

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MAY 16, 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

GIVE without Cash or Check

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MASS INTENTIONS

SAT. 05/15/2021 5:00PM
Amy Landry Gallow & Dallas Gallow, Sr
 Wanda Dixon/Family
Leo E. Prescott, Jr (D) – Wanda Johnson
Arthur R. Baltrip, Sr (D) – Baltrip Family
Kristina M. Chaney (D)
 Family & Friends
Lawrence Duplechain, Sr (D)
 The Judah Choir

SUN. 05/16/2021 7:30AM
Kristina M. Chaney (D)
 Family & Friends
Jeanie Ashiru (D) – Unella Baber
Deacon Albert Henry (D) – The Family
LeRoy Forbes (D) – Nancy Mitchell
Gabriel & Lockett Families (D)
 The Family

SUN. 05/16/2021 10:00AM
People of the Parish

MON. 05/17/2021 7:00AM
Warren Boston Emasa (D)
 M. B. Holland
Michael V. Johnson (D) – P. A. Piper

TUE. 05/18/2021 7:00AM
Tanya Potier Lewis (D)
 The Lewis Family
Earlene Duplechaine (D)
 Tywana Navy

WED. 05/19/2021 7:00AM
Michael V. Johnson (D)
 Agnes Thompson
Monique Clark (D) – Tywana Navy

THUR. 05/20/2021 7:00AM
Irene Hutchins (D) – Tory Holdman
Michael V. Johnson (D) – P. A. Piper

FRI. 05/21/2021 7:00AM
Kristina M. Chaney (D)
 Family & Friends
Tanya Potier Lewis (D)
 The Lewis Family



ODELE CARTER
 1929-2021



Deacon Alfred Abram,
 Michael Albert, Savannah
 Blackwell, Wanda Caesar,
 Julius Cadoree, Margaret
 Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Sterling Dotson
 Certenberg, Sheryl Channell, Silas Channell,
 Dalton Cooper Jr., Frank Davis Sr., Maurice
 Ellis, Barbara Forte', Jimmy Harris, Robert
 Harris, Willie Mae Henderson, Crystal
 Jackson, Brooke Joseph, Kennedy Family
 Members, Helen Kennison, JoAnn LaSane,
 Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, Eugene
 Mallery, Cynthia Ann Malone, Charles Martin,
 Shannon Martin, Dorothy Milstead, Vy. Rev.
 William L. Norvel, SSJ, Carolyn Ollison,
 Helen Foreman Orsort, Cynethia Pichon,
 Marcelle Prevost, Carole Pryor, Melody
 Ratcliff, Herman Rayme, John Richard, Elise
 Richmond, Evelyn Roberts, Oliver Rose,
 Simon Smith, Joyce Stagg, MacKenzie
 Swanks, Kennedi Swanks, Erma Taylor,
 Gemma Walcott, Earlene White, 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 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



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THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



One way that we can tell that today is a day of transition is that today's Gospel consists of the very end of Mark's Gospel and today's first reading is the very beginning of the Acts of the Apostles. It is also a moment of transition for Jesus, from his time here on earth in bodily form to eternity in heaven in glory at the right hand of the Father. Finally, it is a time of transition for the disciples, told to go into the world and witness to the gospel. As disciples of the Lord ourselves, let us listen for his call in today's scriptures.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday – May 16

The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47

Ephesians 1:17-23 or 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13

Mark 16:15-20

Monday – May 17

Acts 19:1-8

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

John 16:29-33

Tuesday – May 18

St. John 1, Pope and Martyr

Acts 20:17-27

Psalm 68:10-11, 20-21

John 17:1-11

Wednesday – May 19

Acts 20:28-38

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

John 17:11-19

Thursday – May 20

St. Bernardine of Siena

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11

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

John 17:20-26

Friday – May 21

St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest

and companions, Martyrs

Acts 25:13-21

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

John 21:15-19

Saturday – May 22

St. Rita of Cascia

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31

Psalm 11:4, 5, 7

John 21:20-25



St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church
First Communion 2021

