ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NOVEMBER 5, 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

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

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.-5:00 p.m.

CHOIR REHEARSALS:

Adult Choirs

Wednesdays: 6:30p.m. Thursdays: 7:00p.m.

Youth Choir

4th 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

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.

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 2nd 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





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. 11/04/2023 5:00PM
People of the Parish

SUN. 11/05/2023 7:30AM

Michael Albert (D) – Rita Albert Alton Albert, Jr. (D) – Rita Albert Adarie Young (L) – The Charles Family Kristina M. Chaney (D)

Family & Friends

Hal Tracy Bobino (D) - Family & Friends

SUN. 11/05/2023 10:00AM Bernard J. Potts (D) – Chynell Fisher

Audrey Williams Jones (D)

The Williams Family

Edward & Shirley Reaux (D) – M. Chaney

Kermit J. Allen (D) – Lucille Barriere

Michael A. Horton (L) – P.A. Piper

SUN. 11/05/2023 12:15PM

Rev. Peter Weiss, SSJ (D)

James & Bonnie Jefferson Pat Wiltz (L) – P.A. Piper

Earlene Duplechaine (D)

Tywanna Navy

Samuel Houston (L) – Diane Houston Ethel Taylor (D) – Cousins

MON. 11/06/2023 7:00AM *Tamara Sanders (D)* – Tywanna Navy

Edward & Shirley Reaux (D)

M. Chaney

7:00AM

7:00AM

TUE. 11/07/2023

Rev. Stephen Sohe, SSJ (L)

Tywana Navy

Theresa Lazard (D)

Herbert & Delores Archer

WED. 11/08/2023 7:00AM

Norman Richardson (D)

Mary Duplechain

Inez Ellis (D) – M. Chaney

THUR 11/09/2023 7:00AM

Inez Ellis (D) – M. Chaney

Kermit J. Allen (D) – Michael V. Jenkins

FRI 11/10/2023

Kristina M. Chaney (D)

Family & Friends

Earl Howard Johnson (L)

Theresa Baltrip



Mable Lee Chavis passed away on October 29, 2023 at the age of 81yrs. A Funeral Mass is scheduled for Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 10:00am. Eternal Rest Grant unto her soul.

Wayne Revis passed away on November 1, 2023. Funeral arrangements are pending. Eternal Rest Grant unto his soul.

Donald Abraham, Dcn Alfred Abram, Akavcia Addison, Azielee Addison. Kayne Addison, Nathan Addison IV, Alexis Alfred, Vea Barksdale, Sandra Bass, Kelly Batiste, Hazel S. Brown, Savannah Blackwell, Amber Byas, Julius Cadoree, Margaret Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Alvin Carter. Ceasar, Wanda Sterling Certenberg, Dalton Cooper Jr, Frank Davis Sr, Rv. Henry Davis SSJ, Marlene Davis, Lois Epps, Jerald Francois Jr, Lawrence Frank, Louis Gardner, Anthony Gobert, Betty Goodwin, Beulah Hadrick, Gilbertine Haley, Mary Hamilton, Alvin J. Hebert, Donald Henderson, Floyd Henderson, Anthony Hicks, Crystal Jackson, Natalie Johnson, Brooke Joseph, Shirley Ann Joseph, JoAnn LaSane, Roy Lee, Stella Linden, Dcn Edward Levine, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, Celestine Loftis, Jimmie Mack, Eugene Mallery, Charles Martin, Keven Paul Martin, Shannon Martin, Antoinette Mayon, Cynthia Mayon, Diane Miles, Cookie Mooring, Yusuf Muwwakkil, Vy. Rv.

Angela Pena, Cynethia Pichon, Percy Pichon Sr, Robin Pichon-Mosley, Cornelia Pickney, Catherine Pierre, Mildred Pierre, Marcelle Prevost, Melody Ratcliff, Effie Rems, Laly Reyna, Elise Richmond, Christine & John Roberts, Louis Robinson, Oliver Rose, Brian Russell, Grace Russell, Vy. Rv. Michael K. Saah-Buckman SSJ, Joyce Smith, Simon Smith, Joyce Stagg, Jeanette Steptoe, Mackenzie Swanks, Kennedi Swanks, Erma Taylor, Craig Temple, Melvin Thomas, Irma Toliver, Gemma Walcott, Agnes Williams, Mark Williams, Patricia Williams, Terrell Wilson, Kenneth Wiltz, Janice Woods, and all the sick and shut-in in our parish family. After 30 days, please call the

William L. Norvel SSJ, Carolyn Ollison,

Lord, we pray for all our military service members who put their own lives on the line to protect us.

office to remain on this list.

