

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 24, 2023



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  
Parish Hall: 713.731.2725  
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 Thompson, 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 (RCIA)

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.-12:00 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)

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**MASS INTENTIONS****SAT. 12/23/2023 5:00PM***James Lacy, Jr. (D)**Florence McChristian & Wanda Johnson**Kristina M. Chaney (D)*

Family &amp; Friends

*Michael Taylor (D) – Jeanette Steptoe**Bettye Connor Hill (D) – Ingrid Singleton**Deborah Scott & Family (L) – M. Chaney***SUN. 12/24/2023 7:30AM***Kristina M. Chaney (D)*

Family &amp; Friends

*Clarence & Minnie Richardson (D)*

Marian Richardson &amp; Family

*Vy Rev. Michael K. Saah-Buckman SSJ(L)*

M. Chaney

*Rev. Fr. John Patrick Tindana (L)*

M. Chaney

*Kendall J. Johnson (L) – P.A. Piper***SUN. 12/24/2023 10:00AM***Aristille & Winson Valiare (D)*

Vanessa Valiare

*Sam & Geraldine Lewis (D)*

Jason &amp; Natarsha Lewis

*Therese Jenkins (D) – M. Chaney**Willie Jean Sterling (D) – M. Chaney**Makayla P. Horton (L) – P.A. Piper***SUN. 12/24/2023 5:00PM****CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS**

People of the Parish

**MON. 12/25/2023 10:00AM****CHRISTMAS DAY MASS**

People of the Parish

**TUE. 12/26/2023 7:00AM***Liz Peterson (L) – M. Chaney**Willie Jean Sterling (D) – M. Chaney***WED. 12/27/2023 7:00AM***Hilton "Steve" Williams (L)*

Special Intention

*Liz Peterson (L) – M. Chaney***THUR 12/28/2023 7:00AM***Kristina M. Chaney (D)*

Family &amp; Friends

*Willie Jean Sterling (D) – M. Chaney***FRI 12/29/2023 7:00AM***Ruby Mose (D) – Tywana Navy**Thanks God, Jesus, Maria Mother & St.**Joseph(L) – Kieunhi Nguyen*

Please Pray for...

Donald Abraham, Dcn Alfred Abram, Akaycia Addison, Azielee Addison, Kayne Addison, Nathan Addison IV, Alexis Alfred, Vea Barksdale, Kelly Batiste, Hazel S. Brown, Savannah Blackwell, Kenyatta Brown, Robert Brown, Amber Byas, Julius Cadoree, Margaret Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Sterling Certenberg, Dalton Cooper Jr, Frank Davis Sr, Rev. Henry Davis SSJ, Marlene Davis, Lois Epps, Allison Eskine, Stanley Eskine Jr, Annabelle Fontenot, Paul Albert Forbes, Lawrence Frank, Charlotte Gilbert, Anthony Gobert, Betty Goodwin, Tristian Gore, Angela Levine Green, Geraldine Guillory, Beulah Hadrick, Mary Hamilton, Mason Harrison, Alvin J. Hebert, Donald Henderson, Floyd Henderson, Anthony Hicks, Crystal Jackson, Natalie Johnson, Brooke Joseph, Shirley Ann Joseph, Ann Kennerson, Leo Kennerson Jr, JoAnn LaSane, Roy Lee, Hilary & Pat Ledet, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, Jimmie Mack, Eugene Mallery, Charles Martin, Shannon Martin, Diane Miles, Cookie Mooring, Vy. Rev. William L. Norvel SSJ, Carolyn Ollison, Betty Patrick, Angela Pena, Cynethia Pichon, Percy Pichon Sr, Robin Pichon-Mosley, Catherine Pierre, Mildred Pierre, Marcelle Prevost, Melody Ratcliff, Elise Richmond, John & Christine Roberts, Oliver Rose, Brian Russell, Grace Russell, Vy. Rev. Michael K. Saah-Buckman SSJ, Lillie Sims, Joyce Smith, Joyce Stagg, Jeanette Steptoe, Mackenzie Swanks, Kennedi Swanks, Erma Taylor, Craig Temple, Melvin Thomas, Irma Toliver, Gemma Walcott, Marie White, Agnes Williams, Patricia Williams, Terrell Wilson, Janice Woods, and all the sick and shut-in in our parish family. **Call the Parish Office when you and/or a family member are ill, in the hospital, or having surgery. After 30 days, please call the office to remain on this list.**

