

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 21, 2021



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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FAITH DIRECT® Text-to-Give
Text \$ amount to 281-949-7600



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

MASS INTENTIONS

SAT. 02/20/2021 5:00PM
Amy Landry Gallow & Dallas Gallow, Sr.
 Wanda Dixon/Family
Jasmine N. Johnson (L) – Wanda Johnson
Ruth Johnson (D) – Theresa Johnson
Kristina M. Chaney (D)
 Family & Friends
Jeanie Ashiru (D) – Theresa Rayme
SUN. 02/21/2021 7:30AM
Kristina M. Chaney (D)
 Family & Friends
Mabel Murray (D) – M. Chaney
Joan A. Crawford (D) – Sisters & Brother
Roger & Ella Reed (D)
 Don & Theresa Chambers
Jermaine Walker (D)
 Don & Theresa Chambers
SUN. 02/21/2021 10:00AM
People of the Parish
MON. 02/22/2021 7:00AM
Arthur Baltrip, Jr & Jama Baltrip (L)
 Theresa Baltrip
Tamara Sanders (D) – Tywana Navy
TUE. 02/23/2021 7:00AM
Auggie Magbual (D)
 Shirley & Belinda Foreman
Eugene Henry (L) – Juanita Henry
WED. 02/24/2021 7:00AM
Enola Rabotte (D) – Ollie Duplechain
THUR. 02/25/2021 7:00AM
John & Mary Buckman (D)
Josephine Ama Buckman (D)
FRI. 02/26/2021 7:00AM
Kristina M. Chaney (D)
 Family & Friends



NICOLE MARIE FONTENETTE
 1972-2021

The Funeral Mass for **Mr. William Pierre, Sr** has been re-scheduled for **Saturday, February 27, 2021**. Eternal Rest grant unto his soul.



Deacon Alfred Abram, Savannah Blackwell, Julius Cadoree, Margaret Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Sterling Dotson Certenberg, Dalton Cooper Jr., Barbara Forte', Brianna Goodwin, Stella Goodwin, Ursula Gross, Jimmy Harris, Robert Harris, Willie Mae Henderson, Brooke Joseph, Kennedy Family Members, Helen Kennison, JoAnn LaSane, Sierra Ledet, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, Eugene Mallery, Cynthia Ann Malone, Charles Martin, Marjorie Carmouche Martin, Shannon Martin, Dorothy Milstead, Vy. Rev. William L. Norvel, SSJ, Carolyn Ollison, Helen Foreman Orsot, Cynethia Pichon, Tanya Poitier, Marcelle Prevost, Carole Pryor, Elise Richmond, Evelyn Roberts, Oliver Rose, Simon Smith, Joyce Stagg, MacKenzie Swanks, Kennedi Swanks, Erma Taylor, Agnes Williams, Patricia Williams, Eddie Wilson, 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, Kerry Hubbard, Kory Hubbard, 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

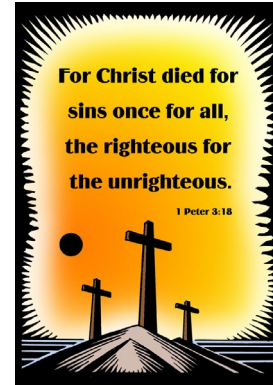
Alyssa Dugar, Reginald Ward

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS



We encourage all parishioners to take the chalice home for a week and pray for vocations. The sign-up sheet is located in the vestibule of the church. You may also contact the Parish Office to receive the chalice.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



Our readings today revolve around the covenant God established with all of humanity, with all of us. It began with just the few people taking refuge on the ark, but after

the flood, all of humanity consisted of just Noah and his family. The First Letter of Peter identifies baptism as a sign of that covenant. Jesus, the fulfillment of God's new covenant with humanity, calls us to repentance and faith. May we heed that call and renew our covenant with God by living out the gospel.

READINGS

FOR THE WEEK

Sunday – February 21

■ *1st Sunday of Lent*
 Genesis 9:8-15
 Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
 1 Peter 3:18-22
 Mark 1:12-15

□ **Monday – February 22**

Feast of the Chair of St Peter, Apostle
 1Peter 5:1-4
 Psalm 23:1-3,4,5,6
 Matthew 16:13-19

■ **Tuesday – February 23**

St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr
 Isaiah 55:10-11
 Psalm 34:4-5,6-7,18-19
 Matthew 6:7-15

■ **Wednesday – February 24**

Jonah 3:1-10
 Psalm 51:3-4,12-13,18-19
 Luke 11:29-32

■ **Thursday – February 25**

Ester C 12:14-16,23-25
 Psalm 138:1-2,2-3,7-8
 Matthew 7:7-12

■ **Friday – February 26**

Ezekiel 18:21-28
 Psalm 130:1-2,3-4,5-7,7-8
 Matthew 5:20-26

■ **Saturday – February 27**

Deuteronomy 26:16-19
 Psalm 119:1-2,4-5,7-8
 Matthew 5:43-48



February 22th6:00pm
6TH-10TH CCE CLASSES
 February 27th9:30am
PRE-K-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.

