

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MAY 24, 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: 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>

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: 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.

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

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MASS INTENTIONS

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

SAT. 05/23/2020 5:00PM

John Biagas (D) – Patricia Session

Kristina M. Chaney (D)

Family & Friends

Brycen J. Johnson (L) – Wanda Johnson

Joseph Duplechaine/Earlene Duplechaine

The Duplechaine Family

Deacon Albert Henry (D) – The Family

SUN. 05/24/2020 7:30AM

People of the Parish

SUN. 05/24/2020 10:00AM

Mary Mayon Lazard (D)

Odelia Vallery/Family

Connie Bush (D)

James & Bonnie Jefferson

Rev. August Thompson (D)

Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus

Kristina M. Chaney (D)

Family & Friends

John L. Stewart (D) – Sisters & Brothers

Audrey Miles (D)

The Hardin & Embers Families

Amy Landry Gallow & Dallas Gallow, Sr.

Wanda Dixon & Family

Rev. Jeremiah Dermot Brady, SSJ (D)

MON. 05/25/2020 7:00AM

Peter Buckman (D)

The Christian Women Org

Joseph Broussard (D)

The Christian Women Org

TUE. 05/26/2020 7:00AM

Rev. Joseph Benjamin, SSJ (L)

Florence & Wanda

WED. 05/27/2020 7:00AM

Terry & Ruth Johnson, Sr (D)

P. A. Piper

James D. Johnson (D) – P. A. Piper

THUR. 05/28/2020 7:00AM

Patrick Martell (D)

FRI. 05/29/2020 7:00AM

Alvin Jones (L) – P. A. Piper

Essence Casteel (L) – P. A. Piper



Deacon Alfred Abram, Algy Alfred,
Margaret Cadoree, Mary
Augustine Chenier, Ida Mae
Fields, Nicole Fontenet, Barbara

Forte', Ursula Gross, Jimmy Harris, Willie Mae
Henderson, Brooke Joseph, Helen Kennison,
JoAnn LaSane, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis,
Eugene Mallery, Cynthia Ann Malone,
Shannon Martin, Willie Martin Jr., Dorothy
Milstead, Vy. Rev. William L. Norvel, SSJ,
Carolyn Ollison, Helen Foreman Orsot,
Cynethia Pichon, William Pierre Sr., Marcelle
Prevost, Carole Pryor, Elise Richmond, Evelyn
Roberts, Oliver Rose, Simon Smith, Joyce
Stagg, Lee Roy Stagg Sr., MacKenzie Swanks,
Kennedi Swanks, Erma Taylor, Pamela
Thibodeaux, Agnes Williams, Elizabeth
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,
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

SFX Scholarship Applications

are available in the Vestibule of the
Church, in the Harris Center Lobby and
on the Parish Website
(www.sfxhouston.com). Due to the early
end of the school year, the deadline to
submit applications has been extended to
Friday, May 29th.

**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF
EASTER**

Now they know that
everything you have
given me is from you;
for the words that
you gave to me
I have given to them.
John 17:7, NRSV

After Jesus
ascended to his
Father in heaven,
the first thing that
his disciples did
was to gather
together and pray.
His mother, his
family, his
apostles, his other
disciples: "All

these devoted themselves with one
accord to prayer." Nearly two
thousand years later, we gather
together with one accord to pray as
well. Listening to today's readings, let
us note the importance of prayer for
Jesus and those he left behind.

READINGS**FOR THE WEEK**☐ **Sunday – May 24**

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:12-14

Psalm 27:1, 4, 7-8

1 Peter 4:13-16

John 17:1-11

☐ **Monday – May 25**

St. Bede the Venerable, Priest &

Doctor of the Church;

St. Gregory VII, Pope,

St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi, Virgin

Acts 19:1-8

Psalm 68:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

John 16:29-23

☐ **Tuesday – May 26**

Saint Philip Neri, Priest

Acts 20:17-27

Psalm 68:10-11, 20-21

John 17:1-11

☐ **Wednesday – May 27**

Saint Augustine of Canterbury,

Bishop

Acts 20:28-38

Psalm 68:29-30, 33-35, 36

John 17:11-19

☐ **Thursday – May 28**

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11

Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11

John 17:20-26

☐ **Friday – May 29**

Acts 25:13-21

Psalm 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20

John 21:15-19

☐ **Saturday – May 30**

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31

Psalm 11:4, 5, 7

John 21:20-25



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.



