ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 24, 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

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



MASS INTENTIONS

SAT. 01/23/2021 5:00PN
Amy Landry Gallow & Dallas Gallow, Si
Wanda Dixon/Family
Jasmine N. Johnson (L) – Wanda Johnson
Gregory W. Johnson (L) – Theresa Baltri
Kristina M. Chaney (D)
Family & Friends
Jeanie Ashiru (D) – Theresa Rayme
SUN. 01/24/2021 7:30AN
<i>People of the Parish</i> SUN. 01/24/2021 10:00AN
Mr. & Mrs. Andouche Cureaux (D)
James & Bonnie Jefferson
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Roberts (D)
James & Bonnie Jefferson
Kristina M. Chaney (D)
Family & Friends
Michael V. Johnson (L) – Chaney Family
Louis C. McChristian (D)
Florence McChristian & Wanda Johnson
MON. 01/25/2021 7:00AM
Charolette Davis (D) – Theresa Baltrip
Bessie Swindle (D) – Theresa Baltrip
TUE. 01/26/2021 7:00AM
Patrick Martell (D) – Theresa Baltrip
Lawrence Lewis (D) – Audrey Otis
WED. 01/27/2021 7:00AM
Michael V. Johnson (L) – Chaney Family
Andrew Onochie Nwokobia (D)
The Nwokobia Family
THUR. 01/28/2021 7:00AM
Mary Duplechain (L) – Theresa Baltrip
Terry & Ruth Johnson (D) – P.A. Piper
FRI. 01/29/2021 7:00AM
C.J. Lucky, Jr. (D) – Tywanna Navy
Deacon Albert Henry (D)
The Family
1 no 1 anni y



Wilson Pierre passed away on January 15, 2021 at the age of 80. A Funeral Mass is scheduled for Monday, January 25, 2021. Eternal Rest Grant unto his soul.

Dorothy Ivy passed away on January 15, 2021 at the age of 86. A Funeral Mass was celebrated on Friday, January 22, 2021. Eternal Rest Grant unto her soul.



January 31st Deacon Darryl Drenon (6 years)

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



Deacon Alfred Abram, Justin Baptiste, Julius Cadoree, Margaret Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Sterling Dotson Certenberg,

Dalton Cooper Jr., Alvie Drenon, Nicole Fontenette, Barbara Forte', Ursula Gross, Jimmy Harris, Willie Mae Henderson, Dana Montez Hill, Brooke Joseph, Kennedy Family Members, Helen Kennison, JoAnn LaSane, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, Dr. Herman Mabrie III, Eugene Mallery, Cynthia Ann Malone, Charles Martin, Shannon Martin, Dorothy Milstead, Vy. Rev. William L. Norvel, SSJ, Carolyn Ollison, Helen Foreman Orsort, Cynethia Pichon, Lee Pickney-Rose, William Pierre Sr., Carolyn Porter, Marcelle Prevost, Carole Pryor, Elise Richmond, Evelyn Roberts, Oliver Rose, Andrea Shelton, Mandy Shelton, Simon Smith, Joyce Stagg, MacKenzie Swanks, Kennedi Swanks, Erma Taylor, Marie Webb, 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. <u>Army:</u> 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, 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

<u>Marines</u>

8

Alyssa Dugar, Reginald Ward

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

We encourage all CHALICE parishioners to take the chalice home for a week and pray for vocations. This week the chalice will reside in the home of John & Mary Richard.

