

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

Staffed by the Josephites since 1952

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

APRIL 7, 2024



4600 REED ROAD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77051-2857
Parish Office: 713.738.2311 Fax: 713.738.3337
Emergency Contact: 409.963.5633 CCE: 713.731.2775
Parish Hall: 713.731.2725 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> YouTube: [St. Francis Xavier Houston](https://www.youtube.com/StFrancisXavierHouston)

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.

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

4th Saturdays: 12:00 Noon

CHOIR DIRECTORS:

Jerry Givens 281.772.9276

Daniel Guerrero 281.723.9948

Mikayla Peugh

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 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

GIVE without Cash or Check

FAITH DIRECT® 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	04/06/2024	5:00PM
<i>Herbert Goodwin, Jr. (D)</i> The Goodwin Family		
SUN.	04/07/2024	7:30AM
<i>Ruby Biagas Smith (D) – Patricia Session</i>		
SUN.	04/07/2024	10:00AM
<i>People of the Parish</i>		
MON.	04/08/2024	
<i>Ora G. Arceneaux (D)</i> The Arceneaux Family		
TUE.	04/09/2024	7:00AM
<i>Jasmine Johnson (L)</i> Florence & Wanda		
WED.	04/10/2024	7:00AM
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)</i> Family & Friends		
THUR	04/11/2024	7:00AM
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)</i> Family & Friends		
FRI	04/12/2024	7:00AM
<i>Louis McChristian (D) – Wanda Johnson</i>		
SAT	04/13/2024	5:00PM
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)</i> Family & Friends		



Donald Abraham, Dcn
Alfred Abram, Akaycia
Addison, Azielee Addison,
Kayne Addison, Nathan
Addison IV, Mary Jane Albert, Alexis
Alfred, Savannah Blackwell, Darryl
Breedlove, Hazel S. Brown, Augustina
Buckman, Tommy Burton, Amber Byas,
Julius Cadoree, Margaret Cadoree, Nancy
Calvin, Nathaniel Campbell, Sterling
Certenberg, Dalton Cooper Jr, Frank
Davis Sr, Rev. Henry Davis SSI, Marlene
Davis, Lois Epps, Barbara Forte,
Lawrence Frank, Paul Garrick Jr,
Anthony Gobert, Betty Goodwin, Audrey
DeCuir Grant, Beulah Hadrick, Mary
Hamilton, Alvin J. Hebert, Donald
Henderson, Anthony Hicks, Crystal
Jackson, Freddy Jackson, Jennifer
Johnson, Natalie Johnson, Brooke Joseph,
Shirley Ann Joseph, Kennedy Family
Members, JoAnn LaSane, Roy Lee,
Hilary Ledet, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia
Lewis, John Logan, Jimmie Mack,
Eugene Mallery, Charles Martin, Shannon
Martin, Diane Miles, Dorothy Milstead,
Cookie Mooring, Vy. Rev. William L.
Norvel SSI, Michele Nwokobia, Carolyn
Ollison, Angela Pena, Cynethia Pichon,
Percy Pichon Sr, Robin Pichon-Mosley,
Catherine Pierre, Mildred Pierre, Marcelle
Prevost, Melody Ratcliff, Elise
Richmond, John & Christine Roberts,
Wilson Robertson, Oliver Rose, Brian
Russell, Grace Russell, Vy. Rev. Michael
K. Saah-Buckman SSI, Joyce Smith,
Joyce Stagg, Jeffery Steptoe, Mackenzie
Swanks, Kennedi Swanks, Erma Taylor,
Craig Temple, Melvin Thomas, Gemma
Walcott, Agnes Williams, Patricia
Williams, Terrell Wilson, Janice Woods,
Gail Young 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
surgery.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



The glory of the Resurrection permeates God's word on this joyous day that continues our Easter celebration. No longer are the disciples confused and adrift, as they were when first seeing the empty tomb. In the first reading, we hear that the entire community of believers bears witness to the Resurrection by what they do and how they live. They treat each other with mercy and love, as Jesus did when he appeared to all the disciples, even Thomas, who had doubted. Let us join in praise, for God's mercy endures forever.



THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY

Our Lord gave St. Faustina a set of prayers to invoke His mercy, called the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. On standard rosary beads, pray the following prayers:

First, on the Crucifix, one Our Father, Hail Mary and the Apostles' Creed. On each Our Father bead pray: ***"Eternal Father, I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins, and those of the whole world."***

On each Hail Mary bead pray: ***"For the sake of His sorrowful passion, have mercy on us, and on the whole world."*** Repeat for five decades. To conclude, pray three times: ***"Holy God, holy mighty One, holy immortal One, have mercy on us, and on the whole world."***

ATTENDANCE

In-person Mass attendance on Saturday, March 30th and Sunday, March 31st was **721**. The 7:30am Livestream received **102** views online. Please join us via YouTube Livestream, or bring a friend to come worship with us in the church.

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, 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, Debreaanna Brown, Jermaine Ceaser, Kevin Crockett, Courtney Harris, Nia D. Hawkins-Camp, Xavier Henry, Randolph J. Navy III, Anthony N. Russell **Air Force:** Samuel Houston, Roderick Jones, Joshua Creeks, Joffre Lander **Marines:** Reginald Ward

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday – April 7**
Divine Mercy Sunday
Acts 14:32-35
Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
1 John 5:1-6
John 20:19-31
- Monday – April 8**
The Annunciation of the Lord
Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10
Psalm 40:7-11
Hebrews 10:4-10
Luke 1:26-38
- Tuesday – April 9**
Acts 4:32-37
Psalm 93:1-2, 5
John 3:7-15
- Wednesday – April 10**
Acts 5:17-26
Psalm 34:2-9
John 3:16-21
- Thursday – April 11**
Saint Stanislaus, Bishop, Martyr
Acts 5:27-33
Psalm 34:2, 9, 17-20
John 3:31-36
- Friday – April 12**
Acts 5:34-42
Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14
John 6:1-15
- Saturday – April 13**
Saint Martin, I, Pope, Martyr
Acts 6:1-7
Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19
John 6:16-21



April 8th6:00pm
6th – 10th Grade CCE Classes
April 13th9:30am
Pre-K – 5th Grade CCE Classes
April 15th6:00pm
6th – 10th Grade CCE Classes
April 20th9:30am
Pre-K – 5th Grade CCE Classes
April 22nd6:00pm
6th – 10th Grade CCE Classes



Denise Jones, the Daughter of Leo & Ann Kennerson, passed away on April 1, 2024 at the age of 57yrs. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated in Louisiana. Eternal Rest Grant unto her soul.

Shawn Allen Fontenot, the Son of Mary Fontenot, passed away on March 23, 2024 at the age of 53yrs. A Funeral Service was held on April 5th at Good Hope MBC. Eternal Rest Grant unto his soul.



Travel with Fr. Thompson on a **Pilgrimage to Italy** on **Oct 13-21, 2024**. We will visit **Rome, Assisi, Milan, Tuscany, Florence** and **Venice**. The cost is **\$4,299.00** which includes:

- Flights from anywhere in the United States and flights between countries as per your itinerary
- Daily Mass
- Airport Taxes, Security Fees & Fuel Surcharges
- Transfers as per itinerary
- Transportation with luxury bus
- 4 or 5 star hotels in downtown areas
- All breakfasts and all dinners. Wine Included with all dinners.
- All tips to driver, hotel, and tour guide
- Guided Tours and Tour Fees
- Luggage handling
- Single Supplement
- Passengers will never be expected to pay extra for anything

To register, please contact **(855) 842-8001** or **(508) 340-9370**. You can also register online at: www.proximotravel.com.

LECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING



Lectors will meet on **Saturday, April 13th**, at **12:00pm** in the Church.



BAKE SALE

Christian Women Organization will host a bake sale in the Harris Center after the all Masses on the weekend of **April 13th & 14th**. Please give them your support.

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 may learn to see all of our blessings as abundant gifts from God so that we may use them for the benefit of all God's people. "The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own..." - Acts 4:32 All that we are and all that we have is a gift from God! Think of your family, your friends, your life, your talents and your money – these are all gifts from God! We aren't really owners of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has blessed us with. We are called to be grateful and generous with all of our gifts for the benefit of others..