ALL CCE STUDENTS AND PARENTS ARE REMINDED TO RETURN RICE BOWL DONATIONS NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2020.

RCIA

The initiation of catechumens and candidates will be scheduled at an appropriate time before the year ends.



The Houston Food Bank will have a food distribution truck in the St. Francis Xavier Parking Lot on Tuesday, May 26th, from 10:00am to 12:00pm. This event is open to the public.



Catholic Charities has expert bilingual counselors who can help for free during the COVID-19 pandemic. Call Catholic Charities' Mental Health Line at 713-874-6590 from 9:00am to 4:00pm to request a session, and a licensed counselor will call you back within a day. Food pantries are open for drive-through food distribution with hours each week at our three locations: **Guadalupe Center** in Houston; **Mamie George Community Center** in Richmond; **Beacon of Hope Center** in Galveston. For hours call the COVID Assistance Line at 713-874-6521.



All Choir Rehearsals are suspended until further notice.



NOTICE!!!

The Parish Office will be **Closed** until further notice.



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

ATTENDANCE

Attendance on May 16th and 17th was 77. Please come worship with us and bring a friend.



To everyone on the front line during these challenging times:

CLERGY: Rev. Michael Saah-Buckman, Deacon Michael Jenkins, Deacon Darryl Drenon

HEALTH CARE: Michelle Chenier, Artica Yvette Dozier, Margaret Drenon, Barbara Forbes-Moses, Shaylor Goodwin, Cassandra Green, Sheila Harris, Syble Jones, Lois Obiozor, Annie Robertson, Shewana Rochon, Dr. Chantee Vavasseur, Dr. Anna Viltz, Felecia Ward

MAIL DELIVERY: Wanda DeBose, Stephanie Jackson

BULLETIN SERVICE: Jenero Mitchell

VIDEO SERVICE: Abra Charles

PARISH STAFF/VOLUNTEERS:

Unella Baber, Evelyn Briggs, Violet & Harold Champ, Orell Dargin, Michael Dozier, Shirley Foreman, Jerry Givens, JoAnne Henderson, Hope Jackson, Curtis Jones, Agnes Thompson, Edwin Vallery

Stewardship Reflection

That we learn to pray not only in bad times, but also in good times. Pray for family, friends and those that may not treat us well. "I am praying for them..." John 17: 9 Prayer is the foundation of our Faith and the foundation of Stewardship. Pray in good times and in bad. Prayer is always the first best option in any situation, not just the last resort. Pray for friends and family and for those that don't treat you very well. Pray to give praise, to thank and to ask God for help. Pray to see what God wants you to do with the gifts He has given you.

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



Patrick Martell passed away on May 18, 2020, at the age of 94. Patrick is survived by his wife, Joyce, and their children. He was a loving husband and father and he will be greatly missed. Arrangements are pending.

Joseph Broussard passed away on May 15, 2020, at the age of 58. Joseph is survived by his mother Odessa Broussard, and his children. Final arrangements were held at Troy Funeral Home on May 22, 2020.

Prayer in Time of the Coronavirus

Comfort us, O Lord, for we are like your disciples on the storm-tossed seas, unsettled by what lies ahead. We turn to You, our Healer and Guide, to still our hearts in our time of need and hear our prayer:

Heal those who are sick with the coronavirus and protect the elderly and most vulnerable. Give strength to all who tend to our health and wisdom to researchers who work toward a cure. Open our eyes and hearts, as you did during Hurricane Harvey, that we may look beyond our immediate needs to care for others who need help. Through the Holy Spirit, guide our leaders to make wise decisions for the welfare of all the people they serve. Grant eternal rest to those who have died from the virus.

May Mary, Our Mother, who has heard our pleas in the storms of our lives, intercede to her Son, that we may find healing and a prompt end to this illness. Mary, Star of the Sea, pray for us. Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior, heal us. Amen



During this time of social distancing, St. Francis Xavier depends on online donations to continue our ministry. We prayerfully invite you to sign up for eGiving from your computer, smartphone or tablet and set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Sign up today by visiting www.faith.direct.net/TX632, or text 'Enroll' to 281-949-7600.