January 24, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Jonah delivers a warning to Nineveh that their city will be destroyed in forty days. After only one day, the people listened and repented. In the

Gospel, Jesus comes to Galilee with a call to repent and believe. Building a team committed to his mission, he invites four fishermen to follow him. Immediately they leave their work and families to do so. In between, we hear Paul, whose life was changed on the road to Damascus, calling the Corinthians to conversion. Let these readings inspire us to listen and respond.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK Sunday – January 24 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20 **Monday** – January 25 *Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle* Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22 Psalm 117:1, 2 Mark 16:15-18 **Tuesday – January 26** Saints Timothy & Titus, Bishops 2 Timothy 1:1-8 or 1:1-15 Psalm 96:1-2, 3, 7-8, 10 Mark 3:31-35 Wednesday – January 27 Saint Angela Merici, Virgin and Religious Founder Hebrews 10:11-18 Psalm 110:1, 2, 3, 4 Mark 4:1-20 □ Thursday – January 28 Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor of the Church Hebrews 10:19-25 Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 Mark 4:21-25 Friday – January 29 Hebrews 10:32-39 Psalm 37:3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-40 Mark 4:26-34 Saturday – January 30 Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 Psalm Luke 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75 Mark 4:35-41

January 24, 2021





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.



KPC NEWS



KPC 138 Virtual Retreat Theme: Being Thankful and Trusting in God during a Pandemic

Saturday, February 13, 2021 10:00am – 10:30am Log In 10:30am – 12:00pm Retreat

Please return Registration Forms as soon as possible to:

Queen of All Saints Court 138 Virtual Zoom Retreat

4600 Reed Rd Houston, TX 77051 You may also Email registration to: <u>greedlamothe2@aol.com</u> A collection box for registration forms is also available in the vestibule of the church. AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE SAVE THE DATE!

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston Virtual Celebration of Catholic Youth of African Descent Middle & High School Students (This is a free event – everyone must register) Hosting Parish – Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church 1401 Fidelity St., Houston, 77029 Attn: DRE, Youth Ministers, KPC, **Young Adults, Parents** Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:00am-2:00pm/Login 9:30am "DO YOU KNOW THE WAY?" "Using Jesus As Our GPS System" John 14:1-6 I Am The Way The Truth And The Life

Mime Praise Dancers-Our Lady Star of the Sea 9:45am

Spiritual Motivational Speakers:

- Fr. Reginal Samuels, Pastor St. Hyacinth, Deer Park, TX
- Fr. Stephen Sohe, SSJ, Pastor of Our Lady Star of the Sea Church, Houston, TX
- Brian Greenfield, Motivational Speaker for Youths
- Fr. Tony Ricard, M. Th., M.Div., Pastor of St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish and Campus Minister at St. Augustine High School in New Orleans
- Sr. Odessa Stanford, SFCC, Member of the Sisters for Christian Community, Houston
- Sr. Nicole Trahan, FMI, native of Orange, TX, Member of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate
- Fr. Canon A. Gerard Jordan O. Praem, Special Assistant to the postulator for the Tolton cause

ATTENDANCE

Attendance on January 16th & January 17th was **160**. The 7:30am Livestream was viewed online by **356**. 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.

Stewardship Reflection

That we may hear Jesus' personal invitation to "Follow Him" and respond by generously sharing all our gifts. "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." - Mark 1:17 Jesus' call to "Follow me" is a call to all Christians! The call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are "ready" or have everything in order. Good stewardship of our Godgiven gifts means that things aren't always going to go according to our schedule and that God has a much better plan in store for each of us.



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 collected during all Masses on Stewardship Intention weekend. If you do not receive envelopes, contact the Parish Office and a card will be mailed to you. Thank you in advance for renewing your financial commitment to God and to your church family.



If you will need a copy of your 2020 contribution statement

for tax purposes, please call the Parish Office 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.



We celebrate the *Memorial of St. Blaise* on **February 3rd** with two candles touching the throat as the prayer is being said. The Book of Blessings (cf. No. 1628) allows the celebrant to impart the blessing of throats by extending his hands over the liturgical assembly while saying the prayer of blessing only once. In light of the COVID Pandemic, the celebrant will invoke the blessing of throats over the congregation from the Altar **at one time**. There will be no individual blessing of throats.



