

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

*(Staffed by The Josephites since 1952)*

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 11, 2022



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](mailto: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>  
YouTube: St. Francis Xavier Houston

## 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:

Vy. Rev. Michael K. Saah-Buckman, SSJ

## PAROCHIAL VICAR:

Rev. John Patrick Tindana

## 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

## WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Sat: Vigil 5:00 p.m.

Sun: 7:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:15pm

## WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday: 7:00 a.m.

First Friday: 7:00 a.m.

Holy Days: 7:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

## CONFESSIONS

One (1) hour before Weekend Masses or by appointment

## ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

First Friday: 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

## CHOIR REHEARSALS:

### Adult Choirs

Wednesdays: 6:30p.m.

Thursdays: 7:00p.m.

### Youth Choir

4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays: 12:00 Noon

## CHOIR DIRECTORS:

Jerry Givens 281.772.9276

Daniel Guerrero 281.723.9948

Mikayla Peugh 832.920.6912

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.sfxhouston.com)

## GIVE without Cash or Check

FAITH DIRECT<sup>®</sup> 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. 12/10/2022 10:00AM**  
*People of the Parish*

**SUN. 12/11/2022 7:30AM**  
*Bernard & Joyce Thompson (D)*  
 Marian Richardson Family  
*Kristina M. Chaney (D)*  
 Family & Friends  
*Rev. Dr. Ronald K. Mouton, Sr. (D)*  
 Shirley & Belinda Foreman  
*Gary B. Charles (L)* – Charles Family

**SUN. 12/11/2022 10:00AM**  
*Karen Auzenne (D)* – Patricia Session  
*M/M Artest Dewalt (D)*  
 Ingrid B. Singleton  
*Gemma Walcott (L)* – Special Intention  
*M/M R. L. Henderson (D)*  
 The Henderson Family  
*Lauretta Abram (D)*  
 The Abram, Campbell & Moyer Family

**SUN. 12/11/2022 12:15PM**  
*People of the Parish*

**MON. 12/12/2022 7:00AM**  
*JoAnne Henderson (L)*  
 Special Intention  
*Irene Hutchins (D)* – Tory Holdman

**TUE. 12/13/2022 7:00AM**  
*Lonnie Carrier (D)* – Theresa Williams  
*Laurence Hutchins (D)*  
 Olivia Holdman

**WED. 12/14/2022 7:00AM**  
*Barbara Tolbert (D)* – Audrey Otis  
*Lucille Sias (D)* – Mary Sias

**THUR. 12/15/2022 7:00AM**  
*Raymond Otis (D)* – Rita Albert  
*Irene Hutchins (D)*  
 Family & Friends

**FRI. 12/16/2022 7:00AM**  
*John Peterson (D)*  
 The Holdman Family  
*Laurence Hutchins (D)*  
 Olivia Holdman



Donald Abraham, Deacon  
 Alfred Abram, Gary  
 Anderson, Rev. Alfred Ayem,  
 Nova Baker, Clara Barras,  
 Kelly Batiste, Augustina Buckman,  
 Savannah Blackwell, Hal Tracy Bobino,  
 Amber Byas, Julius Cadoree, Margaret  
 Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Sterling Dotson  
 Certenberg, Dalton Cooper Jr., Joseph  
 Cunningham, Frank Davis Sr., Rev.  
 Henry Davis, SSJ, Marlene Davis, Lois  
 Epps, Barbara Forte', Myrna Franklin,  
 Sefronia Greene, Beulah Hadrick, Alvin  
 J. Hebert, Derella Ann Gallow Heflin,  
 Donald Henderson, Darian Ingram,  
 Brooke Joseph, Shirley Ann Joseph,  
 Kennedy Family Members, Wilson  
 Landry Jr, JoAnn LaSane, Freda  
 Lawdins, Hilary Ledet, 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, Louise Peachers,  
 Cynethia Pichon, Percy Pichon Sr,  
 Catherine Pierre, Mildred Pierre,  
 Marcelle Prevost, Melody Ratcliff, Elise  
 Richmond, Sylvia Robertson, Wilson  
 Robertson, Oliver Rose, Vy. Rev.  
 Michael K. Saah-Buckman SSJ, Simon  
 Smith, Joyce Stagg, Jeanette Steptoe,  
 Mackenzie Swanks, Kennedi Swanks,  
 Erma Taylor, Melvin Thomas, 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 this list.**

**Lord, we pray for all our current  
 military service members who put  
 their own lives on the line every day to  
 protect our families and our country.**

**Army:** Barbara Baber, Sade Beck, Wadie  
 Troy Butler, Patrick Clay Jr, Kerry Hubbard,  
 Kory Hubbard, Stephen Jones, LaTroy King,  
 Gary Christian Robertson, Anthony Lamar  
 Smith II, Jordan T. McCorkle, Essence L.  
 Casteel