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.

Stewardship Reflection

That we may place our lives in God's hands and have the strength to carry out His unique plan for each us. "After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God...." - Mark 1:14 Do you ever think about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come into Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that Jesus was proclaiming. It must have taken great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, following a life of stewardship takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that God will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.

Lenten
Worship Schedule

Lenten Revival:
 March 1, 2, 3.....6:00pm
 Livestream Available
Outdoor Stations of the Cross
 (In the Prayer Garden)
 Every Friday during Lent
5:30pm
Laetare Sunday-Wear Pink/Rose
March 14
Holy Week
Palm Sunday – March 28
 Palm Procession – Prayer Garden to Church
Holy Thursday – April 1
 Mass.....6:00pm
 Livestream Available
 (No Morning Mass)
Good Friday – April 2
 Outdoor Stations..... 2:00pm
 Good Friday Service.....3:00pm
 (No Mass)
Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)
April 3
 Mass.....8:00pm
 (No 5:00pm Mass)
Easter Sunday - April 4
 Regular Mass Schedules



LENTE REVIVAL

**Tuesday,
 March 2, 2021
 @ 6:00pm**

"The man who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but he will have The light of life for his guide"
 (Jn 8:12)

will have The light of life for his guide"
 (Jn 8:12)

TOPIC: "Practical lessons for becoming more like Christ"

Live streaming: Have your Bibles and note pad ready! *Those attending:* Bring your Bibles and note pad!

∞ Deacon Michael V. Jenkins

ATTENDANCE

Attendance on February 13th & February 14th was **153**. The 7:30am Livestream was viewed online by **318**. 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.

"I Am The Way The Truth And The Life." John 14:1-6

**VIRTUAL CELEBRATION WITH
 CATHOLIC YOUTH OF AFRICAN DESCENT**
Saturday February 27, 2021 | 10 AM - 2 PM

Virtual Doors Open at 9:30 AM

Rev. Reginald Samuels
 Pastor of St. Hyacinth Parish
 Vicar for Catholics of African Descent

Sister Odessa Stanford, SFCC
 Sisters For Christian Community

Rev. R. Tony Ricard, M. Th., M. Div.
 Pastor & Campus Minister

Sister Nicole Trahan, FMI
 Daughters of Mary Immaculate

Rev. Stephen Sohe, SJ
 Pastor of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish
 Vocations Director for the Josephites

Brian Greenfield
 Evangelist and Speaker

Rev. Canon, A. Gerard Jordan O. Praem
 Cause of Venerable, Father Augustus Tolton

SPECIAL GUEST

 MIME PRAISE DANCERS

<https://bit.ly/3iYgOW5>
 CLICK HERE TO REGISTER OR
 SCAN ME

Virtual Host: Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church

Sponsored by: OFFICE OF ADOLESCENT CATECHESIS AND EVANGELIZATION THE ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON

FEMA

FEMA warns us of scammers using fake phone number for disaster relief

The Federal Emergency Management Agency said on social media Thursday that a false phone number is being used to scam people seeking help amid the winter weather disaster in Texas. FEMA said the best information will come from local officials and the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

Celebrating and Honoring the Lives of Six Catholics of African Descent

LOVE, THE UNCONQUERABLE WEAPON

Venerable
Father Augustus Tolton

Venerable
Mother Bernardine Smitz

Servant of God
Mother Mary Lange

Venerable
Father Toussaint

Servant of God
John Amosny

Servant of God
Sister Thérèse Brennan

Celebrating and honoring the lives of six Catholics of African Descent as models of discipleship

**Wednesday
 FEBRUARY, 24th**

Gathering will open at 5:45 PM
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM.