Happy Sunday! Brothers and sisters, the scriptures for today speak to our hearts in a powerful way. Nineveh will be destroyed within forty days if people do not repent. Saint Paul tells us in that "time is running out". Jesus proclaims, "This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand." God is calling us to transform our hearts and to love one another. Jesus is guiding us to follow Him and not stray.

It's okay to keep up with current events and get active about changes that are needed. But we can't let it deter us or distract us from following God's call for us. We can't let it turn us away from God. If anything, it should turn us more toward God.

In the first reading today from Jonah, Jonah fell into the trap of letting his feelings about the Ninevites cause him to turn away from God's call for him. He was a Jewish prophet who spoke on behalf of God. Yet he still let his experience, of the Ninevites being the enemy of the Jews, take priority over God's call for him.

Our first reading today begins at chapter 3 where God calls Jonah to go to Nineveh. And we are told that he sets out in obedience to the Word of the Lord. It seems that Jonah is following God's command for him. He is following God's call. But note, this is the second time that God summons Jonah. What happened the first time?

Well...let's look at the back story in Jonah. The story begins with Jonah somewhere near the modern city of Tel Aviv. God commands him to go to Nineveh, which is located to the northeast. Nineveh is the capital of Assyria. And it was Assyria that wiped out the Northern kingdom of Israel in the 8th century. So the Ninevites were Gentiles and were enemies of the Jews. So Jonah has no love for these Assyrians. If therefore, he goes to Nineveh and preaches repentance, the people might repent and God, therefore, would <u>not</u> destroy them.

I was listening to the radio one morning, and the radio host framed a scenario about a neighbor. She described this badmannered neighbor. A neighbor who won't speak to you when you speak. When you wave, they don't wave back.

Let Us Make God Our Priority

When they see you out, they go in the other direction. You see them in the grocery store, they go down another aisle. You give a party and invite them, and they don't show. They may even call the police on you (during your party) because they feel you are disturbing the peace. So the radio host asked, what if you saw someone breaking into their house, would vou call 911? Or ... would you be inclined to pay them back by not helping? This is where Jonah's heart is. God gives Jonah a command to preach to his enemy, the Ninevites, to have them to stop sinning and turn toward God. But Jonah wants God to destroy Nineveh, so what does he do? He boards a boat heading in exactly the opposite direction. To Tarshish, in modern day Spain.

This is Jonah's focus on self. It's about what I want, not what God wants. And so Jonah is taught a lesson. The ship on which he is traveling is suddenly overwhelmed by a terrifying storm. And the captain of the ship becomes suspicious. Someone aboard this ship has done something to offend their god. We are all being punished, they think. The seas grow rougher and rougher, so the sailors decide to draw lots to see who is responsible. Jonah comes clean. He admits that he is responsible, and he tells the sailors to toss him overboard. He knows that if they toss him overboard, the storm will subside. So, they toss him overboard and the storm subsides. Now most of you will be familiar with this part of the story. Jonah is devoured by a large fish. You may know it as 'Jonah and the Whale'. And he remains in the belly of the fish for 3 days and 3 nights. The story of Jonah is, of course, a parable. What does the belly of the fish signify? It is a time of repentance. Jonah acknowledges his self-centeredness, and he changes. By God's grace, he places the divine command at the center of his life. Then the fish spews Jonah out onto dry land. And this is where today's first reading begins. The Word of the Lord is addressed to Jonah a second time. Go to Nineveh and preach repentance...and so Jonah goes. He now follows God. He follows God's call to minister to his enemies Brothers and sisters, sometimes God calls us to minister to our enemies. Who might be our enemy? It could be that bad neighbor. Or a co-worker. Our family member...even a loved one.