**Navy:** Alvin Balthazar, Debreanna Brown,  
 Jermaine Ceaser, Kevin Crockett, Courtney  
 Harris, Nia D. Hawkins, Xavier Henry,  
 Randolph J. Navy III, Anthony N. Russell

**Air Force:** Joshua Creeks, Joffre Lander,  
 Terrance J Valiare, Thomas Q Valiare II

**Marines:** Reginald Ward

**THIRD SUNDAY  
 OF ADVENT**



MATTHEW 11:11, NRSV

What can we see with eyes of faith? Isaiah saw a field of abundant flowers where others saw a parched desert. James saw an urgency to prepare for the coming of the Lord where focused on its delay. John the Baptist could no longer see what he'd seen in the desert and needed Jesus to remind him of what his disciples were seeing all along: the poor fed, the dead raised, the deaf hearing, and yes, the blind seeing. With eyes of faith, we see past the bleak onset of winter. We see the coming of the Lord on the horizon.

**READINGS  
 FORTHE WEEK**

- Sunday – December 11**  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
 Isaiah 35:1-6, 10  
 Psalm 146:6-10  
 James 5:7-10  
 Matthew 11:2-11
- Monday – December 12**  
*Our Lady of Guadalupe*  
 Zechariah 2:14-17 or  
 Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6, 10  
 (Psalm) Judith 13:18, 19  
 Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47
- Tuesday – December 13**  
*Saint Lucy, Virgin, Martyr*  
 Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13  
 Psalm 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23  
 Matthew 21:28-32
- Wednesday – December 14**  
*Saint John of the Cross, Priest,  
 Doctor of the Church*  
 Isaiah 45:6-8, 18, 21-25  
 Psalm 85:9-14  
 Luke 7:18-23
- Thursday – December 15**  
 Isaiah 54:1-10  
 Psalm 30:2, 4-6, 11-13  
 Luke 7:24-30
- Friday December 16**  
 Isaiah 56:1-3, 6-8  
 Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 7-8  
 John 5:33-36
- Saturday December 17**  
 Genesis 49:2, 8-10  
 Psalm 72:1-4, 7-8, 17  
 Matthew 1:1-17



**ADVENT CANDLE  
 LIGHTERS**

**Dec 10 & Dec 11**

5:00pm.....John & Mary Richard  
 7:30am.....Juanita Collins  
 10:00am.....Liz Wiley & Mary Provost

**SOUVENIR BOOK  
 PICK-UP**

70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Souvenir Books may be picked up from the Parish Office on **Tuesday, Wednesday** and **Friday** during regular business hours. One Souvenir Book per household.



Dec 13<sup>h</sup> .....6:00pm

6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> CCE CLASSES

Dec 17<sup>th</sup> .....9:30am

Pre-K -5<sup>th</sup>

The CCE registration fee is \$25.00 per child and \$35.00 per family. A late fee of \$15.00 is currently in effect. If you have any questions call 713-731-2775.



**“CHRISTMAS - A TIME FOR GIVING”**

Parishioners are invited to submit names of families in need of toys for Christmas. You may call the Parish Office during regular business hours. Please provide the Parent/Guardian Name and Phone Number, the Child’s Gender and Age. The cut-off for names is **December 12<sup>th</sup>**, no exceptions!



December 11, 2022

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Gaudete’ Sunday (Wear pink/rose)

December 18, 2022

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2022 – Christmas Eve

Vigil Mass – 5:00pm

December 25, 2022-Christmas Day

**NO MIDNIGHT MASS**

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

Dec 31, 2022 – New Year’s Eve

Vigil Mass – 5:00pm

January 1, 2023-New Year’s Day

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

**ATTENDANCE**

Attendance for the Masses on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and December 4<sup>th</sup> was 622, and the 7:30am Sunday Mass Livestream received 51 views online. Please join us via Livestream, or bring a friend to come worship with us in the church.

**2022 RAFFLE WINNERS**



**Earnestine Holmes  
Grand Prize!**

**Toyota Corolla Cross SUV**



**Megan Higgins**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize-\$1000 Gift Card**



**Jim Allen**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize-\$500 Gift Card**



**Mathilda Batchan**

**4<sup>th</sup> Prize-\$400 Gas Card**



**Dolores Ledet**

**5<sup>th</sup> Prize-\$300 Macy’s Gift Card**



**Cheryl Henderson**

**Most Raffle Tickets Sold**

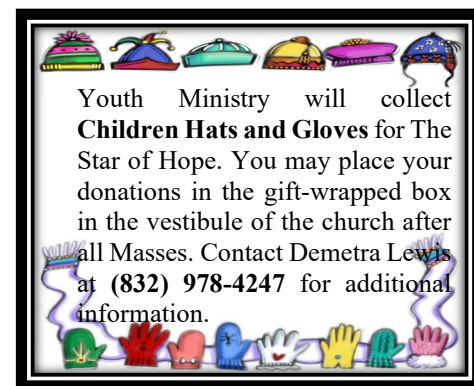


**Lester Holloway  
1942-2022**

**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**



If you will need a copy of your 2022 contribution statement for tax purposes, please call the Parish Office after **December 31<sup>st</sup>** at (713) 738-2311. Statements will be sent only upon request.