**Lord, we pray for all our military service members.**

**Army:** Barbara Baber, Sade Beck, Wadie Troy Butler, Patrick Clay Jr, Kalah A. Guidry, Kerry Hubbard, Kory Hubbard, 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:** Roderick Jones, Joshua Creeks, Joffre Lander **Marines:** Reginald Ward

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

"Greetings, favored one!  
The Lord is with you!"  
Luke 1:28, NRSV

In the first reading, David worries about finding a proper home for the ark of God. After all, it was housed in a tent as if they were still journeying through the desert. In the Gospel, the angel Gabriel comes to a young virgin in Nazareth to announce that God has chosen her to bear the son of God, to provide a home for the Lord. Let us now make a home in our hearts for the Lord, so that we, like Saint Paul, may make known to the nations the wonders and glories of Jesus Christ.

**READINGS****FOR THE WEEK****Sunday – December 24***4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent*

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Psalm 89:2-5, 27, 29

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

**Monday – December 25****Christmas Day**

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm 98:1-6

Hebrews 1:1-6

John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

**Tuesday – December 26***Saint Stephen, The First Martyr*

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59

Psalm 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16-17

Matthew 10:17-22

**Wednesday – December 27***Satin John, Apostle, Evangelist*

John 1:1-4

Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12

John 20:1, 2-8

**Thursday – December 28***The Holy Innocents, Martyrs*

1 John 1:5—2:2

Psalm 124:2-5, 7-8

Matthew 2:13-18

**Friday December 29***Saint Thomas Beckett, Bishop,**Martyr*

1 John 2:3-11

Psalm 96:1-3, 5-6

Luke 2:22-35

**Saturday December 30**

1 John 2:12-17

Psalm 96:7-10

Luke 2:36-40

**The Parish Office will be closed:****December 25<sup>th</sup> – December 29<sup>th</sup>****December 25, 2023-Christmas Day****Christmas Day Mass – 10:00am****January 1, 2024-Solemnity of Mary****New Years Day Mass – 10:00am**





December 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>  
January 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>

NO CCE - CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

### MLK Mass



Most Rev. Daniel Cardinal DiNardo cordially invites our archdiocesan family to the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Observance of the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The **MLK Mass of Remembrance** will be held Sunday, **January 14, 2024**, at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, at **3:00pm**, with Rev. Martins C. Emeh, J.C.L., Pastor of St. Monica Parish, as Homilist. For further information, please contact Deborah Ledet at (713) 652-8203 or [dladet@archgh.org](mailto:dladet@archgh.org) Reception to follow.



The **55+ Club** will host a Bus Trip to the Paragon Casino in Marksville, LA on Saturday,

**January 13<sup>th</sup>**. The Bus will load at **6:30am** and depart from St. Francis Xavier at **7:00am**. We will leave Paragon at **7:00pm**. Breakfast Menu will include: Smoked Sausage (Hot/Mild), Juice, and Water. Afternoon snack includes: Soda, Chips, Homemade Goodies. Fun Activities on the Bus will include: Bingo for cash prizes, good soul and jazz music, action packed movies and "good vibes". The Cost is **\$40.00** per person. Contact: Wanda Johnson (832) 492-5088 or Julia Dean (713) 530-4877.

### Stewardship Intention Card



God has blessed us with another New Year! 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. If you do not receive envelopes, we have cards in the vestibule of the church and the Parish Office. Cards will be collected on the weekend of **January 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>**.



