ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 19, 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/MAINTENANCE Curtis Jones

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 Tuesdays: 7:00p.m. Wednesdays: 7:00p.m. **Combined Adult/Youth Choir:** SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

CHOIR DIRECTORS: Jerry Givens 281.772.9276 Daniel Guerrero 281.723.9948

BIBLE STUDY/ADULT CATHECHISM: SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER

NOTICE 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. Classes are held on the 1st and 2^{nd} Thursdays of the month from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Call the Parish Office to register for the class.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Please contact a priest a minimum of six months prior to your proposed wedding date.

WELCOME VISITORS/NEWCOMERS

To register, call or come by the parish office or visit our website at:www.sfxhouston.com



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

MASS INTENTIONS

SAT. 09/18/2021 5:00PM *Yvonne Mullone (D)* – Donald Mullone Brandi Y. Moore (D) – Phyllis Moore Geneva Moore (D) – Phyllis Moore *LeRoy Forbes (D)* – Louella Kelly Tanya Potier Lewis (D) The Lewis Family 09/19/2021 SUN. 7:30AM Joseph Biagas (D) – Patricia Session Vernice White (L) SFX Sisters in the Spirit James Milton Vallery, Sr. (D) Odelia Vallery & Family Kristina M. Chaney (D) Family & Friends *Michelle (D)* – Maria S. Jayakumar LeRoy Forbes (D) Wanda Johnson & Florence McChristian SUN. 09/19/2021 10:00AM *People of the Parish* MON. 09/20/2021 7:00AM *Alton Albert, Jr. (D)* – Mother/Brother *My-Chi Family (L)* – Susy Suong 7:00AM TUE. 09/21/2021 Sheila Mouton-Hayes (L) SFX Sisters in the Spirit Wonder Victoria Hamilton (D) Tywanna Navy WED. 09/22/2021 7:00AM *Violet Champ (L)* – Special Intention *My-Chi (L)* – Susy Suong THUR. 09/23/2021 7:00AM Elsie Thibodeaux (D) Rena Malveaux & Family Silas & Sheryl Channell (D) Shirley & Belinda Foreman FRI. 09/24/2021 7:00AM Gabriel & Lorena Lewis (D) Audrey Otis Kristina M. Chaney (D) Family & Friends





LIONEL JOSEPH RUSSELL, II 1929-2021 September 19, 2021

Deacon Alfred Abram. In our Savannah Blackwell, Julius and Pragers Cadoree, Margaret Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Sterling Dotson Certenberg, Dalton Cooper Jr., Frank Davis Sr., Marlene Davis, Lois Epps, Barbara Forte', Jimmy Harris. Willie Mae Henderson, Delilah "Anne" Jordan, Brooke Joseph, Kennedy Family Members, Helen Kennison, JoAnn LaSane, Roy Lee, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, Eugene Mallery, Cynthia Ann Malone, Charles Martin, Shannon Martin, Diane Miles, Dorothy Milstead, Vy. Rev. William L. Norvel, SSJ, Carolyn Ollison, Helen Foreman Orsort, Betty Patrick, Cynethia Pichon, Marcelle Prevost, Carole Pryor, Melody Ratcliff. Herman Ravme. Elise Richmond, Evelyn Roberts, Sylvia Robertson, Oliver Rose, Mary Shaw, Simon Smith, Angela Stagg, Joyce Stagg, MacKenzie Swanks, Kennedi Swanks, Erma Taylor, Gemma Walcott, 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, Debreanna Brown, Jermaine Ceaser, Kevin Crockett, Courtney Harris, Nia D. Hawkins, Randolph J. Navy III, Anthony N. Russell <u>Air Force:</u> Joshua Creeks, Roderick Jones, Joffre Lander, Terrance J Valiare, Thomas Q Valiare II <u>Marines:</u> Alyssa Dugar, Reginald Ward