**Please note: Contributions received after December 31<sup>st</sup> will not be reflected on statements for 2022.**





## Rejoice in the Lord!

**Third Sunday of Advent, Year A**  
**Is 35:1-6a, 10/ Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10/ Jas 5:7-10/ Mt 11:2-11**

**Rev. Fr. John Patrick TINDANA**

Today is the third Sunday of Advent, also called *Gaudete* or Rejoicing Sunday. This is the midpoint of the season, and all Christians are encouraged to keep up their Advent spiritual preparations and never lag in zeal, for very soon the Lord will come.

The entrance antiphon emphasizes the joyful note by stating, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near” (Phil 4:4-5). It is my prayer, therefore, that the Lord will fill us with his joy, in spite of the many challenges we may be going through.

In the First Reading from the prophet Isaiah, the prophet talks about the deliverance of the people of ancient Israel. It will be a period of great rejoicing, fruitfulness and restoration. The prophet says, “The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers and rejoice with joyful song” (35:1-2).

Desert and parched land signify hardship, trial and suffering. The deliverance of ancient Israel would be so complete that it would encompass the whole of creation. In other words, the whole of creation would be redeemed. What a glorious day it would be!

Considering the fact that these prophetic utterances were made during the period of exile of the people, it would be possible that there were those who doubted its realization. Such people could be described as feeble, weak and fearful. We cannot blame them, because the life of servitude was one of hardship and terror.

To such people, the Lord through the prophet says, “Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak, say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not!” (35:3-4) These words of encouragement are relevant to us too. We hear of many bad news every day. We have our own tragedies to deal with. We may be frightened. That notwithstanding, the Lord says, “Be strong, fear not.”

The future redemption and restoration of ancient Israel would be so radical that, things unheard of, or never imagined possible, would be accomplished. The prophet says about that day, “...the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing” (35:5-6). What a glorious day it would be!

Indeed, that future of redemption will be a joyous one. The prophet says those redeemed will enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy. What is more: “...they will meet with joy and gladness; sorrow and mourning will flee” (35:10). Believing in these prophetic words, we can say again, “What a glorious day it would be!”

As we look forward to the future redemption of the whole of humanity, one virtue we would all have to cultivate is patience. This is because we may be tempted to think that the Lord is delaying in coming and begin to lose focus as people of God.

In the Second Reading from the Letter of St James, we are told, “Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord” (5:7). The farmer is presented as an example of patience to us. When he plants, he is patient and waits for the precious fruit of the earth. In like manner, St James says, “You too must be patient” (5:8).

Another great figure who had to wait patiently for the Lord’s coming without losing hope is John the Baptist. He had his own challenges in life. At the end of the day, he was imprisoned by Herod for telling him it was not right for him to marry his brother Philip’s wife (cf Matthew 14:3-4).

While in prison, this place of desolation, comparable to a desert situation, John, in the Gospel Reading of today, sent his disciples to Jesus with the question, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” (Matt 11:3). John has always proclaimed the coming of the Messiah, and at this moment of his life, he needed some words of certainty as he looks forward to his coming.

The beautiful thing about this story is that Jesus did not give a direct answer of either yes or no. He rather gave out some cues. He said to John’s disciples, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regains their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them” (Matt 11:4-5).

Certainly, John knew the signs that will usher in the Messianic age. The prophets foretold it, as evidenced in the First Reading from the prophet Isaiah. There is no doubt that when this message is carried to John the Baptist in prison, his heart will rejoice because he has lived to see the glory of God fulfilled in the life and ministry of Jesus. This joy of the Lord will sustain him to face the harsh conditions of prison life.

It is our prayer that as we also look forward to the coming of the Lord, at Christmas and ultimately at the end of time, he will continue to fill our hearts with his joy. That will be our consolation and sustenance as we go through our own desert-like situations. I join the prophet to say, “Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength” (Neh 8:10). May God give you joy and peace.