Imagine this... You have a few of your family members over to your house one Christmas Eve. You have your brother and/or sister over and they bring their children. You notice the next day that a few of your Christmas presents are missing. You look all over the house and can't find them. You ask your children about them and no one has seen them. The next day, you notice a watch and some jewelry missing out of your jewelry box. Once again, you search the house and no sign of it. Then you think, certainly my hidden emergency cash is not missing. You go to your hidden spot and it's gone. You are now furious and going 'off the rails' that someone has robbed you. You figure out that it had to be someone who you knew who was in the house. You ask everyone and no one knows. A week later, you are talking to your sister and she tells you that she has just put her son out of her house. Her son was strung out on drugs and stealing from her. He also had his drug friends coming around the house and she felt unsafe. You figure out...that's it...it was your nephew who stole your Christmas presents, jewelry, and money from your house. Two weeks later, you come out of Church, after Mass, and its freezing cold. You see your nephew shivering in the parking lot. You can't believe it. You get mad (and you just came out of Mass) and you walk over to him. Your nephew says that he is hungry, cold, homeless, and addicted to drugs. All you can think about is that he just stole from you a month earlier. He says that he is sorry.

What do you do? Do you drive off and leave him and say, "that's what you get for stealing my stuff"? Or do you forgive him, minister to him, and try to help him turn his life around? I'd ask myself 'what would Jesus do?' and pray that I could follow God's answer for me instead of what I might want to do. So, brothers and sisters, please reflect on Co d'a sell forward.

God's call for you. What kind of service is God nudging you to do? Are you responding to his call? In spite of your resistance to the call? I pray that God will give each and every one of you his grace and strength to follow him. He will forgive. He forgave Jonah. He forgave the Ninevites. He asks us to repent and to have a sense of urgency. Jesus tells us today to drop our nets, our baggage, whatever is holding us back...and to follow him. Let us make God our priority.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY FOOD DISTRIBUTION January 9, 2021