CONGRATULATIONS FIRST COMMUNION STUDENTS

- BRYAN LORENZO SMITH DOZIER
- ELIJAH ZACHARY EMBERS
- ALEXANDER STERLING EVANS
- CHRISTIAN ANTHONY HOLMES
- NOAH KHALIL WILTZ JENKINS
- CHRISTIAN CARTER JOHNSON
- TRINITY ELISE JOHNSON
- ZIAN CARTER JONES
- LANIYA NAEMARIE JOSEPH

RCIA

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 have the courage to defend our faith and share our witness joyfully with others. "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God." – 1 John 4:15 How strong is your faith? When you have an opportunity to either defend or clarify a question about our Catholic faith, do you do it? Or, do you remain silent so that others don't think you are weird? Pray for the courage to be strong in all circumstances and to joyfully share your witness with others.



ATTENTION GRADUATES

If you or your child is a Middle School, High School, College, University, Community College, Business or Technical School graduate, please Email the following information to stfancishou@sfxhouston.com:

- Name
- School Graduating from
- Degree (if applicable)
- School Planning to attend (if applicable)

You may include a photo with or without your cap & gown. All Information is needed **NO LATER THAN NOON** on Wednesday, May 26th



St. Francis Xavier Health Ministry will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, May 17, 2021 at 7:30pm.

<https://zoom.us/j/91221451550?pwd=THRLV09hUDVZVjYRDdpMmU3MGnkUT09>

Meeting ID: 912 2145 1550
Passcode: 478475

55+ Club



Fifty-Five Plus Club Dues for 2021 will be collected during the month of June. Members may drop your dues in the Harris Center

Dropbox, or you may mail it to the Parish Office.

The COVID-19 Vaccine is available at the *Walgreens* next door to the church, 9200 Cullen Blvd. Call **1-800-925-4733** to schedule an appointment.



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MOBILE FOOD DRIVE

The University of St. Thomas and the Houston Food Bank are offering Mobile Food Drives once a month. 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 May 28**. If you have any questions, please contact the University Events Department at: events@stthom.edu.



Thelma Lancelin passed away on May 7, 2021 at the age of 67. A Funeral Mass is scheduled for May 21, 2021. Eternal Rest Grant unto her soul.

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.



This weekend we take up the collection for

the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC). Your support helps the CCC connect people to Christ and builds Catholic communities in the United States and around the world using the internet, television, radio, and print media. Half the funds we collect remain here in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston to support local efforts. To learn more, visit www.usccb.org/ccc.



PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

We encourage all parishioners to take the 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.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance on May 8th & May 9th was **369**. 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.



God's Understanding of a Loving Community: A Checkered One

Happy Ascension Sunday! At Easter, brothers and sisters, it was the Lord's resurrection, which was the cause of our

joy. Today, in this seventh Sunday of Easter, we rejoice on the account of the ascension of our Lord into heaven. In all 3 of our readings today, we see that our risen Lord has ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

We also see that he has spent the past 40 days, after his resurrection, appearing to his disciples to assure them that he had risen *indeed* and to prepare them for the task of carrying on the work which he began during his earthly ministry.

Jesus spent the 40 days after his resurrection just like he spent the 40 days and 40 nights in the desert before his passion. 40 is a significant number in the scriptures. We see in the Old Testament that:

- Moses went to the mountain to seek the face of God for 40 days in prayer and fasting.
- The people of Israel were in the wilderness for 40 years in preparation for their entry into the promised land.
- Elijah fasted for 40 days as he journeyed in the wilderness to the mountain of God.

Jesus' departure and ascension were both an end and a beginning for his disciples. The beginning for the disciples was the commission they received from Jesus to **Go** and spread the gospel.

In today's gospel reading in Mark, Jesus said to his disciples: **"Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature."** In saying this, we call this the great commission which the risen Christ gives to the whole Church.

Ø Jesus starts the sentence by saying **"Go."**

Ø Jesus does not say for us to sit in our homes and preach the gospel.

Ø Jesus does not say just sit in our pews and share the gospel.

Again, he says **"Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature."**

I think that sometimes we may get complacent with staying "indoors" and thinking that the lost souls and people-in-need will somehow come and find us.