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"The Son of Man IS GOING TO BE DELIVERED INTO THE hands of men. THEY WILL KILL HIM, AND AFTER THREE DAYS he will rise." MARK 9:31, NIV Today's readings can be quite unpleasant. Envious instigators plot revenge against a righteous soul. James explains that greed and envy are at the

root of conflict between people. Jesus again warns his disciples that soon he will be handed over to men intent on killing him. But there is a loving Christian response to all this. Listening to today's readings, note the difference selflessness can make.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK Sunday – September 19 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Wisdom 2:12, 17-20 Psalm 54:3-4, 5-8 James 3:16-4:3 Mark 9:30-37 **Monday** – September 20 Saint Andrew, Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, and Paul Chong Ha-sang, **Companions & Martyrs** Ezekiel 1:1-6 Psalm 126:1-6 Luke 8:16-18 **Tuesday** – September 21 St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13 Psalm 19:2-5 Matthew 9:9-13 Wednesday – September 22 Ezra 9:5-9 Psalm 13:2-4, 7-8 Luke 9:1-6 □ Thursday – September 23 Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest Haggai 1:1-8 Psalm 149:1-6, 9 Luke 9:7-9 Friday – September 24 Haggai 2:1-9 Psalm 43:1-4 Luke 9:18-22 **Saturday – September 25** Zechariah 2:5-9, 14-15 (Psalm) Jeremiah 31:10-12, 13 Luke 9:43-45



CCE Registration is Tuesdays. Wednesdays and Fridays, from 9:30am to 4:00pm. CCE Classes begin on Monday, September 20th for 6th-10th Grade and Saturday, September 25th for Pre-K thru 5th Grade. Please bring: Birth Certificate, Baptism Certificate and First Communion Certificate if already celebrated. The Registration Form is available on the Parish Website, www.sfxhouston.com. If you have any questions call 713-731-2775.

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 <u>www.sfxhouston.com</u>



The next Altar Server Practice is on Saturday, **September 25th**, from 11:00am to 1:00pm.



Queen of All Saints Court #138 Lady JoAnne Henderson, HICC Mary Ann Angelle Award Lady Mary Sias, HICC Della Brooks Award

BUS TRIP TO COUSHATTA

KPC Knights & Ladies of Council & Court #138 will have a bus trip to the Coushatta Casino on Saturday, October 9, 2021. We will start boarding at 7:30am; Departing from St. Francis Xavier Church at 8:00 am; Leaving Coushatta at 5:00pm to return. The cost per person is \$30.00. To reserve your seat contact: Jeanette Steptoe (713) 733-6210,

Jeanette Steptoe (713) 733-6210, or Anne Auzenne (281) 451-6249





Grand Prize! NISSAN SENTRA 4DR SEDAN 2nd Prize......\$1000.00 Gift Card 3rd Prize.....\$500.00 Gift Card 4th Prize.....\$400.00 Gas Card 5th Prize....\$300.00 Macy's Gift Card Tickets are \$5.00 each or a book of 20 for \$100.00. Each household is asked to sell

at least 2 books. Drawing: October 17, 2021

Winner Need Not be Present!

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard for the Pre-Bazaar Dinner Sales on the weekend. The Team raised **\$2,413.11** in support of the Bazaar!

BAZAAR T-SHIRTS

Orders are being taken for Bazaar T-Shirts. Sizes range from Youth to 5XL; costs start at \$15.00 up to \$25.00. Color choices are Grey and Pink; V-Neck or Scoop Neck.

VENDOR BOOTHS

There will be a limited number of outside Vendor Booths available for the Bazaar. There will be NO booths inside the Parish Hall. The fee for booths is **\$100.00**. Contact the Parish Offfice for a registration form or visit the Parish Website <u>www.sfxhouston.com</u>.

The last **Bazaar Team** Meeting is scheduled for **October 5th** at 6:00p.m. in the Harris Center Auditorium.