Allen Arceneaux passed away on December 14, 2023 at the age of 76 yrs. A Funeral Mass was celebrated here at St. Francis Xavier Church on December 21<sup>st</sup>. Eternal rest grant unto his soul.



NU Industry Music Group invites you to experience its 1<sup>st</sup> Concert introducing Pastor Jaie Rob and the Nu Joy Music Ministry, featuring Lady Robinson, Minister Theresa Dews and Rev. Harold Dixon...Hosted by Griff the Comedian! This is a Praise, Worship, and Inspirational Musical Experience you don't want to miss! Sunday, **January 7<sup>th</sup>**, at St. Francis Xavier Parish Hall. For Ticket information visit [www.nuimusicgroup.com](http://www.nuimusicgroup.com). Come be Blessed!



If you will need a copy of your 2023 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 2023.**



### 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 like Mary, our lives, too reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity. "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" – Luke 1:28 After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.



We are fast approaching the end of DSF 2023! As of December 19, 2023, only **122** families have pledged or contributed to this year's DSF campaign. The 2023 Diocesan Services Fund (DSF) Campaign ends on December 31<sup>st</sup>. We are now **51%** paid toward our Goal of **\$67,000.00**. We are left with **\$33,119.00** to reach our DSF goal. If you have not yet had an opportunity to donate, please consider sending your donation this week. You can mail it directly to the Archdiocese at P O Box 4681, Houston, TX, 77210-4681. Please identify **St. Francis Xavier** on your payment. Use the QR Code here to pay online.



### ATTENDANCE

In-person Mass attendance on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> was **425**. Please join us via YouTube Livestream, or bring a friend to come worship with us in the church.



Dear St. Francis Xavier family,

*"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord." (Luke 2: 10-11)*

I wish to extend my greetings to you and your families wishing you a happy and holy Christmas season. Although the commercial celebration of Christmas started even before Halloween, I know because I fell into the trap as well, the Christmas season for the Church extends until **January 8<sup>th</sup>** with the **Baptism of the Lord**. Don't be in a hurry to take down the Christmas decorations! The celebration of the New Year on January 1<sup>st</sup> is still a reason to celebrate the gift of our Savior. He comes to allow us another opportunity to embrace new beginnings with Joy, Hope, Peace, and Love in a New Year.

Even though it has been a most difficult and disappointing year for our Nation and Nations around the World, there have also been so many blessings for which we can give thanks to God. Most especially I thank God for the prayers, support, genuine love, and concern of so many faithful parishioners. Even though I have not been with you throughout the year, I thank you for making these few months one of welcome and love. May God bless you for your service to St. Francis Xavier Church. You have truly exhibited the call to discipleship as you continue to work together to build community and church family at SFX-Sunnyside.

I try to live by a philosophy (and have come to believe) that **God is ultimately in charge** of every situation. Even as I fool myself in thinking otherwise. (lol). We are all called to pray as Jesus taught us, that *His will be done*. We cannot claim to know every detail of His plan and what lies ahead. But, in imitation of the example of the **Blessed Virgin Mary**, we can attempt imperfectly, to resound her Yes! A profound trust and consent to the will of God: *"May it be done to me according to your word."* (Luke 1:38)

I thank all who work so hard in the parish and continue to strengthen our Faith community. Putting Faith in Action is never a "spectator sport" in which we simply sit back, watch, cheer and wait for a pat on the back. Rather, it involves *active participation* and a *life-commitment*: daily prayer, attendance at Mass weekly, participation in the sacramental life, Christian service, love (even of *enemies as ourselves*), forgiveness, charity, conversion, repentance, and we could add more to the list. However, God simply wants us to follow the two great commandments Jesus brings to us.