Many many years ago, I kept the gospel somewhat 'bottled up'. I went to church every Sunday. I was a Lector. My young boys were Altar servers and they attended CCE. I felt like I was doing the right thing.

I was not, however, doing anything beyond that.

I was not visiting the sick

I was not helping the homeless

I was not serving people at work in a way that gave them evidence of my faith

I was not visiting people in prisons

I was not engaging lost souls and people-in-need where they were. I just stayed in my comfort zone and shared the gospel with my family and my parish.

Why didn't I **Go**? Meaning why didn't I **Go** out into the world and proclaim the gospel to "every creature" (like Jesus says in Mark)?

Was it that I felt like spreading the gospel was the work for preachers?

Was I too busy in the rat race and could not carve out the time?

Was I like St Paul and was I afraid of any opposition that I could encounter?

It was all of the above.

In the Act of the Apostles, Paul was preaching the word and testifying to the Jews that the Messiah was Jesus. The Jews opposed and reviled him, he gave up and left, in other words, he 'threw in the towel' to go to the

Gentiles. Then, in Acts, chapter 18, **"One night in a vision the Lord said to Paul, Do not be afraid. Go on speaking, and do not be silent, for I am with you."**

We must not be afraid to **Go**. We must **Go** out and must be *in* the world to teach those who are *of* the world. There is no way to have a "hands off" approach to reaching lost souls.

We must get to know people, make contact, and build relationships to teach them the good news of Jesus Christ. All believers have been given a share in this task – to be heralds of the good news and ambassadors for Jesus Christ, the only savior of the world. We have not been left alone in this task, for the risen & ascended Lord works in us and through us by the power of his Holy Spirit.

In Luke, chapter 4, it says, **"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free."**

This is the work and responsibility of every Christian. Every person in here today has been given this commission by God to **Go** into all the world and preach the gospel.

Please believe me that this work is rewarding. I know that many of you can relate because you are out there in the trenches spreading the gospel and doing works of Mercy

This is the role and work of every person here. Jesus commissioned us before he ascended. It is time for each of us to get up, **Go** into the world, make relationships with people, and teach them about Jesus.

"Lord Jesus, through the gift of your Holy Spirit, you fill us with a spirit of praise and joy which no earthly trial can subdue. Fill us with your resurrection joy and help us to live a life of praise and thanksgiving for your glory. May we witness to those around us the joy of the Gospel and the reality of your great victory over sin and death."

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH
9 Day Novena to the Holy Spirit



*Come and share in an hour of prayer and
praise in giving thanks to God for the
Gifts of the Holy Spirit*

Friday, May 14, 2021
through
Saturday, May 22, 2021
4600 Reed Road
Houston TX 77051-2857
(713) 738-2311

Nine Days of Prayer: Why Pray Novenas?

Imagine this: With some trepidation about their future, a small band of people with a newfound faith commit to a period of intense prayer, out of obedience to their spiritual master. He has left them seemingly on their own, promising something big on the horizon. After they follow their leader's instructions for nine days, God answers their prayers by acting in a singularly dramatic, transformative way. That's precisely what happened to Our Lady, the apostles and the other early disciples of Our Lord. After His ascension they prayed, waited and perhaps even felt some anxiety over "losing" Him again. But they also trusted and persevered. In the end, He rewarded them on the Day of Pentecost with the coming of the Advocate He had promised, the Holy Spirit (see Acts 1:1-2:4). Jesus had instructed His followers to pray, and they obeyed. Those nine days of prayer can be seen as the model for the Catholic tradition of the novena. A novena (from the Latin *novem*, "nine") is a prayer, or set of prayers, prayed for nine days, hours, weeks or even months. It is often prayed for a specific intention or grace and may be directed to particular saints for their intercession. Sometimes non-Catholics, and even a few Catholics, may ask, "*Why should we pray novenas?*" The short answer is simply that Jesus Christ calls us to pray. In fact, He tells us to "*pray always without becoming weary*" (Lk 18:1), to pray with persistence. We'll never go wrong when we obey Christ. He promises that prayer works, and He often responds with electrifying results. Over the centuries, four specific types of novenas have emerged: novenas for **mourning**, **preparation**, **petition** and **indulgences**.