Christ is risen! As His disciples, we are called to go forth and spread the good news of

Christ's Resurrection. The fruitful ministries at our parish are examples of how many of you have answered, and continue to answer, that call. To ensure such work can continue requires not only gifts of time, but also of financial help. I ask you to prayerfully consider supporting our parish with electronic donations through Faith Direct. You can sign up online at **faith.direct/TX632** or call Faith Direct customer service at **866-507-8757**. You'll provide us with consistent support that helps us always be at the ready with programs, services, and ministries for our church families and for those in need throughout the community. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

CRSRICE BOWL Our community changed lives this Lent through CRS Rice Bowl, and we want to say **THANK YOU!** Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl or donate online at www.crsricebowl.org/donate.



All young adults are invited to join us for **Magnify** at St. Mary's Seminary (9845 Memorial Dr., Houston) on Saturday, **April 13**, from 12 to 8 p.m. **Magnify**, formerly known as the Archdiocesan Young Adult Day, will include a keynote speaker, workshops, Mass, and time for social activities. Our English Keynote is Dr. John Cavadini, a professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame. This year's theme is "*Who do you say that I am?*" (Matthew 16:15-16). Registration is \$50 (register by **April 12**), registration at the door is \$60. All details for the day are available online at: www.archgh.org/magnify.



The St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Volunteers and Staff extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who

participated in the "**Reverse Lenten Calendar**" project. It was an overwhelming success! We were able to fill the shelves with your generous donations. This will go a long way in helping our neighbors in the community.



Some reflections inspired by online copyrighted commentaries and homilies

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - DIVINE MERCY (B) **April 7, 2024**

Most houses are well alarmed nowadays; an alarm system has become as basic an item as table and chairs. We also need to have good strong locks; long gone, at least in the cities and towns, are the days when you could just leave the key in the door or leave it open and let neighbors walk in casually for a chat and a cup of coffee. In today's society we are more fearful about our security than we used to be, and this fear and anxiety has led us to take more precautions to protect ourselves. Fear of what others can do to us tends to close us in on ourselves, not just in the physical sense of getting stronger door-locks, but also in other senses. We tend to be somewhat withdrawn around people whom we perceive to be critical. We are slow to open up to someone we think will judge us. We hesitate to share ideas and plans we might have with those who are known not to suffer fools gladly. Fear of others can often hold us back and stunt our growth.

In the gospel we find the disciples locking themselves into a room because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Even after an excited Mary Magdalene came to them from the empty tomb announcing that she had seen the Lord, this was not enough to overcome their fear. What had been done to Jesus could be done to them, which led to their hiding in self-imposed confinement. The turning point came when the risen Lord himself appeared to them behind their closed doors and helped them over their fear. He did this by breathing the Holy Spirit into them, filling them with new energy and hope, freeing them from fear and releasing them to share in his mission. "As the Father sent me, so am I sending you," he said. In the power of the Spirit, they came to life and went out from their self-imposed prison, to bear witness to the risen Lord. This is the picture of the disciples that Luke gives us in today's reading from Acts. He describes a community of believers, the church, witnessing to the resurrection both in word and by the quality of their living.

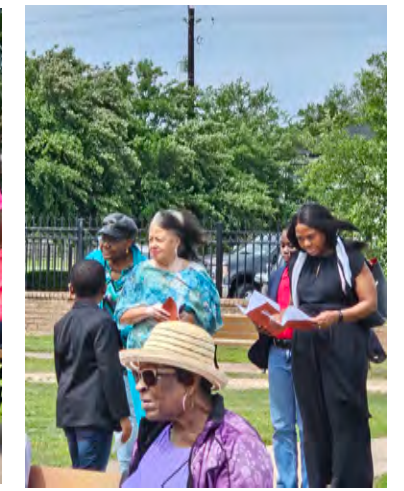
The gospel today suggests a way out of our self-imposed confinement. If Mary Magdalene's announcement makes no impact on us, the Lord will find another way to enter our lives and to fill us with new life and energy for his service. No locked doors, nor even locked hearts, can keep him out. He finds a way to enter the space where we have chosen to retreat, and he empowers us to resist what is holding us back. He does require some openness on our part; at the least some desire on our part to become what he is calling us to be. The risen Lord never ceases to recreate us and to renew us in his love. Easter is the season to celebrate this good news.