<u>ATTENDANCE</u>

Attendance on September 11th & September 12th was **255**. The 7:30am Livestream received **97** views online. Please join us via Livestream, or bring a friend to come worship with us in the church. Masks will not be required, but they are encouraged.

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 through our service and our sacrifice we may grow closer to Jesus and help others to know the love and care of Our Lord. "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Mark 9:35 Jesus teaches us that we are called to love one another. Love involves sacrifice. Sacrifice is a word that many of us don't like to hear. We think it means that we must give up something that we want. However, the literal meaning of sacrifice is "to make holy," from the words "sacer" = sacred and "facere" = to make. In other words, we make our lives holy by sharing our gifts in the service of God.



The **Monastery of the Infant Jesus** is a monastery of 21 Dominican cloistered Nuns located in Lufkin, Texas. They are inviting young women (18-35 years old) who are interested in a life of prayer to learn more about their community. Please contact the Vocations Director at (936) 634-4233.

Visit the website: <u>www.lufkintxnuns.org</u> or Email:<u>nuns@lufkintxnuns.com</u>.

Deacon's Page Decrease So Others Can Increase

Happy Sunday! What must I

decrease in order for someone else to increase? This question today goes against what the world teaches us about increase. The world does not encourage us to decrease but promotes increase. The world encourages and promotes pleasure, lifestyle, and excess.

- > How many of us eat more food than we need?
- How many of us have more clothes than we need? Do we have closets full of clothes but still regularly buy new ones?

Brothers and sisters, please remember...it doesn't matter very much how you look to people on the outside; what's in your soul is far more important. Remember that Jesus Himself had a very simple appearance. The Bible says in Isaiah 53:2 that Jesus "had no stately form or majesty that we would look at Him, nor an appearance that we would take pleasure in Him" but He was magnificently handsome on the inside.

- ➢ How many of us have excess possessions?
- How many of us consume, in excess, TV, video games, social media such as Facebook and Twitter, or Netflix, or texting? Could we use some of that time in prayer? To communicate with God? To help someone in need?
- ➢ How many of us excessively spend money?

And these are but a few excesses where we are continuously trying to increase.

The world also encourages us to seek glory ... for us to seek greatness. Some of us compare ourselves with others and desire their praise. The appetite for glory and greatness seems to be inbred in us. Who doesn't cherish the ambition to be "somebody" whom others admire rather than a "nobody"? But just to be clear, desires for increase are not necessarily bad but I bring them up to give you a backdrop on the readings today and Jesus' teaching. The disciples were just like us in today's Gospel reading from Mark. They were concerned and arguing about which one of them was the greatest. They were focused on who was number one. They really picked a bad time to have this discussion about who was at the top. The reason it was a bad time because Jesus was telling them about his upcoming death and resurrection. This is the second time in Mark's gospel that Jesus tells his disciples about his upcoming death and resurrection. He knows that soon He will have to suffer in order to bring salvation to the world. He says in verse 31, "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise." This is profound. What kind of feelings would you have if you knew you were about to die? What kinds of things would you be worried about if you knew your end was near? How did the disciples respond? They didn't. They didn't understand what Jesus was talking about. Mark says "But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question him." I imagine they didn't understand because the disciples expected Jesus, the Messiah, their God, to 'rule' like a king, like King David, and didn't expect him to serve others and die (like a slave). They couldn't imagine him being killed because he was God who was sent to 'save the day'. They didn't understand and consequently dismissed that he was foretelling

his death and resurrection. They instead were focused on which one of them could ride on the coattails of his greatness. How did Jesus respond? Jesus used this opportunity to teach them about decrease. Jesus taught them about decrease by demonstrating that they need to serve the lowly, the people who are in need. The gospel says, then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, "**if anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and servant of all.**" It then says he took a child and placed it in their midst. He used a child because children had no status in ancient times. They had no say so. They didn't have any kind of weight or status until they were considered an adult.