- Novenas of mourning are the earliest type. They probably grew out of an early Christian custom of offering nine days of Masses for the departed. The global Church witnessed such a novena in 2005 with the death of Pope John Paul II.
- Preparation novenas are joyful and anticipatory. They look toward major feasts (such as a Christmas novena) or celebrate the founder of a religious order.
- Novenas of petition developed historically among the laity. They most likely originated as petitions for good health and eventually became generalized to include requests for other needs as well. For instance, a novena to St. Hubert, for protection against madness caused by a dog bite, was first prayed in medieval times and is still prayed today.
- The final type of novena, the novena for indulgences, overlaps with the others. The Church offers partial and plenary indulgences for more than 30 novenas, including one of the most recent, the Divine Mercy novena.

In short, novenas work, and we should pray them because they are a valuable form of conversation with God and His saints. They flow from faith, and God always attends to the prayers of His faithful. We may or may not get what we want. But as we pray novenas, we are praising, preparing, waiting and trusting. And we will be rewarded, just as Christ's first disciples were, in whatever way God sees fit. Perhaps, then, what "never fails" when we pray a novena is that we always grow in faithful perseverance. And again, like the first disciples, we will not be disappointed. [Karen Edmisten is the author of "*The Rosary: Keeping Company with Jesus and Mary*" (St. Anthony Messenger, 2009).]

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH
9 Day Novena to the Holy Spirit

Monday, May 17th – The Gift of Fortitude



Rebecca Victoria Savoy has a heart for God and God's people. From a young age she has had the ability to lead people closer to God by being an example of love and exuding a heart for others by giving back. Rebecca is a graduate of the University of Houston where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Communications. While studying to earn her spot on the news she heard from God that he wanted her to share the Good News with others instead. Rebecca obtained her Master's Degree from Lamar University in Education Administration. Rebecca is currently a doctoral student at Lamar University. She has recently added published author to her many accomplishments, partnering with other powerful women in the debut book, "*Dear Future Husband*". Following the call on her life, Rebecca became a

licensed and ordained Minister at Higher Dimension Church where she has been faithfully leading in ministry since 2007. She is currently the Director of the Grow Ministry which encompasses all Discipleship courses offered at the church, Prayer Ministry, and Higher University. Under her leadership she challenges others to demonstrate the traits of a servant: Faithful, Available, and Teachable. When it comes to serving in God's house Rebecca has done it all from leading Celebrate Recovery, a 12-step program for those with habits, hang-ups, and hurts, to Children and Youth Principal, Welcome Home Team Lead, Lead Teacher for New Member Orientation, as well as Team Lead for the Intercessory Prayer Ministry. She has been serving on the First Metropolitan Prayer Team every day for the past 10 years. Rebecca has been an educator for the past 12 years in the Houston Independent School District. She currently serves as a counselor, mentor, and advisor to The P.E.A.R.L.S. which is a female mentorship program where she helps young girls find their purpose through serving others, as well as The National Honor Society. Rebecca is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated where she serves on the Executive Board of Officers.

Tuesday, May 18th – The Gift of Knowledge



Kathy Williams Bell is from Galveston, Texas and attended public schools. She is a proud Texas Southern University Graduate. She recently retired where she served over 30 years with excellence in several managerial capacities for the University of Texas Medical Branch.

Reared in the Church by her parents and a longtime member of Wesley Tabernacle United Methodist Church, she joined and has been a member of Abundant Love Christian Center in Webster, TX for many years. She ministers in the Woman2Woman Bible Study weekly and is active in other ministries as well.

An avid Christian who loves the Lord. Mrs. Bell is married and the mother of two adult children.

