this spiritual journey. Your living faith is an oasis from which I draw strength. As we celebrate during the Christmas Season, I pray that we humble ourselves to experience the Love which the Incarnate Word brings. May the Christmas joy increase our faith and 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 you!

Rev. Michael K. Saah-Buckman, SSJ Pastor



important message. What was it? The angel left Mary with an

December 20, 2020 • Luke 1:26-38

Ages 7+

Children's Worship

Bulletin

Solve the math problems to fill in the blanks below. Then use the code to fill in the blanks.

to speak to Mary. What did the angel say?

Fill in the missing puzzle pieces and read what the angel said.

God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth

An Angel Visits Mary

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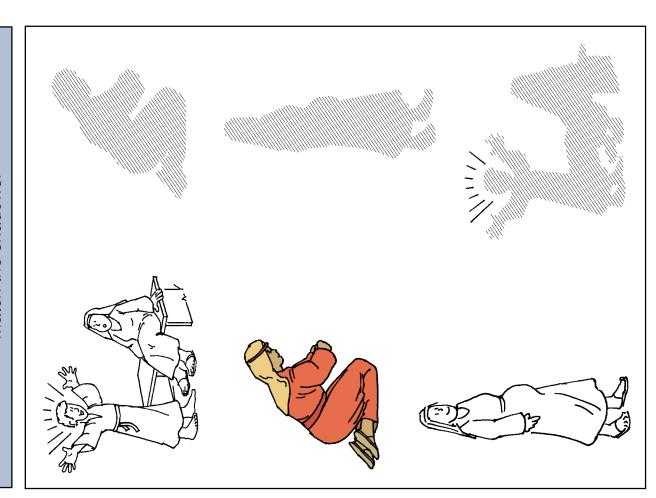
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Mary believed the angel's words. She said, "I am the Lord's servant."

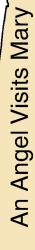
Match the shadows.



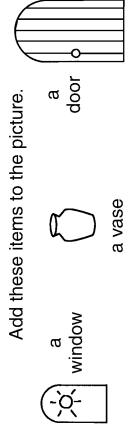
Children's Worship

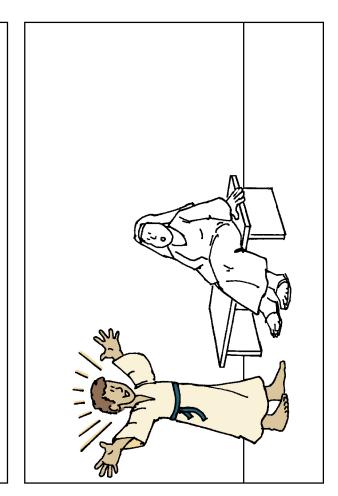
Ages 3+

December 20, 2020 • Luke 1:26-38



God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary.











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Wesley Forte' Financial Repres

Nicole T. Alexander

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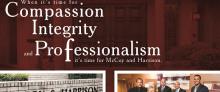


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