Just as the disciples were unmoved by the hopeful enthusiasm of Mary Magdalene who had seen the Lord, so Thomas was unmoved by the witness of the disciples who told him they too had seen the Lord. Thomas, it seems, was an even harder nut to crack than the other disciples. He is one of those people who insist on certain conditions being met before he makes a move, "Unless I see, I can't believe." As he had done with the other disciples, the Lord takes Thomas on his own terms. He accommodates himself to Thomas' conditions and says, "Put your finger here."

The gospel today implies that the Lord meets us wherever we are. He takes us seriously in all our fears and doubts. The Lord is prepared to stand with us on our own ground, whatever that ground is, and from there he will speak to us a word suited to our personal state of mind and heart. We don't have to get ourselves to some particular place in order for the Lord to engage with us. He takes himself to where we are, wherever it is a place of fear or of doubt. We might pray this Easter season for the openness to receive the Lord's coming into the concrete circumstances of our own lives, so that we too might say with Thomas, "My Lord and my God." We might also pray that, like the Lord, we would receive others where they are, rather than where we would like them to be.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS



THE PASSION OF CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN



Thank you to our St Francis Xavier CCE students for an excellent production of *The Passion of Christ*.

Director: RICA RELLFORD

Narrator: PAYTON POOLE

Music: DANIEL GUERRERO

Jesus: RODNEY HENRY

Chief Priest: ELIJAH EMBERS

Pilate: TRAVIS WASHINGTON

Judas: MASON GUERRERO

Mary Magdalene: RIHANNA SMITH

Crowd: NORA GARNER, HAREY WILTZ, ALEXIS PENA, RHIANNA SMITH, JESSIE DOZIER

MADISON GUERRERO, AZMERA ALLEYNE, AYRIAL ROBERTSON

Veronica: NATALYNN GARNER

Soldiers: CHRISTIAN HOLMES & ELLIE AMUZU

Peter: NOAH KNIGHTEN

James: MARCEL BARRAS

Mary: NAOMI KNIGHT

Barabbas: MASON GUERRERO

Simon: MARCEL BARRAS

Daughters of Jerusalem: MADISON GUERRERO & NORA GARNER

Special Thank you to our Pastor, Vy. Rev. Michael L. Thompson, SSJ

Easter Vigil



Holy Saturday RCIA CLASS 2023/2024

(L-R) Kelvin Demerson, Denzale Chevis, Deacon Michael Jenkins, Sakira Coleman, Tierra Ledet (Instructor), Arieux Calhoun and Benjamin Familuyi. We welcome our new converts and pray that their new life in the Lord may bring new life to the Church and the world around them.

2024 EASTER EGG HUNT



Parents, Thank you for your continuous support!



Sponsored by 138 Junior Knight & Jr. Daughter Division

"Hats Off To Our Legacy"

Saturday, March 9, 2024



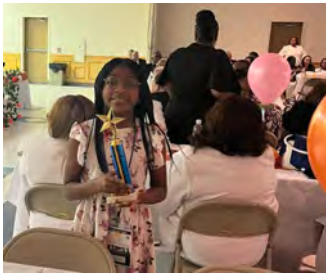
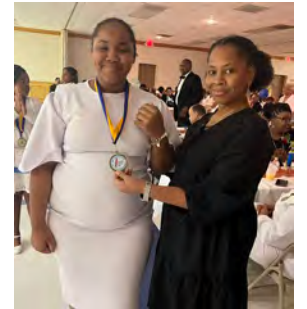
2024 JUNIOR TEXAS STATE CONFERENCE MARCH 15-16 2024



THE KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER AND LADIES AUXILIARY



**JUNIOR KNIGHTS &
JUNIOR DAUGHTERS**



Place your Ad here!