Use the Zoom Meeting link or ID below to join:
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72205414039>
 Meeting ID: 722 0541 4039
 One tap mobile
 +13462487799,,72205414039# US (Houston)

Our Moderator

 Rev. Canon, A. Gerard Jordan O. Praem
 Cause of Venerable, Father Augustus Tolton

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Meeting ID: 722 0541 4039
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72205414039>



Lent Prepares Us for Easter, Our Life on Earth Prepares Us for Heaven

Happy Sunday!! Today is the First Sunday of Lent. How are we doing so far?

Have you kept your commitment so far on what you decided to do for Lent? Or are you still undecided on what you are going to do?

Here is the real question, will the sacrifice or change we are willing to make bring us closer to Jesus?

That's why we make the commitment. We model Jesus' sacrifice in the desert, in a very small way, to prepare our minds and our hearts for Easter. We do it to become closer to Jesus.

For example, if you've decided to cut back on watching TV, are you replacing that time by devoting more time to prayer? Or, if you've decided to do more of something, rather than to cut out something... that could bring you closer to Jesus. One could decide to go to Mass twice a week or read the Bible every day during Lent.

Lent Prepares Us for Easter, Our Life on Earth Prepares Us for Heaven

Now, brothers and sisters, once we have committed to make a change to get closer to Jesus, guess who is ready to de-rail us from our plan. The devil. The minute we are moving in the direction toward God, the devil is ready to step-in and knock us off track.

Satan does NOT like our getting close to God and will do anything to de-rail our attempts at holiness.

Satan wants us Christians... who are on track. He doesn't want the ones who are off track because he's already got them.

So... in today's Gospel reading, we see that the devil is trying to knock Jesus off track.

The liturgical readings for Lent always commence with the story of the temptation. Jesus goes out into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Again, the devil always has one purpose in the bible and that is to move us off the path that leads to God... and... to order your desire in the direction of something other than God. So that, the primary desire of your life, is something other than our Creator.

So, the devil confronts Jesus and tempts him. Now Jesus had been in the desert 40 days and 40 nights fasting and praying. He is alone, he is isolated. He is exhausted. I imagine, in his humanness, that he is weak.

This is the time that Satan chooses to strike. He wants to tempt and de-rail Jesus when he is hungry, isolated, and tired. So he tells Jesus, in Luke, turn these stones into bread. In other words, the devil is telling Jesus to make the desires of the flesh the priority over God.

Read symbolically... make sensual pleasure the center of your life. Make the satisfaction of your bodily desires... for food, and for intimacy, and for drink and for pleasure, the center of your life.

Now... we like the pleasures of the body. We think they are good, they are God given. But, when they become dominant, when they become the Lord of your life, then your deepest desire for God isn't realized.

And so Jesus says, to the devil, one will not live by bread alone. But by every word that comes from the mouth of God. In other words, Jesus says, I refuse to use my power for my own benefit and accept whatever God wills.

The devil goes on to tempt Jesus 2 more times while he is in the desert. He proposes to Jesus that he throw

himself down off the parapet of the temple. In this 2nd test, the devil threw out scripture on Jesus.

So... be careful, brothers and sisters, the devil knows scriptures too. He quoted Psalm 91:11 when he tells Jesus, **"For it is written: He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone."** The devil quotes scripture because he wants

Jesus to put God to the test.

The devil then tempts Jesus by offering him power. If Jesus would worship Satan, then Satan would give him all the kingdoms of the world.

Jesus doesn't bend, he doesn't yield to the temptation of power.

Power is very tough temptation for us. We want power at our jobs, we want power over our spouses, we want power over our children, and young people want power over their parents. What values are we willing to let go of for power? How can you resist the temptation of power?

You may remember, 14 years ago, in 2007, Tony Dungy became the first black head coach to win the Super Bowl when his Indianapolis Colts defeated the Chicago Bears.

The reason I tell you this... is that Tony Dungy is a Christian. He was unlike other NFL head coaches. He didn't let the power of his position be the priority in his life. He kept God first above his job and his power.

I imagine that the devil was in his ear at every turn to tempt him to put his power and position above God. But Tony Dungy kept faith and family above football. He said "I know I probably didn't get a couple of jobs in my career because people could not see my personality or the way I was going to do it. For your faith to be more important than your

job, for your family to be more important than that job.”

Brothers and sisters, temptation is a very real part of life and is especially challenging in our wilderness times. When we are down, discouraged, afraid, disappointed and lonely. Satan loves to kick us when we are down.

And if you are Christian, you are going to get hit.

I loved Deacon Jenkins' homily one Sunday when he put on his Texans football jersey. He said, when you go into the football game, you are going to get hit. You have to be prepared to get back up and get into the game.