Pastor's Reflection

Jesus Ascended To Be With Us

If you were to ask most people to “look up”, the first action will be to look at the sky. We associate “up” with things above us. But what is above us is based on where we stand on the global universe. So, for example, if we stand on the north pole or the south pole our “up” is positioned in different directions. Our “up” will be south or visa-versa. If we stand on the Equator, our “up” will be horizontal. Yet again, we associate “heaven” with “up” or the “sky”. Many also believe that “heaven” is above in the “sky”. So, no wonder when “Sputnik” took place, the Russian astronaut is alleged to have made the statement: “there is no heaven up here”. Now, if “heaven” as we understand it is not in the “sky” and “up” is relative to where you are on the global universe, then the question arises where did Jesus ascend to? And what does it mean for us believers?

Excerpts from “The MacArthur New Testament Commentary” on 2Corinthians 12 talks about St. Paul being suddenly snatched up into the third heaven. According to Deuteronomy 11:11 and Isaiah 55:10 the earth atmosphere is described as the first heaven. The second heaven is the interplanetary and interstellar space (Genesis 15:5; Psalm 8:35; Isaiah 55:10). The third heaven that St. Paul refers to is the residence of God (1Kings 8:30; Mathew 6:9). Since it is empirically proven that God does not live in the first and the second heavens, then St. Paul must be speaking of being spiritually snatched into the abode of God where Jesus has ascended.

Jesus has already made a promise to his followers that he was going to get a place ready for them and will come back and take them to himself so “where I am you also may be” (John 14:3). In the meantime, he has earlier promised not to leave his disciples orphans but to be with them until the end of time (Matthew 28:20).

Ascension, therefore, informs us, that Jesus ascended to be with us his disciples in spirit so that we can continue his mission here on earth. Even though Jesus had for forty days made several attempts to prove to the disciples of his resurrection, they failed to grasp the spiritual nature of his kingdom (ref. the question they asked about restoration of Israel). Jesus still promises them that the Spirit who led him to do his work spelled out in Acts will be with them. This is the same Spirit who led him to the baptism of John and guided him for forty days in the desert and during his temptation by the devil. This Spirit will be with his disciples. As we celebrate Ascension, we are reminded that this Spirit continues to guide and work through us, the baptized.

Matthew tells us that despite all that Jesus has done to prove his resurrection and mission, the disciples waived even as they worshipped. Like them, our “little faith” allow fear to overwhelm us. But Jesus does not call those with absolute faith in him or complete understanding of who he is. Rather he calls those whose faith occasionally waivers but whose knowledge of him grows as they spend more time with him.

As we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord, may we borrow the prayers of St. Paul from the Letter to the Ephesians and pray that God gives us a “spirit of wisdom and revelation” to gain insight into how God works in our midst. May the eyes of our hearts be opened and expanded by the knowledge of being able to grasp the hope which we are called and to appreciate the bounty of what we already share with all who believe in Christ.



Class of 2020



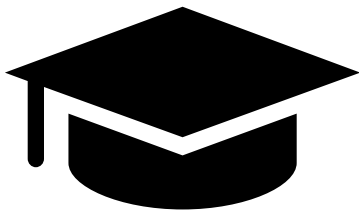
Sherri Carter is a Graduate of Concordia University with a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction.



Brandon Karl Drenon is receiving a Master's Degree in Journalism from Columbia University in the city of New York.



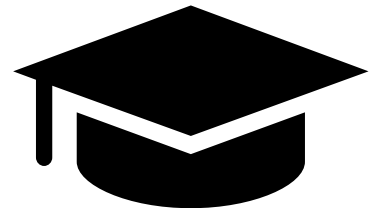
Dr. Alexandria R. Etuk, PharmD is receiving a Doctorate of Pharmacy from The University of Texas at Tyler-Ben and Maytee Fisch College of Pharmacy.



Dellissa Renae Simmons is receiving a Master of Arts Degree in Mental Health Counseling from Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois



Taylor Martin is a Graduate of The University of Texas San Antonio (UTSA) with a Bachelor of Science in Business.