So Jesus showed that the disciples can have true power when they can decrease and serve the lowly, like the child. It is when they serve the lowly, they receive him, & when they receive him, they receive the true power in God. The gospel says, "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

Jesus, himself, is our model. In Matthew 20:28 it says, "**He** came <u>not</u> to be served, but <u>to</u> serve." The apostle Paul said to the Philippians in 2:7, that Jesus "**emptied Himself by taking** the form of a servant and being born in the likeness of **men.**" Jesus lowered himself (He whose place is at the right hand of God the Father) and took on our lowly nature that He might raise us up and clothe us in his divine nature. In other words, Jesus decreased so that we might increase. Another great example of 'decreasing so others can increase' is our Pope, Pope Francis.

I read an article about the Pope a few years ago in the NY Times. It is titled: **A Humble Pope, Challenging the World**. The article did a great job about describing the changes or decreases that the Pope has made since his election. One of his first changes was that the Pope decided to live in the

Vatican guesthouse instead of the Vatican Palace. He also made a change with his morning Mass. He does the Mass with gardeners, janitors, and Vatican office workers in his audience. Previous Popes would have Cardinals and dignitaries in their audience. The article goes on to say that he preaches, without notes, as a simple parish priest. The Pope has made it a priority to focus on the poor and those in need. He has made taking care of refugees as a priority. He will house a Syrian refugee family in the Vatican. He has asked the world to do the same for refugees. He has also challenged the world to end hunger by 2025. What a lofty goal. Our Pope has been effective because he is humble. The lowly and those in need have been increasing because the Pope is humble, and he has decreased. He has not let his status as Pope, or his worldwide fame get in the way of serving those who are most in need.

If we want to be filled with God's life and power, then we need to empty ourselves of everything which stands in the way — pride, self-seeking glory, vanity, excesses, etc.

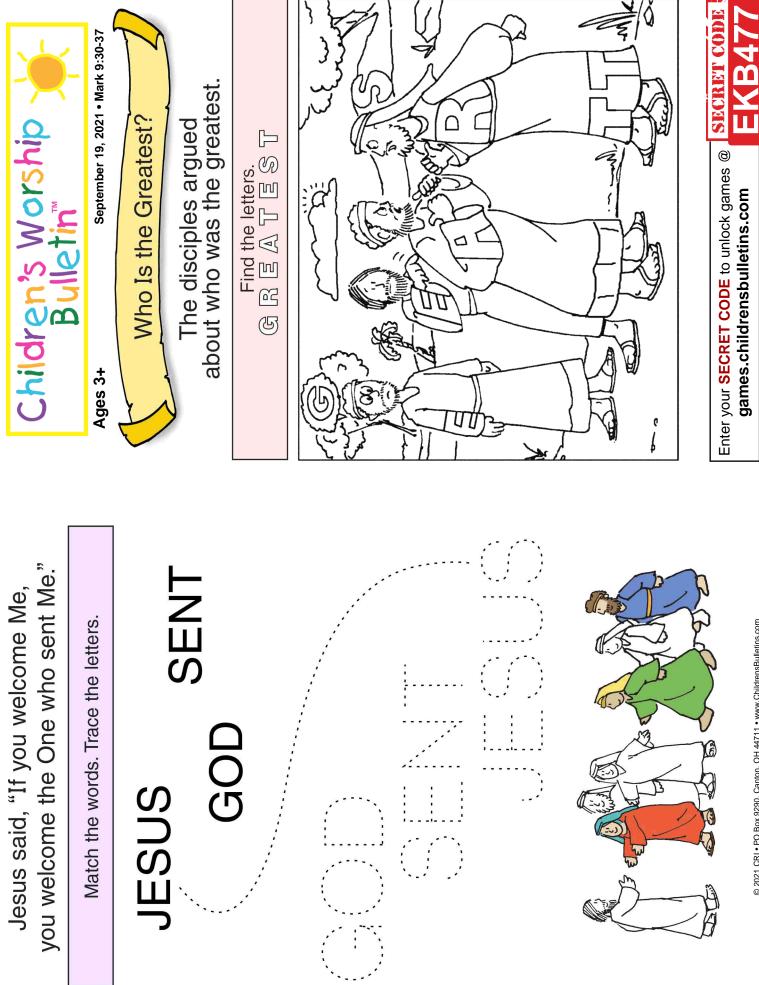
And as I said earlier, there is nothing wrong with increasing if we do it for God's glory.