The Deacon's point was, when we put on our uniforms, as Christians, when we go out of these doors, when we get into the game, we are going to get hit.

We are going to have the storms of life that hit us. We are going to have temptation to hit us.

Brothers and sisters, every temptation we encounter...brings us with it...a corresponding challenge. Meeting those challenges head on, as Jesus did, is how we rise above the temptations.

When we find ourselves in the wilderness, it gives us an opportunity to turn toward God and not away from God.

Lent Prepares Us for Easter, Our Life on Earth Prepares Us for Heaven

The Good News is...being tempted is an opportunity for victory. It's an opportunity for victory with our Lord.

You see temptation and sin are different. Temptation is an opportunity to sin, but it's not, in and of itself...sin. So we have victory when we rise up to meet the challenges head on and persevere:

- in doing what's right,
- in being faithful to God,
- in trusting God,
- in listening to God, and
- in loving others as God loves us.

The Good News here is that God strengthens us to meet all of these challenges.

Jesus is with us when we are in the wilderness. And he knows what it's like to be tempted. He knows what it's like to get hit.

He was hungry and isolated and tired.

Sometimes we get hungry and isolated and tired.

- When our power and water are off and we are cold.
- There will be times when our physical energy levels are low
- Times when we've been working too much
- Times when we are stressed
- Times when we are sick or have an illness
- Times when our body life energy is depleted

We may feel like giving up...like tapping out. We may feel like giving in to the temptation. We are tired of the hits.

This is when, Brothers and Sisters, we must turn toward Jesus. St Paul wrote about this experience to the Church in Corinth, in 2 Corinthians, we he says, **“We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body.”**

In Jesus, we share in his suffering in the wilderness and in his glory in his resurrection. He is with us. He won't let us down. Jesus loves us.

Today, we Christians, are Jesus' hands and feet in the world. We are his disciples. We are his light.

Brothers and sisters, some of you may be thinking, Deacon Darryl, but I'm not in a wilderness right now.

Things are going fine. I am on the mountaintop. My marriage is great, my relationship with my kids and my family is great, my health is

great, I don't have the coronavirus, and my business or job is doing well. I am not hungry or isolated or tired right now.

Well...we still have some of our brothers and sisters...around us...in the wilderness. Even though things are great for you, God could be calling you to be Jesus' hands and feet for someone else in need.

We can respond and we can help to ease the suffering of someone else.

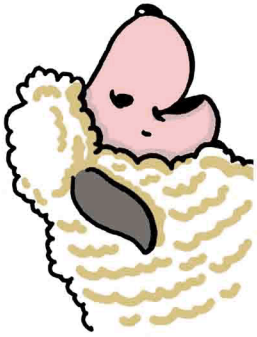
We can let Christ himself act through us to ease the loneliness, care for people in need, and comfort those who are anxious or heartbroken or ill.

People in need...need our love and our presence. They need our prayers. They need us to be proclaimers of hope and the Gospel, which is the Good News.

In closing, wherever we are today...whether we are in the wilderness or on the mountaintop or somewhere in between, let us know that, Jesus is with us. Let us always stay turned toward him. Through his grace, our hearts and minds can be transformed.

Let us continue this week to prepare our hearts and minds, during Lent, for the coming of Easter. We can prepare by meeting God daily in prayer. We can prepare by studying scripture and in worship.

We have an opportunity this week to worship Jesus during our St Francis Xavier Lenten revival. I hope you all can come out or attend via live stream. We can, together, raise Him up in glory and get closer to Him in our praise and worship.



What did Jesus say?

Find words that don't make sense or seem out of place. Replace them with words from the list that have only 1 letter different.

TIME	NEAR	THE	SAID
HAS	COME	BELIEVE	GOOD

“THE TOME HAS COMB,”

HE PAID,

“SHE KINGDOM OF

GOD HAT COME BEAR.

REPENT AND

RELIEVE

THE GOLD NEWS!”