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

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



We are reminded today that we have all been called to a life of service before God.

Malachi specifically addresses the priests, who of all people should not be

setting a poor example. Paul reminds the Thessalonians that the apostles gave their very selves in their work and ministry. Finally, Jesus warns the crowds what will happen if one exalts oneself. With humble hearts, let us ponder God's word.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday − November 5

The 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Malachi 1:14—2:2, 8-10
Psalm 131:1-3

1 Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13 Matthew 23:1-12

■ Monday – November 6

Romans 11:29-36 Psalm 69:30-31, 33-34, 36 Luke 14:12-14

■Tuesday – November 7

Romans 12:5-16 Psalm 131:1, 2-3 Luke 14:15-24

■ Wednesday – November 8

Romans 13:8-10 Psalm 112:1-2, 4-5, 9 Luke 14:25-33

☐ Thursday – November 9

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12 Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17 John 2:13-22

☐ Friday November 10

Saint Leo the Great, Pope, Doctor of the Church Romans 15:14-21

Psalm 98:1-4

Luke 16:1-8

☐ Saturday November 11

Saint Martin of Tours, Bishop Romans 16:3-9, 16, 22-27 Psalm 145:2-5, 10-11 Luke 16:9-15



November 11.....9:30am

PreK-5th Grade – CCE CLASSESLate Registration fees will begin on **December 9, 2023**. If you have any questions call (713) 731-2775.



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** (RCIA). Classes are on Thursday's from **6:00pm - 7:00pm** in the Harris Center Room 125. Registration forms are available in the vestibule of the Church and on the Parish Website www.sfxhouston.com



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Rehearsal for the Annual Christmas Program for the Parish Christmas Party on December 3, 2023 has begun. If you have children ages 4yrs to 17yrs who would like to participate, please contact Demetra Lewis at 832-978-4247 or Jerry Givens at 281-772-9276.



The SFX PRISON MINISTRY will meet in the Harris Center Auditorium

on Wednesday, **November 8**th, at 6:00pm. Call **(713) 446-4279**, or email us for additional information:

makeitbetter4us23@gmail.com

Ministry and Organization Calendars Due



Your 2024 Calendars must be submitted to the Parish Office no later than **November 30**th. Meeting Room requests

and Parish Hall reservations will be posted on a first come, first served basis.



SFX GABRIEL PROJECT Pregnant? Need Help? Call 713-225-5826



Thursday, November 23, 2023

Thanksgiving Day
Mass – 9:00am
(No 7:00am Mass)
Friday, November 24, 2023

Mass – 7:00am (Parish Office is Closed)



Dates to Remember

December 3, 2023

1st Sunday of Advent

Feast of St. Francis Xavier

Parish Christmas Party - 2:00pm December 4-December 6, 2023

Advent Revival – 6:00pm Nightly Livestreamed on You Tube

December 8, 2023

The Immaculate Conception

Morning Mass – 7:00am Evening Mass – 6:00pm

December 10, 2023

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent

Gaudete' Sunday (Wear pink/rose)

<u>December 24, 2023</u>

4th Sunday of Advent

<u>December 24, 2023 – Christmas Eve</u> Vigil Mass – 5:00pm

<u>December 25, 2023-Christmas Day</u> NO MIDNIGHT MASS Christmas Day Mass – 10:00am



St. Francis Xavier Sisters in the Spirit is sponsoring a *Coat Drive* through December 10, 2023. They are asking for new or gently worn coats. Sizes range from children sizes 4-18. These coats will be donated to Woodson Elementary School. Questions may be directed to J. Chynell Fisher at (713) 240-9747.

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 we ask God to help us grow in the virtue of humility. "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted." -Matthew 23:12 The world celebrates people in the spotlight and those who have the most of everything. We think celebrity, money and possessions is the key to happiness. Yet, our world is filled with more loneliness, anxiety and depression than ever before. The key to a happy life is relationship. Relationship with God and each other. Trust is the foundation of any good relationship and humility is the seed of trust.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE



Harris County Proposition A is a \$2.5 Billion bond election which will allow Harris County Hospital District to build and renovate facilities that serve over a million working people and their families in Harris County. A YES vote will allow the Hospital District to build a new LBJ Hospital and Level One Trauma Center and convert the existing building to provide mental health care; renovate and expand Ben Taub Hospital and Trauma Center; build three new full-service clinics in East, Northwest and Southwest Harris County and renovate all other clinics. Visit www.healthyharriscounty.com.