As we come to adore the Christ Child in the manger this Christmas, may we be moved by the great love and humility that God showed to us in the birth of His Son! Emmanuel emptied Himself and became one of us. How blessed as the Shepherds we are to gaze in the face of our Savior.

***O come let us adore Him!***

Brothers and Sisters, be assured of my daily Prayers and Blessings for all of you. I only ask a remembrance in your prayers for me as well.

On behalf of our parish staff, volunteers, and myself, have a blessed and peace-filled Christmas and a holy New Year! I do not know what will be in store for us in 2024, but I trust that God knows.

*Vy. Rev. Michael Thompson, SSJ*





### 'Gifts that keep on giving'

At the first Christmas, everyone was following direction. Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem. The Shepherds left their fields to find the stable. The Three Wisemen came from afar. How did they all know where to go? GPS didn't exist. Neither Siri nor Alexa could be asked for directions! There likely were no road signs. Yet, **everyone was right where they were supposed to be.** Each of these journeys were part of God's plan. And by faithfully following God's path, goodness entered the world, and it would make all the difference.

**God has a plan for all of us.** From time to time, we need to check if our direction is right. If we are on God's path, goodness will light the way.

We Josephites have been on the path of serving the African American community since our founding in 1871. **Josephites are missionaries working in parishes, schools and special ministries all across our country.**

I am grateful for the Josephite priests and brothers – most of whom are far from home this Christmas – who are sharing their gifts with their parishioners and communities.

Thank you for walking with the Josephites in this journey.

**Your unwavering support has been a beacon of light and allows us to extend the love and teachings of Christ.**

This Christmas, I reflect on the immense impact of your generosity. Your contributions have helped Josephites build and sustain parishes and schools that have touched the lives of countless individuals. **Through your support, we have been able to carry out our mission of service, education and empowerment.**

You are part of the Josephite family. Your kindness and dedication are truly gifts that keep on giving. May this Christmas season fill your hearts with the warmth of love, the joy of giving and the peace that comes from knowing you have made a positive impact on the world. **You will be remembered in Mass on Christmas Day.**

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with blessings and joy.

With heartfelt gratitude,

***Bishop John H. Ricard***  
**Superior General**  
**The Josephite Priests and Brothers**

## 2023 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA DONATIONS

### Donated By:

Rita Albert  
Harry Alexander  
Mary Ames  
Anonymous  
Herbert "Red" & Delores "Dee"  
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Leon & Anne Auzenne  
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Unella Baber  
Andrea Barras  
Lucille Barriere

Verlie Abraham Batiste  
Felicia Baul  
Milton Bessard  
M/M Rome Bougere

Betty Burney  
Betty Burney  
M/M Benjamin Catalon, Jr  
Kimberly Chandler  
Charles Family  
Eboni & Mariah  
Marlene Davis  
Dalton & Julia Dean

Michael & Jean Dozier  
Angela Duplechain  
Michelle Duplechain  
Keith Duplechaine & Family  
Shirley & Belinda Foreman  
Fuller Family  
M/M Paul & Dorothy Garrick, Jr.  
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Helen Green  
Marvin & Helen Griffin  
Stephanie Goodwin  
Mary Hardin & Candace Embers  
J. Henderson  
Karen Higgins & Family  
Karen Higgins & Family  
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Louis N. Hill III  
Georgia Johnson & Family  
Curtis Jones  
Mary LaDay  
Gwen & Michael Lamothe  
Bertha & Charles Lewis  
Bertha & Charles Lewis  
The Family

### In Memory/Honor Of:

Lorena B. Lewis & Mary Albert  
Georgia Alexander

All God's Children  
Thelma Archer & Theresa Lazard/The Archer, Cooke & Lazard Family  
MM August Butler, M/M Clement Auzenne  
Leona Livings / Barbara Baber

My Parents: Richard / My Parents and Vergin Ella Smith  
M/M Blaze & Mable Allen, Kermit Allen, Paul Barriere, Kensie  
Johnson & All Deceased Family Members  
Lawrence & Enola Abraham  
Adam & Louberttha Thibodeaux

