ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 14, 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





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. 03/13/2021 5:00PM

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

Audrev & Paul Bobino, Sr. (D)

The Williams & Bobino Family Jasmine N. Johnson (L)

Wanda Johnson

Agnes Williams (L) – Tywanna Navy Kristina M. Chaney (D)

Family & Friends

SUN. 03/14/2021 7:30AM

Gaston Joseph, Sr. (D)

Sr. Theresa Sue Joseph, SSF Elmer W. Archer (D)

M/M Herbert & Dolores Archer/Family Kristina M. Chanev (D)

Family & Friends Anthony Lester Forté (D) – Judy Allen

Bernice Murray Ceaser (D) Charles Family

SUN. 03/14/2021 10:00AM

7:00AM

People of the Parish

03/15/2021 7:00AM

MON. Gloria Nichols (D)

SFX Sisters in the Spirit

Herbert Goodwin, Jr. (D) Birthday

The Goodwin Family

TUE. 03/16/2021 7:00AM

Betty Nobles (L)

SFX Sisters in the Spirit

Monica Fox (D) – Ollie Duplechain

WED. 03/17/2021

Kristina M. Chaney (D)

Family & Friends

Agnes Williams (L) – Tywanna Navy.

03/18/2021 THUR. 7:00AM

Augie Magbual (D)

Shirley & Belinda Foreman

Ruth Celestine (L) – Tywanna Navy

03/19/2021

Dcn Albert Henry (D) – The Family Vernice White (L) – Tywanna Navy



Nelson Joseph Anderson passed away March 8, 2021 at the age of 83. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on March 20, 2021 here at St. Francis Xavier Church. Eternal rest grant unto

Shedrick Jack passed away on March 8, 2021 at the age of 77. A Funeral Service will be held on March 20, 2021 at Troy Smith Professionals. Eternal rest grant unto his soul.



Deacon Alfred Abram, Michael Albert. Savannah Blackwell. Julius Cadoree. Margaret Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Wanda

Caesar, Sterling Dotson Certenberg, Dalton Cooper Jr., Barbara Forte', Ursula Gross, Jimmy Harris, Robert Harris, Willie Mae Henderson, Hope Jackson, Brooke Joseph, Kennedy Family Members, Helen Kennison, JoAnn LaSane, Ophelia Lazard, 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 Orsort, Cynethia Pichon, Marcelle Prevost, Carole Pryor, Herman Rayme, Elise Richmond, Evelyn Roberts, Oliver Rose, Simon Smith, Joyce Stagg, MacKenzie Swanks, Kennedi Swanks, Erma Taylor, Louis 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.

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

Marines

Alyssa Dugar, Reginald Ward

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

We encourage -VOCATION CHALICE parishioners to take chalice home for a week and pray for vocations. You may sign-up in the vestibule of the church, or you may call the Parish Office to receive the chalice.

FOURTH SUNDAY



The readings today begin with a chronicle of the downfall of Judah, though it does have a note of hope at the end. Saint Paul teaches the Ephesians that Jesus Christ is proof positive of God's rich mercy. In the Gospel, Jesus tells Nicodemus that he will be lifted up by his Father, bringing eternal life to all who believe. God's unending love is a source of hope, mercy, and life. Let us rejoice!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday – March 14

4th Sunday of Lent 2 Chronicles 36:14-16 Psalm 137

> Ephesians 2:4-10 John 3:14-21

■ Monday – March 15

Isaiah 65:17-21

Psalm 30:2, 4-6, 11-12, 13

John 4:43-54

■ Tuesday – March 16

Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12

Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9

John 5:1-16

Wednesday - March 17

Saint Patrick, Bishop

Isaiah 49:8-15

Psalm 145:8-9, 13-14, 17-18

John 5:17-30

■Thursday – March 18

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Exodus 32:7-14

Psalm 106:19-23

John 5:31-47

☐ Friday – March 19

St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2 Samuel 7:4-5, 12-14, 16

Psalm 89:2-5, 27-29

Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22

Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24 or

Luke 2:41-51

Saturday - March 20

Jeremiah 11:18-20 Psalm 7:2-3, 9-12

John 7:40-53



March 15th

NO CCE CLASSES-SPRING BREAK March 20th

NO CCE CLASSES-SPRING BREAK



Thinking of becoming Catholic?

If you're not a Catholic, or you are a baptized Catholic lacking Confirmation and Eucharist, we invite you to explore the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Registration forms are available in the vestibule of the Church and on the Parish Website at www.sfxhouston.com.

Stewardship Reflection

That we may show our gratitude for Jesus' ultimate sacrifice by generously making sacrifices in our own lives. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son..." - John 3:16 Of all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of His own Son is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for a gift like that? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious firstborn, but He does ask that we are grateful and generous with our Godgiven gifts. That we nurture and develop our gifts, and in gratitude, generously give back with increase our time in prayer, our talent in charitable works and our treasure to support the mission and ministry of our parish and greater Church.