Wednesday, May 19th – The Gift of Understanding



Rev. Gusta Booker, III is a lifetime member of the Greater St. Matthew Church (GSM). He is known by the name of "Reverend Junior". He is the second child of the late Dr. Gusta Booker Jr., the Founding Pastor of the Church, and the late Dr. Theola Booker. He graduated from Willowridge High School, attended Lamar University, where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Business. In 2014, he received a Master's Degree in Ministry from Grace School of Theology. Rev. Booker continues his Servant Leadership, as exhibited by Christ, as the driving force for all of his endeavors--Director of GSM Uplift Community Development Corporation and teacher of the C.R.E.W Young Adult Bible Study. He has been appointed by Mayor Sylvester Turner to the Gulfgate Authority Reinvestment

Zone 8. He is also a member of the HISD Bond Oversight Committee and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. His passion is serving the people of the SouthPark Community and the City of Houston, by holding bi-monthly food drives and recently a Moderna Vaccine Clinic. Last but not least, he has been married to his college sweetheart, Nicole Denise Booker for 27 years and to this union is one daughter, Peyton Nicole Booker.



Thursday, May 20th – The Gift of Counsel

Arnell M. Wells, a native of Opelousas, La. came to Houston, Texas in 1945. She attended elementary school at St. Nicholas Catholic School and secondary school at Jack Yates High School. Earning a Bachelor of Science Degree from Texas Southern University she immediately began teaching in the Houston Independent School District and taught there until completing 35 fruitful years.

As a member of St. Philip Neri Catholic Church for 52 years she has served in a variety of ministries through the years. Forever a teacher, she taught 5th and 6th grade CCD, the Crown Ministries Financial Course for 2 years, Bible Study for 23 years, and Vacation Bible Study for 10 years. She is a member of the Liturgy Committee, a Lector and has served as Director of Lectors for the last 17 years. She has presented workshops and retreats for various ministries through the years at St. Dominic's, and at St. Francis Xavier's Ladies Auxiliary, and their Lectors as well as St. Philip Neri's Senior Friends, Lectors, and many combined ministries. St. Philip's mission statement is "To Know Christ and make Him known" and that

is Arnell Well's purpose for each organization she is affiliated with.



Friday, May 21st – The Gift of Fear

Juanita Thierry is a native Houstonian. She was blessed to earn a bachelor of social work degree (BSW) from Texas Woman's University and a master of social work degree (MSW) from University of Houston. She is currently a licensed master social worker (LMSW) (ICP). Juanita has worked the past 41 years in many areas of life as a social worker: Children's Protective Services (CPS), 3rd Ward Project Row Houses Mother/Children's Program, Texas Children's Pediatric Rheumatology Department, Covenant House Under 21, CPS/Chimney Rock Center Shelter, State Board of Pardons/Paroles, Tri-County Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority, Visiting Nurse Association Hospice, Depelchin Children's Center Adoptions, Medicaid HMO Blue Star Plus, Fresenius Dialysis Medical Care, Aseracare Hospice, Christus Hospice, Safe Project Adoptions/Foster Care, Catholic Charities Adoptions, United Health Care

Star Plus Medicaid. She has worshiped at Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church in 5th Ward/Houston, Texas until 1999. She then joined St. Mary of the Purification Catholic Church in 3rd Ward/Houston, Texas. Juanita had a fire under her at a young age with a desire to learn and grow spiritually with God and in her work as a social worker helping others. At a young tender age of 13, her world changed with the diagnosis of (JRA) Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis. She experienced so much pain, she did not think she would live to be age 30. Fortunately and blessed by GOD, her life span has more than doubled that. She has been on a mission to help others in pain, to share her journey with others to help them in their pain (spiritually, physically, emotionally, and mentally). What she thought was a curse for her at age 13, was realized later to be a blessing, and even today continues to be a blessing. She received so much more back from helping others as she continued her journey as a social worker. God has blessed her in the midst of it all as she connected with others, shared with them, listened and learned from them. Among many challenges, God provided for Juanita as a single parent of a black male child. God made a way for her to send her son to Catholic schools from age 3 - age 18 (on a social worker's salary). The journey continues. God is not through with her yet.

Hosted by the Sisters in the Spirit – St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church



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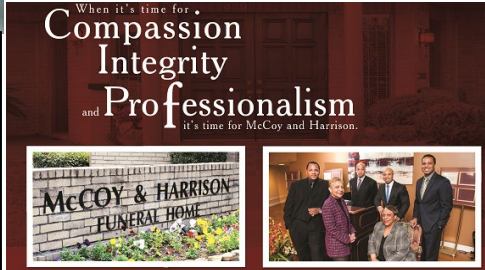
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