Cecelia Bougere, Freddie & Lillian Bougere, Wilford & Alma  
Kinnerson  
Lawrence & Ida Mae Ellis  
Thomas Burney & Juanita Ellis

Gussie Charles / Irma Charles  
Lovinia & Edmond Collins Sr. / Juanita Collins  
Herman & David Davis  
Falias & Anna Francis, Gloria Dugas, Donald & Rose Valliere / All  
Family & Friends of M/M Dalton Dean Jr.  
Nunez Family / Dozier Family

Duplechain & Harris Families  
Joseph & Earlene Duplechaine  
Beatrice Dugas Foreman, Helen Foreman Orsot / Dorothy Milstead  
Warren J. Fuller  
M/M Paul & Leola Garrick, Sr. /The Garrick Family

George Lee Green  
John & Lee Ethel Joseph & M/M R. Griffin  
The Goodwin, Scott, Burris and Ward Families  
Mrs. Audrey Miles / Mrs. Freda Haymond  
Deceased Friends & Family / My Family  
Glenn "Woody" Higgins, Alidine Higgins  
Alvin & Margaret Charles, John and Lee Joseph  
Bryon & Robert Hill, Jr.  
Alvea & Theodore Taylor and Louis & Virgin Hill  
M/M Gilbert & Edna Forbes, Sr.  
Audrey Jones Falls

Rogers & Ivory Mae Reed  
Virginia Lewis  
Tanya Melissa Lewis  
The Gabriel & Lockett Families

*Thank You!*



## **2022 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA DONATIONS**

### **Donated By:**

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Earline Robertson Montgomery  
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Anna Ruth Wiltz  
Anna Ruth Wiltz  
Adeline & Ronald Young  
Astra Zeno  
Astra Zeno  
Astra Zeno  
Astra Zeno  
Sandra Zeno  
Sandra Zeno  
Sandra Zeno  
Sandra Zeno

### **In Memory/Honor Of:**

Patrick Martell  
Harold C. Robertson  
Ella M. Robertson  
Brandi Moore & Phillip J. Moore, Sr.  
Ruby Mose

Eula Holley & James Lacy, Jr. / The Blessed Mother  
Earlene Duplechain, Tamara Sanders, Anita M. Bailey and  
Monique Clark  
Leola Davis & Milton Davis, Sr. / Milton Davis Jr.  
Gayle Simon Daniel  
Mary Stein & Fannie Harris  
Joseph Pierre  
Beatrice Green Harmon, Mary Leola Jacobs, Leola T. Jacobs  
Mary Goodie  
John Henry, Sr. & Beatrice Henry  
Herman Rayme  
Vernon Wayne Revis & Rickey Malveaux  
Jacqueline Smith  
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Ocelia & Plenny Biagas/Sean Dugar  
Joseph & Lucille Sias / Julius Jackson

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Lilly V. Breaux / St. Jude & St. Anthony  
Roosevelt Stafford & Rayme Family  
Mrs. Eva Taylor  
Gladys Tyler / Mary Lou Simien  
Joseph Melvin Vallery, Sr.  
Mary & Ulyess Vavasseur  
Laure Jenkins & Eva Jenkins / The Jones Sisters  
Leroy Washington, Jr.  
Quenton Washington  
All God's Children / Sarah P. Westbrook  
M/M Ben Wheeler / Ben & Elizabeth  
M/M Hopson Williams, Sr. and M/M Willie Ford  
Sidney B. & Elizabet G. Sam  
Wesley Wiltz  
Bradford & Clementine Morris  
Malveaux & Young Family  
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Albert Johnson  
Betty King  
Kevin King  
Chandra Darfee  
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*Thank You!*



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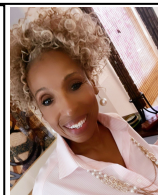


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