THIS WEEKEND'S SECOND COLLECTION

This weekend, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. This collection supports six Catholic agencies that touch more than 100 million lives around the world. The funds from this collection help provide food to the hungry, support to displaced refugees, and Christ's love and respect to all people. Next week, please give generously and help Jesus in disguise.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance on March 6th & March 7th was **224**. The 7:30am Livestream was viewed online by **308**. 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.



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 6:00nm

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

houston**food**bank Filling pantries. Filling lives.

MOBILE FOOD DRIVE
The University of St. Thomas and the
Houston Food Bank are offering Mobile

Houston Food Bank are offering Mobile Food Drives once a month. These are open to the entire Houston community and are not limited to UST students. Distribution will be on campus in the Link Lee Parking Lot, 3800 Montrose Blvd. from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Mar. 26, Apr. 30 and May 28. To meet the needs of everyone who attends, we kindly ask that you follow instructions upon arrival. If you have any questions, please contact the University Events Department at: events@stthom.edu.

Covid-19 Rental Assistance

St. Vincent De Paul Society and Saint Francis Xavier Young Adults secured a grant from ACAM (Alliance of Community Assistance Ministries) to help with rental assistance for those at risk of eviction. Must live in area code 77033 or 77051 and have a valid state or federal identification and social security card. Call the SVdP Food Pantry at (713) 731-2716 for more information.



Our Faith, Our Mission

God our Father.

you are the source of all goodness and of every blessing under heaven.

We give you praise and thanks for the gift of our Catholic faith and for more than 150 years of living and witnessing to that faith in Eastern Texas.

We ask for your blessings upon our effort to help secure the future of the Church in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

May your people respond with hope and generosity to our capital campaign, IGNITE: Our Faith, Our Mission.

May the sacrifices we make together today bear fruit in lives of faith for generations to come.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

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.

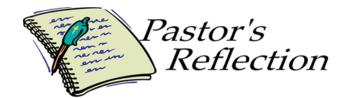
2021 CRS Rice Bowl

Donations to CRS Rice Bowl can be made online with a credit card at:

https://crs.donordrive.com/participant/ Galveston-Houston

All donations are secure and sent directly to CRS by PayPal, who will email you a printable record of your donation.

Bulletin Deadline: WEDNESDAY @ NOON



Though we constantly fail, God still faithfully loves us.

When I was growing up, we used to play with sharp knives. Our parents would ask us to put the knife away and sometimes forcefully take it from us, and we would cry. They would tell us that the knife would cut us if we did not stop playing with it. Still, we would not pay heed to our parents until we cut ourselves. Sometimes the cut was big and deep. When the blood started gushing out, we would throw the knife away and run to the very parents whose advice we had ignored. Our parents would dress the cut, calm us down and nurse our wound. This scene is depicted for our reflection this weekend. Like the Israelites, we do not listen, and we fail. However, God comforts us and reassures us of his love and care.

The Jewish historian who wrote the Book of Chronicles gives us a summary of over seven centuries of infidelities on the part of the people of God to the covenant. He gives us an insight into the history of how lax the leadership of the princes and priests were and how blatantly unfaithful they were. Despite God's on-going love, the people showed a pattern of self-destruction that made them indefensible against their enemies. They polluted the Lord's Temple in Jerusalem, worshiped idols, and were unjust to each other. No matter how many messengers God sent to make them change their ways, they charted their own course until their enemies conquered, pillaged, and sent them into exile. The people met God's merciful warnings with three repeated responses: they mocked God's messengers, they despised God's warning, and they scoffed at the prophets. Weakened by their sin, Israel became prey to their enemies who burned the house of God, tore down walls, destroyed palaces, killed many people, and sent others away into exile in Babylon. Their infidelities brought untold disaster to the nation, but God did not allow them to be destroyed totally.

The Chronicler cites many messengers God sent to Israel only to have them mistreated and their messages rejected. It was when they had suffered captivity in Babylon that Israel lamented their experience of the ultimate defeat and exile from the Babylonians (Ps. 137). This time of shame, as Chronicles shares with us, lasted for seventy (70) years.

Waves of oppressors came to rule Babylon where Israel was in exile. Each oppressor was conquered by the next, until Cyrus, the King of Persia. Cyrus held out great hope for the rebirth of Israel as a nation and the reestablishment of their way of life and worship.

St. Paul shares with us that God's mercy, His immeasurable grace, and kindness, shown to Israel even when they were in exile, is still extended to us. The efficacy of this mercy of God depends on our willingness to listen to God. This means accepting God's mercy and avoiding the mistakes the Israelites, our ancestors, made. God still speaks to us through Jesus and his followers, not about condemnation but about believing. It behooves us to have faith in the message Jesus brought and faith in him as the messenger. Paul emphasizes that this graciousness and goodness of God is extended to all believers.