Nicholas Abram Pichon is receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in Integrative Studies with a Minor in Business Administration from the University of North Texas.



Alexis Alfred is a graduate of Cesar E. Chavez High School. She will be attending Prairie View A&M University.



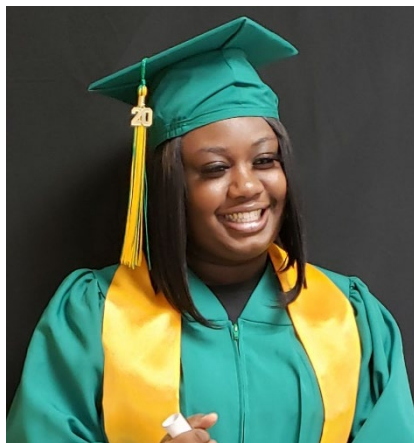
Kacey Lanett Bell is a graduate of Bellaire High School and plans to attend Blinn University.



Edward D'Juan Burwell is a graduate of Stafford High School. He will be attending Houston Community College (HCC).



Lalah Carter is a Graduate of Kipp Sunnyside High School. She will be attending Southern University (SU) in Baton Rouge, LA.



Destiny K. Holmes is a graduate of Worthing High School. She will be attending Houston Community College (HCC).



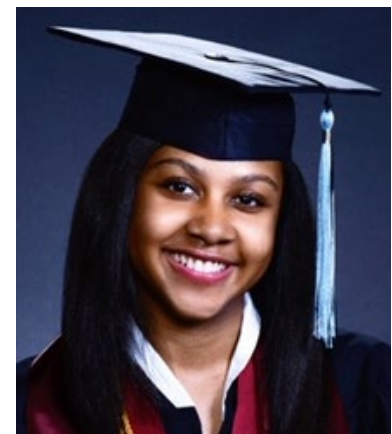
Kideja Annae Jones is a Graduate of Elsie High School. She will be attending Blinn College.



Timothy Lavallais II is a Graduate of Heights High School. He will be attending Albright College in Philadelphia where he plans to major in Business Administration and play Football.



Alyvia O'Neal is a Graduate of Shadow Creek High School. She will be attending Community College.



Mikayla V. Peugh is a graduate of Shadow Creek High School. She will be attending the University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL).



Class of 2020



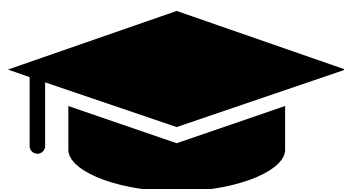
Jordan Sydnor is a graduate of Spring High School. He will be attending Concordia University, TX with a Major in Communications.



James Anthony Williams is a Graduate of Glenda Dawson High School. He will be attending Louisiana State University (LSU) with a Major in Music Performance and Education



Krystal Willis is a Graduate of Glenda Dawson High School. She will be attending Prairie View A&M University (PVU) with a Major in Elementary Education and a Minor in Technology



Melody Anderson is a graduate of Manvel High School.



J'avion Chatman is a graduate of Willowridge High School.



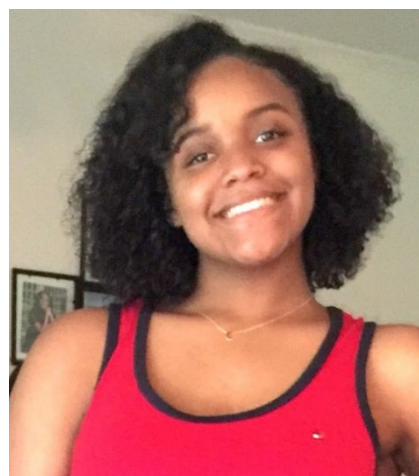
Tofoya Pascal, Jr is a graduate of Jack Yates High School.



Bryan Patterson is a graduate of Cristo Rey Jesuit Preparatory School.



Hannah O. Washington is a Graduate of Lanier Middle School (HISD). She will be attending Lamar High School, IB (HISD).



McKenzie Swanks is a Graduate of Texas Online Preparatory School 8th Grade.



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