

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 26, 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>

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

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

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

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MASS INTENTIONS

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

SAT. 07/25/2020 5:00PM

Kristina M. Chaney (D)
Family & Friends
Rev. August Thompson (D)
Agnes Thompson
Henry & Louisiana Green (D)
Agnes Thompson
Christopher (Chris) Thomas (D)
Ursula Gross

Nathan H. Addison III (D)
Addison Family

SUN. 07/26/2020 7:30AM

Stella & Clemon Savoy (D)
Theresa G. Savoy/Family
Kristina M. Chaney (D)
Family & Friends
Alonzo Richardson (D)
Marian Richardson

Patrick Martell (D) – The Chaney Family
Peter Buckman (D) – Agnes Thompson

SUN. 07/26/2020 10:00AM

People of the Parish
Amy Landry Gallow & Dallas Gallow, Sr.
Wanda Dixon/Family

James D. Johnson (D) – P.A. Piper

MON. 07/27/2020 7:00AM

Douglas Bonhomme (D)
Henderson Family

Michael Johnson (L) – Margaret Chaney

TUE. 07/28/2020 7:00AM

Joseph L. Broussard (D) – Louella Kelly
Gaston Joseph, Sr. (D)

Sr. Theresa Sue Joseph, SSF

WED. 07/29/2020 7:00AM

Helen Gobert (L)
SFX Sisters in the Spirit

Betty Glover (L) – P.A. Piper

THUR. 07/30/2020 7:00AM

Agnes Williams (L) – Tywana Navy
Michael V. Johnson (L) – P.A. Piper

FRI. 07/31/2020 7:00AM

Joseph L. Broussard (D) – Pat Mouton
Gaston Joseph, Sr. (D)

Sr. Theresa Sue Joseph, SSF



Deacon Alfred Abram, Margaret Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Mary Augustine Chenier, Dalton Cooper Jr., Joseph Fontenet, Nicole Fontenet, Barbara Forte', Ursula Gross, Jimmy Harris, Willie Mae Henderson, Brooke Joseph, Irma Kelly, Kennedy Family Members, Ann Kennerson, Helen Kennison, JoAnn LaSane, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, Eugene Mallery, Cynthia Ann Malone, Shannon Martin, Willie Martin Jr., Dorothy Milstead, Carson Morris, Vy. Rev. William L. Norvel, SSJ, Carolyn Ollison, Helen Foreman Orsot, Cynethia Pichon, William Pierre Sr., Marcelle Prevost, Carole Pryor, Elise Richmond, Evelyn Roberts, Wilson Robertson, Oliver Rose, Faith Samuels, Simon Smith, Joyce Stagg, MacKenzie Swanks, Kennedy Swanks, Erma Taylor, Emanuel & Felecia Ward, 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, 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, Debreaanna 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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Today we encounter a number of people whom fortune smiles upon. Solomon, heir to David's throne, is visited by God, who promises him whatever he wishes.

In the Gospel, a random person discovers buried treasure and a merchant searching for fine pearls finds a pearl of a great price. How do these people respond? How would we respond? Let us listen to God's word and contemplate our true fortune, our true treasure.

READINGS

FOR THE WEEK

Sunday – July 26

The 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Kings 3:5, 7-12
Psalm 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-30

Romans 8:28-30

Matthew 13:44-52

Monday – July 27

Jeremiah 13:1-11
Deuteronomy (Psalm) 32:18-19, 20, 21

Matthew 13:31-35

Tuesday – July 28

Jeremiah 14:17-22
Psalm 79:8, 9, 11, 13
Matthew 13:36-43

Wednesday – July 29

Saint Martha

Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21
Psalm 59:2-3, 4, 10-11, 17, 18
John 11:19-27 or Luke 10:38-42

Thursday – July 30

Saint Peter Chrysologus, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
Jeremiah 18:1-6

Psalm 146:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Matthew 13:47-53

Friday – July 31

Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Priest
Jeremiah 26:1-9
Psalm 69:5, 8-10, 14

Matthew 13:54-58

Saturday – August 1

Saint Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24
Psalm 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34
Matthew 14:1-12



Via Facebook Live

SUNDAYS at 7:30am

Visit the Parish Website:

www.sfxhouston.com

and click on the Facebook Icon at the bottom of the page.