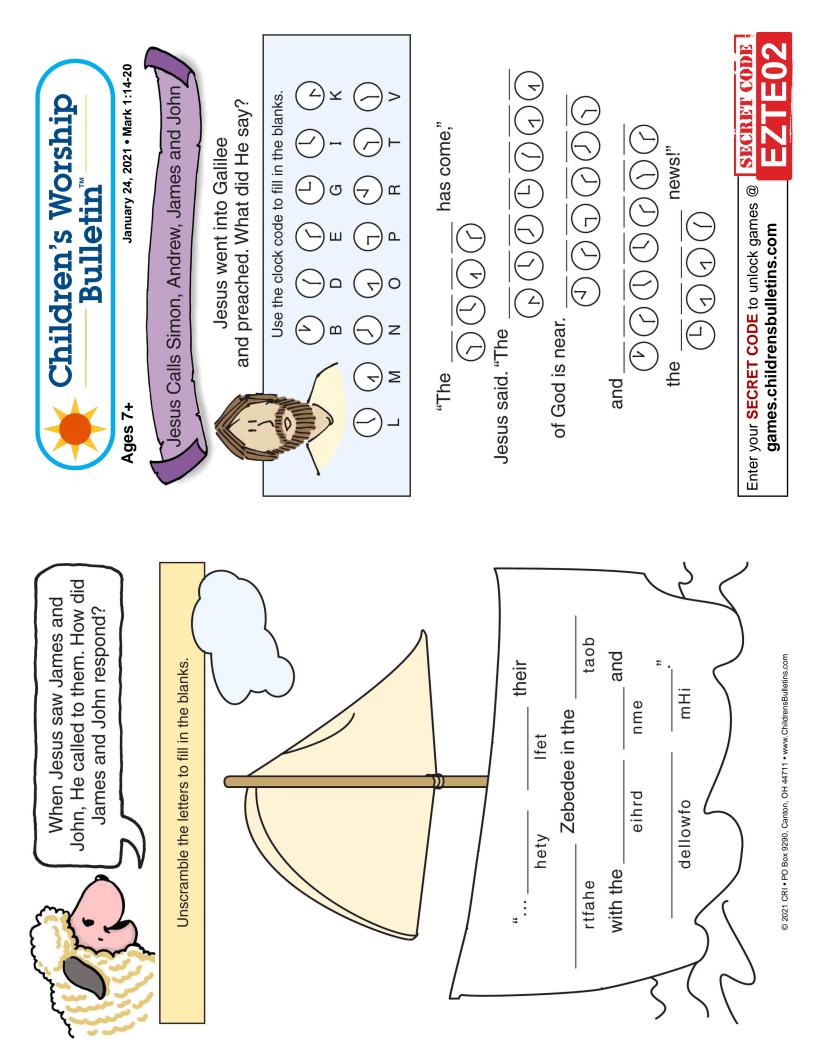


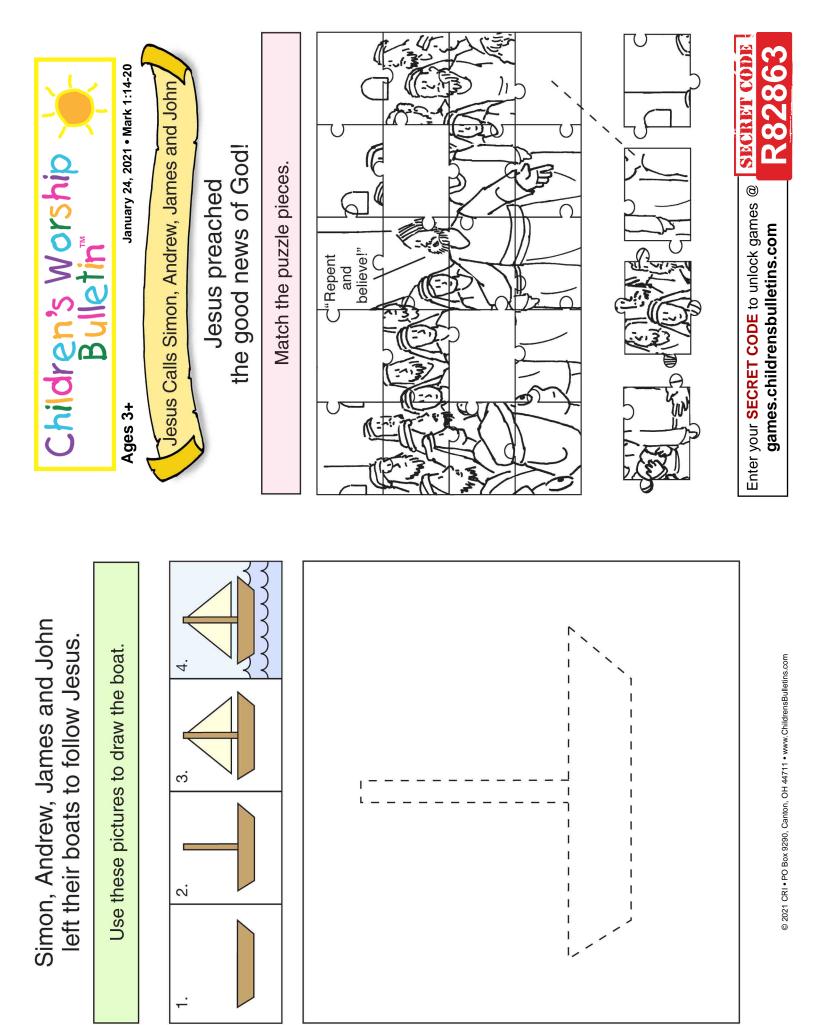
The Young Adults would like to thank everyone who helped with a successful Food Drive on January 9, 2021. We served 215 families. A very special thanks to: JoAnne Henderson, Bernadette Mitchell, Mary Sias, Curtis Jones, Chris Rellford, Joyce Davis, Isaiah Knighten, Niyelete Burris and the Witte Family. We appreciate your help in this service ministry.



View this bulletin online at: www.sfxhouston.com

Bulletin Deadline: WEDNESDAY @ NOON







Please support these businesses. They support our parish and community. For advertising information, contact the Parish Office at (713) 738-2311.