REGGIE RUSSELL REALTORS

1325 Almeda Genoa, Houston, TX 77047

(713) 434-9999

TWO STEPPIN DJs

Jammin J and T Mike

Music at it's best for Your Special Occasion

(832) 748-3968 or (713) 410-4214



CONTROLLED MADNESS
"Specializing in Working German Shepherds"
Toren Robinson 713.557.4524 Houston, TX

(832) 985-0258

www.homefueldelivery.com
info@homefueldelivery.com



GET FUEL DELIVERED RIGHT AT YOUR DOORSTEPS
STAY SAFE! SAVE TIME! SAVE MONEY!



MABRIE MEMORIAL MORTUARY

Funerals - Memorials - Cremations
We're Here For You

5000 Almeda Rd., Houston, TX 77004
(713) 942-7673, mabriemortuary.com



Herman J. Mabrie, III, M.D. Justin Mabrie

Place your Ad here!

EZ MAIL MANAGEMENT

WE OFFER QUALITY SERVICE AT A COMPETITIVE PRICE



Services: Direct Mail Consulting, 1st Class Mail, Standard/Non-Profit Mail, Mail Merge, Folding/Tabbing/Inserting, Mailing Lists, Postcards, Political Mail, Bulk Mailing, Courier Services

CALL US TODAY
713-780-9804

ezmailhou@aol.com



RODNEY JACKSON REALTY

Buying | Selling | Leasing | Investing | New Home Construction

"Always Something Different"

cell: 832-878-8556 | office: 713.623.8899



COLDWELL BANKER REALTY



713-283-4582

TRENT LANCELIN

Master Barber

13310 Cullen Blvd.
Suite # E
Houston, TX, 77047

Tuesday Special
\$10.00-All Even

When it's time for...
Compassion Integrity and Professionalism
it's time for McCoy and Harrison.



McCoy & Harrison

Funeral Home and Services

A Family Serving Families Since 1925

4918 Martin Luther King Blvd.
Houston, TX 77021

Phone: 713.659.7618
Fax: 713.748.7122

www.mccoyandharrison.com



PATRICIA HEBERT
Independent Travel Advisor

Website:
patriciahebert.inteletravel.com
Contacts:
(832) 619-0348
Email: phebert1947@gmail.com
Let me handle your travel needs!



Higgins Beauty Salon
3606 Nita St
Houston, TX 77051

Karen Higgins Appointments Call:
Owner/Stylist (713) 842-1915



MARY KAY®

Gwendolyn Reed

Independent Beauty Consultant

Dermatologists approved skincare for women, men and teens. I can help you with your beauty, health and gift needs.

Website: marykay.com/GReed6

greedlamothe2@aol.com

1-832-594-5255

God First, Family Second, Career Third

Ross Mortuary, Inc.

"SERVICE OF DISTINCTION"

(713) 223-8071 or 223-3296

3618 Lyons Avenue
Houston, Texas 77020
FAX Number 223-5934



Dr. Umekei Smith
KPCLA Court #159

US Umekei Smith DDS

FAMILY & COSMETIC DENTISTRY

Smile Makeovers • Invisalign • Implants and Dentures • HSA
Flex Spending • Most Insurance Accepted
AARP/Medicare Plans Accepted • 7am Appointments Available

713.662.2535

3264 South Loop West | Houston, TX 77025

New Patient Special \$49 EXAM AND XRAYs

BAKER-JONES CO.

SINCE 1951

Air-Conditioning & Heating Sales & Service
(License No. TACLA 1008)

(713) 529-3418

Levi Moss, Jr. 4116 Caroline St.
Ronald K. Moss Houston, TX 77004



Steven K. Schwartz II, Attorney at Law

Probate & Estate Settlement
Wills & Estate Plans

713-385-0269

www.SchwartzLawHouston.com



SHARON A. ZENON

Notary Public
State Of Texas

Here to meet all your Notary needs; Please call for appointment. Phone: 713-446-4279

Please support these businesses. They support our parish and community.
For advertising information, contact the Parish Office at (713) 738-2311.