JOB openings

As the school year quickly approaches, St. Mary of the Purification has the following employment opportunities:

- 3 Full-time Teacher Aides in Pre-K-3 thru Kindergarten
- 4 Aftercare Workers

Interested candidates should send an Email to the principal, Mrs. Lois Goudeau,

lgoudeau@stmaryshoustonchool.org.

RCIA

The initiation of catechumens and candidates will be scheduled at an appropriate time before the year ends. Registration for the 2020-2021 Class is available on the Parish Website:

www.sfxhouston.com



Purpose and Mission

The Young Adult Christian Ministry is a Social, Spiritual,

Spiritual, Supportive, and Service Group. We will help strengthen your Spiritual relationships with God, Support each other, and Serve the Church Community.

CAR WASH

The Young Adults will sponsor a car wash on Saturday, **August 1st**, from **5:00pm to 7:00pm**.

Join Us: 19-39 years; Service Projects; Worship and Social Events.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS



We encourage parishioners to take the Vocation Chalice home for a week and pray for vocations. The signup sheet is located in the vestibule of the church. **This week the Chalice will reside in the home of Herman & Theresa Rayme.**

ATTENDANCE

Attendance on July 18th and 19th was **116**. Please come worship with us and bring a friend. You must wear a mask to attend our Sunday services.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH FALL RAFFLE



Grand Prize!

NISSAN SENTRA SV 4DR SEDAN

2nd Prize....\$1000.00 Gift Card

3rd Prize.....\$500.00 Gift Card

4th Prize.....\$400.00 Gas Card

5th Prize.\$300.00 Macy's Card

Tickets are \$5.00 each or a book of 20 for \$100.00. Each household is asked to sell at least 2 books.

Drawing: October 18, 2020 after the 10:00am Mass.

Winner Need Not Be Present

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

Assistance for Parishioners in Need

Texas Pandemic Food Benefits: Through the CARES Act, children who qualify for free and reduced lunch may be eligible for \$285 per month, per child. Applications are due by **July 31**. To see the full announcement from Gov. Greg Abbot, go to the following website: <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-hhsc-extend-deadline-for-pandemic-food-benefits-for-families-affected-by-covid-19-school-closures>.

The link also includes registration information and more about the program.

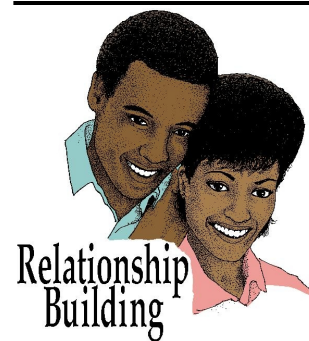
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER STAFF CHANGES



Welcome to our new Parish Bookkeeper, **Ms. Stacie Boisseau-Moody**. We thank Mr. Edwin Vallery for his 8 years of faithful service to our parish.

Stewardship Reflection

That we learn to put our trust in God in everything we do. "We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28 Do you really trust God? Do you really believe that God will provide all that you need? Faith is a challenge for everyone at times. Putting our trust in God, in everything we do, in good times and in bad, means that God's plan for our lives may be quite different than what we planned. When one door closes, another one opens. Trust in God, His plan is always better.



Do you know a couple that is having a challenging situation in their relationship and need help? We may be able to coach you as a couple. We offer enrichment sessions, consulting and mentoring for married couples experiencing some crisis or challenges in their relationship. For more detailed information please contact the office of **Family Life Ministry** at **713-741-8711**.