To experience the gift of mercy, we are to humble ourselves and come like Nicodemus "in the middle of the night" to Jesus. This means taking practical steps to avoid the possibility of being hampered by people hostile to Jesus and his message. It is then that Jesus can explain his message in the way we can understand. His message is this: his death and resurrection are the basis of the spiritual life to be revealed by him. To Nicodemus he used an example from The Book of Numbers, where Moses raised up a serpent in the desert, to explain what he meant. He had come to save us simply because of God's great love and not that we earned or deserved it (Jn 3:16).

By Nicodemus coming to Jesus in the night, he moved from darkness to the light. He could no longer hide in darkness but experience the loved God as manifested in His Son, Jesus Christ, the light. He could now boldly go to Pontius Pilate and request the body of Jesus, and openly celebrate the Eucharist.

As we too listen to the advice of God's messengers, may we behave like Nicodemus and come from darkness into the light of Christ and recall as well as express our faith in the celebration of the Eucharist.



Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Chancery Office

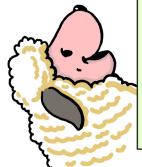
Statement of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston Response to Governor Abbott's Executive Order March 5, 2021

Earlier this week, Governor Abbott issued an executive order to be effective March 10, 2021, allowing all Texas businesses to reopen at 100%. The order also ends the statewide mask mandate, but strongly encourages the wearing of face coverings when it is not feasible to maintain social distancing from another person not of the same household. Private businesses, including churches, are allowed the discretion to determine whether face coverings will remain mandatory.

Over the last few days, Archdiocesan officials have engaged in a series of consultations regarding the order, which included input from clergy and medical professionals. Recognizing the needs of this local Church, in particular the need to protect the most vulnerable among us, we have determined that all of our current COVID-19 protocols will remain in place until further notice, including the requirement for face coverings at Mass and other liturgical celebrations.

The Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese have implemented protocols that have proven effective in minimizing the spread of COVID-19 to its students, families, faculty and staff. Since this spring 2021 semester will soon come to a close, these protocols will also remain in place through the end of this academic year.

We are monitoring the increased level of vaccinations and the number of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in our area and remain hopeful these metrics will continue to trend favorably so that the virus will soon be contained.



about evil and the light? What does Jesus say

Use the numbered letters to fill in the blanks. Unscramble the names below.

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Children's Worship **Bulletin**

Ages 7+

March 14, 2021 • John 3:14-21

Jesus Tells of God's Love

Jesus spoke of God's love. What did He say?

Solve the sudoku puzzle. All the numbers 1-9 must be used once in each row, column and box. Then use the code to fill in the blanks

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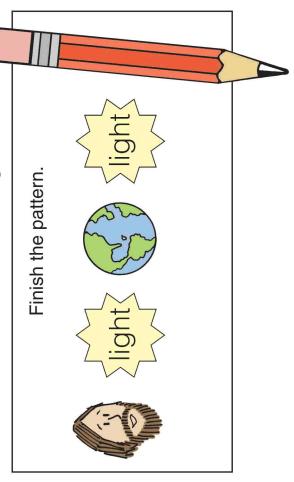
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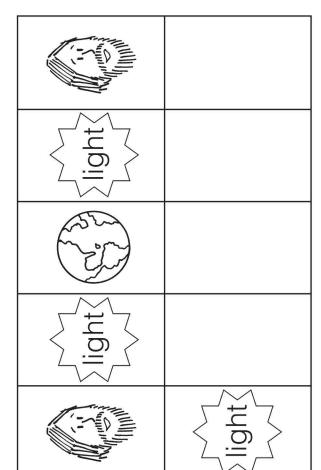
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Jesus is the light for the world. Believe in the light.

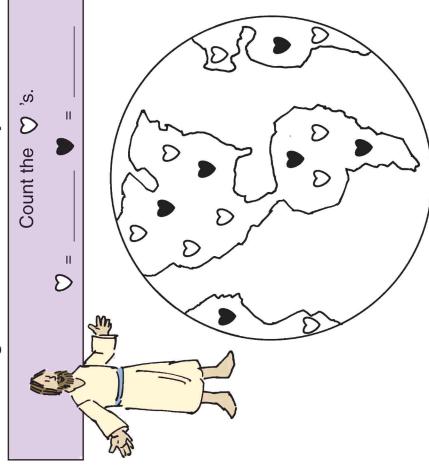






Jesus Tells of God's Love

He gave His one and only Son. God so loved the world that









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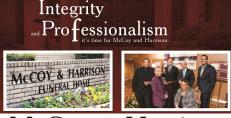
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