God wants us empty vessels so he can fill them with his own glory, power, and love. Are you ready to humble yourself and to serve others as Jesus did and as the Pope is doing? I pray that we can all serve those who are the most vulnerable members in our society. I pray that we can serve those who are <u>not</u> in a position to serve themselves. Jesus assures us, in the readings today, that when we serve those in need that we are serving Him.

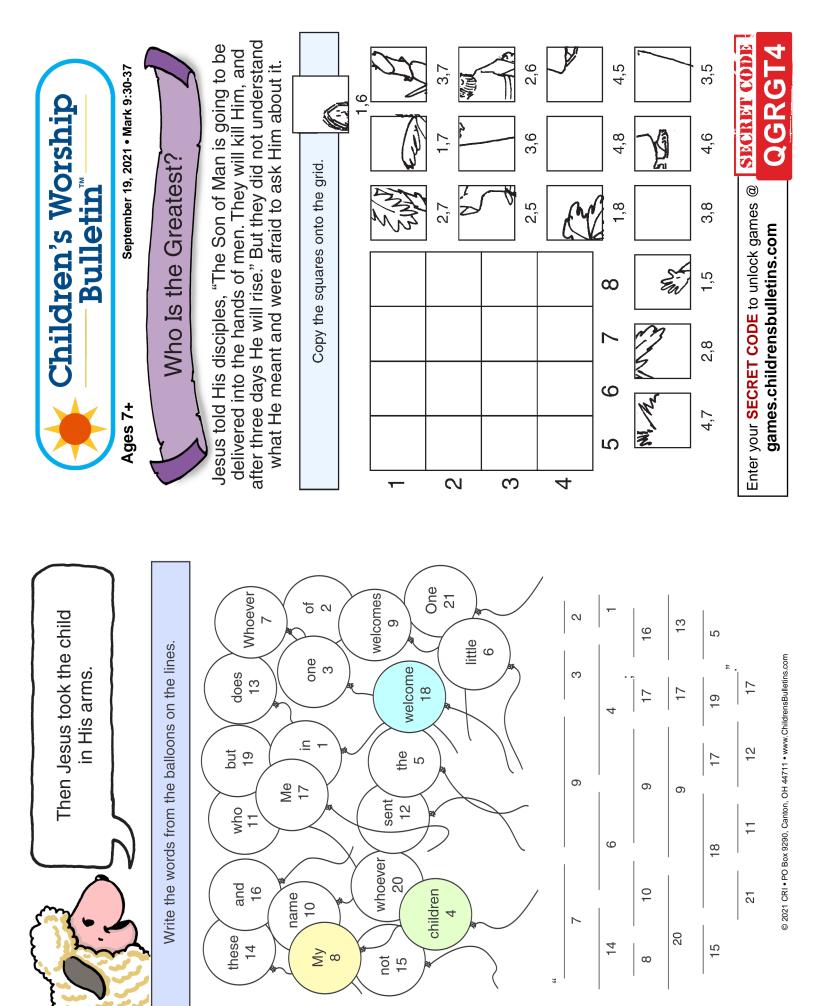


SAVE THE DATE: 18th Annual National Black Catholic Men's Virtual Conference 2021 October 14, 2021 – October 17, 2021 Theme: "Deliver Me... From Myself" Psalm 34:4

Registrants will receive the conference souvenir & workshop booklet along with the 2021 Conference Tee Shirt. Please go to the **bowmanfrancis.org** website to register and for more information.



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