Pastor's Reflection

WISDOM: THE GIFT OF A DISCERNING MIND AND THE ABILITY TO REALIZE WHAT OTHERS DO NOT

In my teen and youthful years, I was told many times: “If you know how to wash your hands, you will eat with the elders”. I did not understand the meaning of this statement until later. At that time, it was one of those illogical statements. After all who eats with dirty hands. It was later that I realize this adage has but little to do with clean or dirty hands, and that it has to do with listening and discerning what only the elders can teach a humble person.

As I grew older, I was invited to sit at the feet of elders. On many an occasion, when issues were being dealt with, I could see some elders closing their eyes, others were in very pensive postures. There were some who interjected the discussions with questions and statements. It was the one listening with discerning ears who was able to pierce through to find proper solutions.

Today we hear the story of God offering Solomon anything he wanted. Solomon could have asked for power over his enemies or long life, as well as riches, but instead he requested an understanding heart to rule his people justly. This desire to serve God and his people well and with integrity was so pleasing to God that the request was quickly granted, and God threw in wealth and the promise of long life.

Solomon had recently ascended the throne of his father David. Mindful of his youthfulness and lack of experience as a leader and a ruler, he asked God to teach him how to act justly. He, in a way, asked to be allowed to sit at the feet of God and learn how to attend closely to his people and appreciate the complexities of their situations. He would then be able to go beyond logic and discern right from wrong. It is with this humility (knowing how to wash his hands) that God granted him wisdom, which is listening with discernment and the ability to realize what others do not.

The gospel reading helps us to realize what this wisdom of God is. Jesus preached in parables to help his disciples see things others never noticed. He would then explain, when asked, and help them look for deeper meaning of his story. It is not because they were ignorant people, but because they did not know what to look for.

According to Matthew 4:17, Jesus began his public ministry shortly after his wilderness experience by proclaiming: “Repent, the Kingdom of heaven is at hand”. He then went from town to town, synagogue to synagogue preaching the same message. This basic speech of Jesus was centered on this: “God is present right here and now in our midst and experiences”. We cannot do anything to make God present. The only thing expected of us is to: “recognize that presence”. To recognize this, we must discern and change our evil actions and resolve never to do them again. We must change our whole value system and turn our life around. It is only then that we can see the face of God and recognize him working in our lives.

Jesus uses such parables to help us change our frame of mind and alter how we process information and shift our focus on reality. It is in this discernment that we can realize the kingdom of God in our midst. Today he tells us that the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure in the field and a pearl of great value. They are extremely valuable, and we can actually own them. The question is how badly do you want to own them? They are for sale. Are you prepared to sell everything you have in order to buy them? If the answer is yes, then there is something greater value here, the kingdom of heaven. If we would sell all that we have to own perishable values, then why do you not sell all you have for the ability to bring to light God working in your life. This is more valuable than the treasure or pearl.

To help us appreciate that God’s invitation to this investment is extended to all, despite where we are in our lives, we hear the story of the dragnet. Here Jesus tells us that we are all drawn into the same “net” i.e. the kingdom. The final sorting out is left to God and his angels. Patient tolerance must guide us to discern and practice our faith. God is present in our daily lives, even in the middle of our good and the bad encounters. God is always working in our lives. The Laws, Prophets and Writings all bear witness to what God has done for his people. Let us, therefore, like Solomon pray for an “understanding heart”, something that is more infinite than power and wealth.



Responding to the Sin of Racism

U.S. Catholics Who Responded to Racism with Holiness

Julia Greeley, Servant of God

If you were born a slave, what would you do once you were freed? Could you forgive those who treated you cruelly? Do you know the story of Julia Greeley?