# Pastors of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

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| C | R | T | B | C | Y | H | E | N | R | Y | U | S | H | E | R | S | W | E | H | E | W | F | B | Z | Z | Q | W | R | O |
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| R | G | O | J | R | H | R | I | G | J | X | A | I | V | E | R | M | A | R | T | I | N | R | Y | Q | W | G | Z | M | R |
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Michael Flaherty

Matthias Connally

Timothy Sullivan

James Clarke

John Conroy

Thomas Monahan

George Wilson

Elbert Harris

Bartholomew Endslo

Charles Andrus

Raymond Woodka

Raymond Bomberger

Brian Fox

Kenneth Howard

Peter Weiss

Michael SaahBuckman

# Pastors of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

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| S |   |   |   | G |   |   |   | W |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | A |   |   |   |   |   | E |   |   |   | R |   |   |   |   |  |
| U |   |   |   | E |   |   |   | O |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | N |   |   |   |   |   | H |   |   |   | O |   |   |   |   |  |
| L |   | B |   |   |   | W |   |   | O |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | D |   |   |   |   |   | A |   |   |   | Y |   |   |   |   |  |
| L |   | R |   |   |   |   | I |   |   |   | K |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | R |   |   |   |   |   | L |   |   |   |   |   | W |   |   |  |
| I |   | I |   |   |   |   | L |   |   |   | A |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | U |   |   |   |   |   | F |   |   |   |   | O |   |   |   |  |
| V |   | A |   |   |   | T |   |   | S |   |   |   | R |   |   |   |   |   |   | S |   |   |   |   |   | L |   |   |   |   | L |   |   |   |  |
| A |   | N |   |   |   | H |   |   |   | O |   |   | A |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | E |   |   |   |   | S |   |   |   |  |
| N |   | F |   |   |   | O |   |   |   | N |   |   |   | Y |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | A |   |   |   |   |   | D |   |   |  |
| O |   | O |   |   |   | M |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | M |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | H |   |   |   |   | N |   |   |   |  |
| P |   | X |   |   |   | A |   |   |   |   |   | E |   |   |   | O |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | C |   |   |   |   | E |   |   |   |  |
| J |   | K |   |   |   | S |   |   |   |   |   |   | L |   |   |   | N |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | I |   |   |   |   | W |   |   |   |  |
| A |   | E |   |   |   | M |   |   |   |   |   |   | B |   |   | S | D |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | M |   |   |   |   |   | E |   |   |   |  |
| M |   | N |   |   |   | O |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | E |   |   |   | B |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | M |   |   |  |
| E |   | N |   |   |   | N |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | R |   |   |   | O |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | O |   |   |  |
| S |   | E |   |   |   | A |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | T |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | M |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | L |   |   |  |
| C |   | T |   |   |   | H |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | H |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | B |   |   |   |   |   | O |   |   |  |
| L |   | H |   |   |   | A |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | A |   |   |   |   |   | E |   |   |   |   |   | H |   |   |  |
| A |   | H |   |   |   | N |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | R |   |   | R |   |   |   |   | T |   |  |
| R |   | O |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | R |   |   |   | G |   | M |   | R |  |
| K |   | W |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | I |   |   |   | E |   | A |   |  |
| E |   | A |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | P | E | T | E | R | W | E | I | S | S |   |   |   |   | R |   | B |   |   |  |
|   |   | R |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |
|   |   | D |   | N | A | M | K | C | U | B | H | A | A | S | L | E | A | H | C | I | M |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |

Michael Flaherty

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***NEXT WEEK'S MISSION APPEAL******Sisters of St. Michael the Archangel***

The Sisters of St. Michael the Archangel are active female Religious Congregation, founded in 1986 in Nigeria. The Sisters provide direct care to the poor and the sick; they provide place of haven for abandoned and elderly in need. Their healing comes through spiritual and physical care with a loving sense of home and family. They provide shelter and accommodations including food and other materials, and financial assistance for abandoned and motherless babies/children. The Sisters go about caring for the sick and infirm as Jesus did in towns and villages through mobile clinics, they also offer free and cheap health care services for the less privileged who cannot afford to go to hospitals. They provide education for the less privileged children in elementary and high schools. They also assist young women in vocational school. In addition, the Sisters work to bring the gospel of Christ to all especially in remote areas by involving in pastoral work in different parishes in more than 12 dioceses in Nigeria. This includes teaching Catechism to Catechumens and helping to prepare catechists; they also serve as director of Religious education in parishes and at the Diocesan level. They are also involved in organizing basic Christian communities among parishioners to strengthen their faith.



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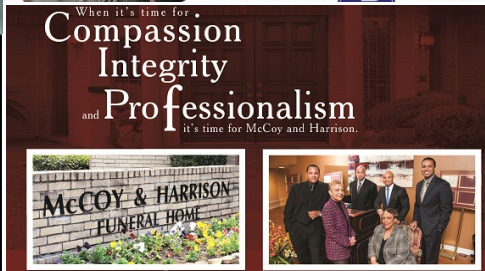
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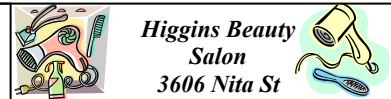


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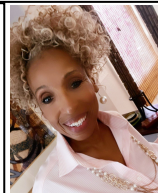
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