ATTENDANCE

In-person Mass attendance on Saturday, October 28th and Sunday, October 29th was 397 and the 7:30am Sunday Mass Livestream received 86 views online. Please join us via YouTube Livestream, or bring a friend to come worship with us in the church.



GOSPEL REFLECTION

Sometimes people's words inspire us, but more often it is the witness they give with their actions that inspires. Additionally, when someone's words do not match up with their actions, they are seen as hypocrites. Jesus is very hard on the scribes and the Pharisees for this reason. "For they preach but they do not practice." They spoke about the Law of God, they taught it in a detailed way, but they did not truly practice God's Law as it was intended to be practiced. They thought they was above the Law, as we all do from time to time.

Jesus continues to give a list of the ways that these religious leaders failed to live the laws of God. They failed in their charity and encouragement of others, they did everything for public praise and for show, and they sought out honors and meaningless titles. As a result, they cared little for others and cared much about themselves. This self-serving attitude was not impressive to Jesus. At the heart of Jesus' criticism of the scribes and Pharisees was their tendency to exalt themselves in the eyes of others. Jesus corrects this affinity by saying that "the greatest among you must be your servant," and that "whoever humbles themself will be exalted." Therefore, if you wish to be truly great and if you wish to be exalted by God, you must serve with the deepest humility.

Humility begins by seeing yourself in the light of truth. Being honest with yourself and like I said last Sunday, looking at that reflection in the mirror, and asking, how does God see you? The humble soul seeks to discover this insight by using the eyes of Christ to look at their own soul. It would be truly humbling if we could see ourselves in the full light of the truth. But too often we take on a false image of ourselves and look at our lives through a lens of self-righteousness. We tend to quickly defend our actions, justifying the sins we commit and failing to acknowledge our weaknesses.

What would you see if you looked at yourself with the eyes of humility? One thing we will definitely see is our sins. Our lives are filled with sin, if we say we don't sin then we too are being a hypocrite. Sometimes they are serious sins, and at other times less serious, but our lives undoubtedly filled with sins imperfections. If we ignore and are blind to those sins, then we lack the necessary humility we need to see ourselves in the light of truth. The virtue of humility will also take us a step further than seeing our sins clearly. It will also help us to see our need for God's grace to change, to love with your whole heart, mind, and soul, and to serve God and neighbor as you do yourself. We cannot love by our own efforts, it is impossible, without God. Because of our humanity we are limited in perfection. The love of charity is only possible when it is God who lives in us and acts through us. God and God alone can only work true charity through our actions. Knowing and believing in this humble truth is the only way to open the door to receive God's grace.

Today, the Gospel challenges us to reflect, upon the humility that you need in order to truly love. When you love others with the pure love of God, you will discover within yourself a need to serve. You will see others as objects of your love not envy. You will discover a burning desire to help them, forgive them, be gentle and merciful to them, and to do all you can to help them discover God's truth in their own lives so they will, humbly turn to God. The scribes and Pharisees failed miserably at this mission, and that is one of the reasons that Jesus used them as a model. "...but do not follow their example." Seek to take the opposite approach. Seek humility. Seek the truth. If you do, God will use you in powerful ways and will exalt you on high.

Vy. Rev. Michael Thompson, SSJ

FAREWELL Father Michael



























































Thank you to Demetra Lewis and Youth Ministry for a job well down! **Best Decorated Trunk winners are:**

First prize - Patrick Ashiru Second Place - Susie Wiltz Third Place - Sara Willis

Thank you to our Pastor, CCE Staff and Parents for all their support.



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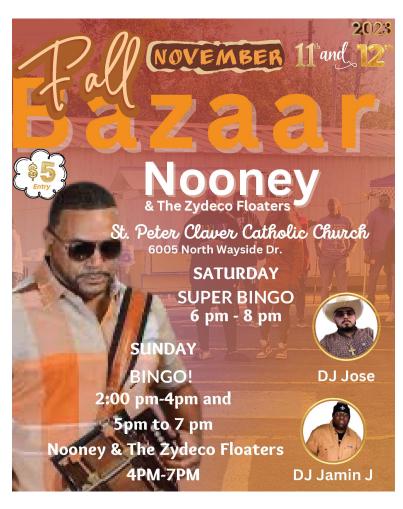
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