Julia Greeley was born a slave in Missouri, sometime between 1833 and 1848. As a child, a slave master, when beating Julia's mother, caught Julia's right eye with his whip causing her to lose it. Once freed, Julia eventually settled in Denver, Colorado. Despite all that she suffered, her forgiveness opened her heart to others. While supporting herself through work, she would spend her earnings helping poor families, many of whom were white. Realizing the shame people felt in being poor, Julia left her donations for them at night. She became a Catholic in 1880, and later joined the Secular Franciscan Order. When she died, hundreds of people came to pay their respects. Her limitless charity, selflessness, and devotion to Christ made Julia a model of mercy, so much so that her cause of canonization was opened in 2016.

If you have experienced racist assaults, either physical or verbal, forgiveness is not easy. Pray to Julia Greeley, model of mercy and charity, for healing, peace and forgiveness. For more information about the cause of canonization of Julia Greeley, go to juliagreeley.org.

Rev. Augustus Tolton, Servant of God

Have you ever felt alone or ignored in the Church? Do you feel called to serve others? Do you know the story of Fr. Augustus Tolton?

Fr. Augustus Tolton was the first recognized black Catholic priest in the U.S. A former slave, he was baptized and raised Catholic. He studied for the priesthood in Rome, since no American seminary would admit him due to his skin color. As a priest, he ministered to the black Catholic community in Quincy, Illinois. Known for eloquent sermons, generosity, and piety, he attracted both black and white Catholics to his parish. Later chased out of Quincy, he was welcomed by the Archdiocese of Chicago. He died in 1897. Despite his experiences, Fr. Tolton remained steadfast: "The Catholic Church deplores a double slavery - that of the mind and that of the body. She endeavors to free us of both. I was a poor slave boy but the priests of the Church did not disdain me." Fr. Tolton's cause of canonization was opened in 2015.

If you ever feel abandoned, pray to Fr. Tolton, who never waived in his faith in Christ, despite experiencing the pain of being forsaken.

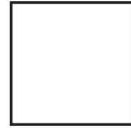
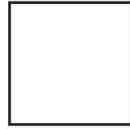
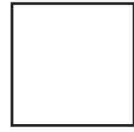
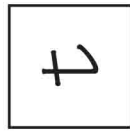
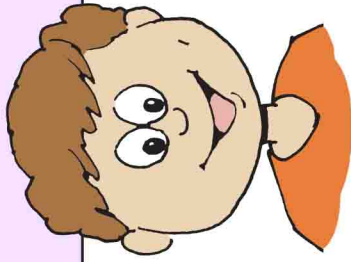
For more information about the cause of canonization of Fr. Augustus Tolton, go to www.toltoncanonization.org.





“The kingdom of heaven is like _____ hidden in a field.”

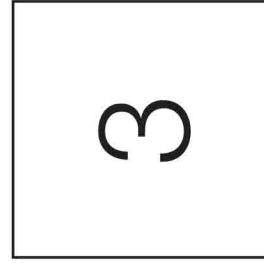
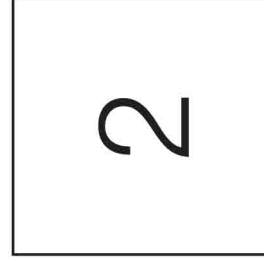
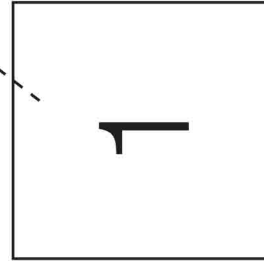
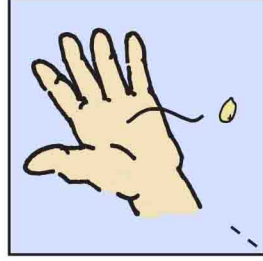
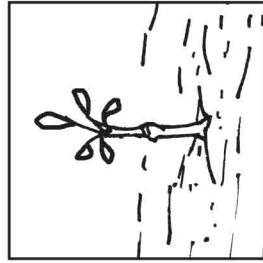
Find the missing word.



Parables about the Kingdom of God

Jesus told a parable about a mustard seed. It was about the kingdom of heaven growing.

Put the pictures in the correct order.



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