Children's Worship Bulletin™



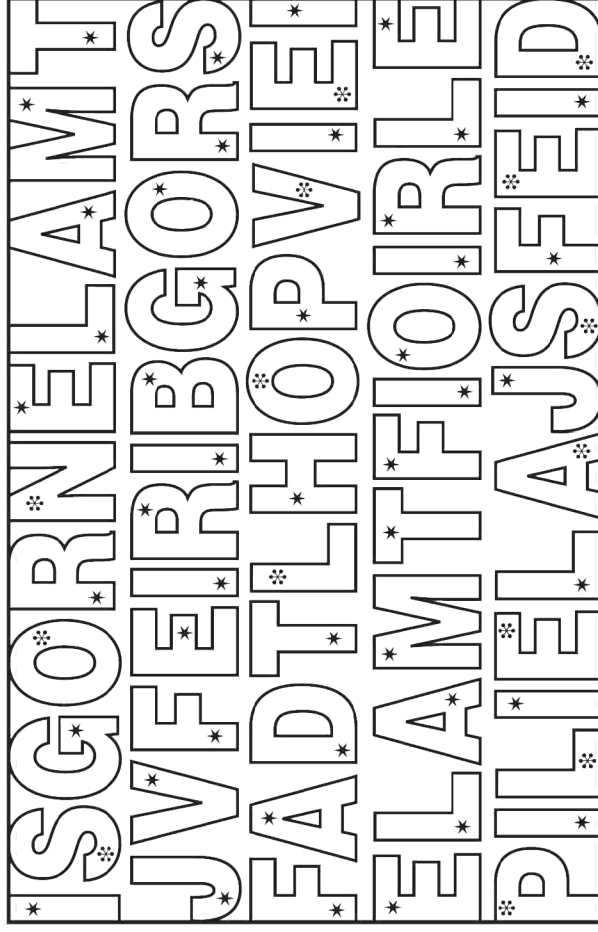
Ages 7+

February 21, 2021 • Mark 1:9-15

Jesus: Temptation and Good News

When Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, He saw heaven being torn open and He heard a voice. What did the voice from heaven say?

Shade in all the shapes with a * symbol to find the answers.



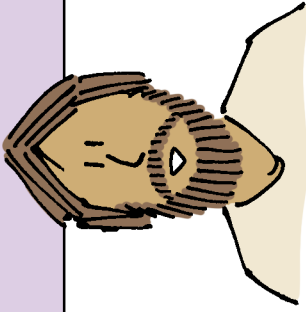
“You are My _____, Whom I _____;
with You I am well _____.”

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SECRET CODE!
SAZHY1

Then Jesus went into Galilee
telling about God's kingdom.

Match the words to the shapes.



repent

--	--	--	--

believe

--	--	--	--

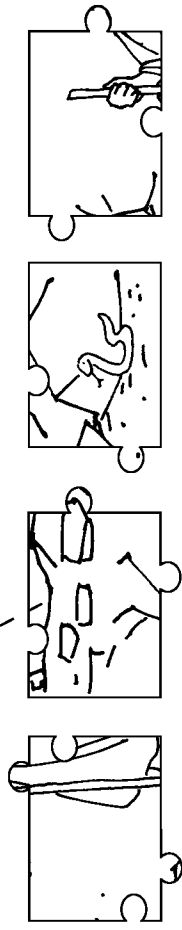
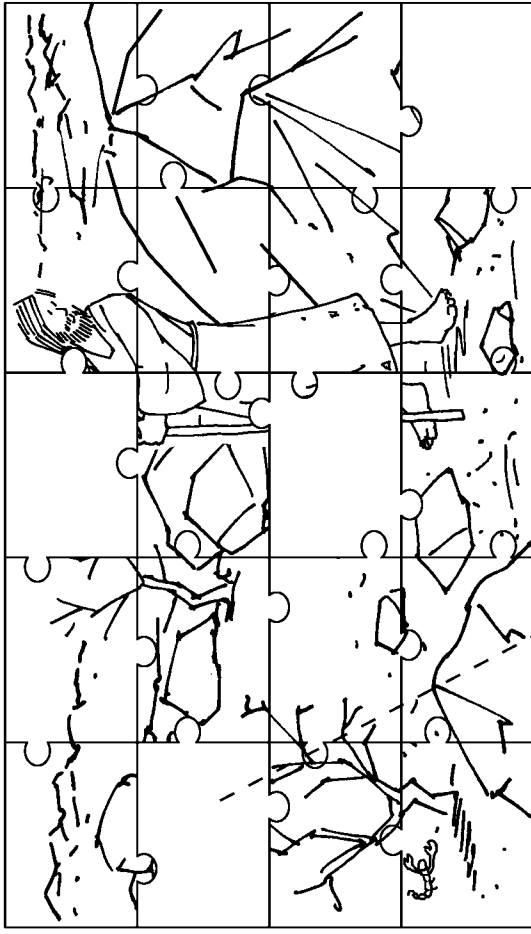
good

news

Jesus: Temptation and Good News

Then Jesus was led into the desert.
He stayed 40 days.

Match the puzzle pieces.



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